



# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School

...developing the whole child...

March 2020

Dear Families,

March 2020 – we now have the beginnings of a new Forest School site on the school field. Please ensure that the community cares for the new site by keeping away from young trees and hedging.



Our Forest School groups have been active recently with their planting on the new Forest School site. Well done!

### Developing fluent mathematicians...please help us help the children!

As a school we value the continuing professional development of staff and, since September, the staff have received specific year group training from Anthony Reddy, Maths consultant, as well as focussed training on bar modelling to support problem solving and fractions. Along with the purchase of new maths apparatus to support this teaching, the children are becoming better and better at being 'number fluent.'

In the Early Years of school, it is vital that children develop number fluency by practising the following:

- Nursery and Reception – developing the understanding of numbers up to 5, then 10, then 20 without moving on too quickly. We need to help them 'play' with numbers through games to help them have instant recall by the end of Red Class of all number bonds within 10 ( $5+4/3+2/7-3$  etc)
- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) – instant recall of all number bonds within 20 and multiples to 100. Y2s also need to know times tables and be able to recall them all for 2, 5 and 10 up to  $10 \times 10$ .
- Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)- instant recall by the end of Year 4 of all times tables and their division facts to  $12 \times 12$ . (Y3- 3xs, 4xs, 8xs, 11xs and then Y4- 6xs, 7xs, 9xs, 12xs and repeat all others)

It would be so helpful if you could support the children with learning these number facts and talk about them with the children, explaining them. Expectations from the National Curriculum are high and the children need plenty of practise to help embed their learning.

Key vocabulary that children often confuse is helped by the song below, especially helpful for Key Stage 2 but we use the correct mathematical vocabulary with all year groups as the more they hear, the more they develop their understanding. (Key Stage 2 children will help you sing this one!)

**When you add two numbers it's the TOTAL and the SUM.**

**DIFFERENCE is the answer in a SUBTRACTION.**

**When you MULTIPLY numbers it's the PRODUCT that you find.**

**DIVIDE by your DIVISOR and the QUOTIENT 's left behind.**

Playing cards, board games, using maths practically for cake making, telling the time and buying things in the shops are all really helpful ways to support the children. Miss Townsend and I can really tell which children are practising their times tables at home so thank you for helping the children become more fluent.

Best wishes, Mrs Moss

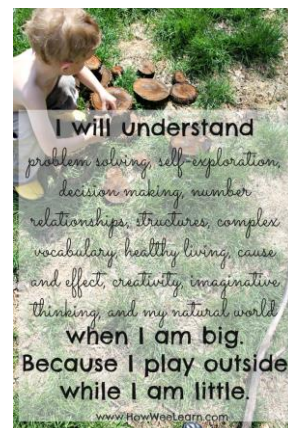


It's been a wet February, but that didn't stop the children from planting saplings at Forest School. Their resilience is being tested here. I wonder who these three children are?!



Our Year 4s are certainly motivated and engaged with their task. It's amazing to think that planting these saplings will leave a legacy for the future. Thank you children.

Mrs Cain, as our Forest School leader is joined by Mrs Franklin and also Miss Bailey as Forest School trained staff. Mrs Flynn has been training as a Forest School member of staff, ensuring that our staff can develop a consistent whole school approach to Forest School. Forest School ensures that all of our children experience and develop skills that would otherwise be neglected as part of a traditional school experience.



### SCHOOL SPORT/ HEALTH AND THE ARTS

Sport- It is **SPORT RELIEF** this week and the children will consider the work of this charity. **Donations are welcome and please send them in to the school office.**

Congratulations to our Year 4 'High Five' champions. They won the Bromsgrove area 'High Five' competition last week. Well done!  
Arts – The children will be preparing art for the Worcester Cathedral annual 'Voices and Visions' art exhibition. Find out more nearer the time and how to view their work in June.



### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week our theme is **Humility** and the daily whole school times to reflect on 'big questions' will consider the importance of humility by considering charitable causes, including 'Sport Relief, the significance and message behind the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples from the Bible and our own ability to be humble. We will consider the painting of 'Jesus washing Peter's feet' by Ford Madox Brown and Van Gogh's painting of the 'Wheat Fields' to consider the fate of the sheaf of corn that rises above all of the others in an attempt to help the children understand our collective work, rather than the effort to rise above others.



Van Gogh- Wheat Fields with Cypresses

Ford Madox Brown- Jesus washing Peter's feet



### SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Last academic year we had an external safeguarding review and whilst we had no major issues to address it was a useful exercise to consider all of our systems and procedures.

Several recommendations were made:

- Inform the children of the existence of Childline
- Inform parents of who to contact in the case of a child protection issue- this is Worcestershire Family Front Door **01905 822666**
- **Ensure parents update contact details/ changes to mobile numbers**
- Ensure esafety training for parents is available through updates in letters

The designated person for safeguarding in the school is Anna Moss and Helen Townsend and Fleur Webb are also trained leads.

Blackwell First School is an Operation Encompass school and receives police reports when there are incidents of Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass is designed to support schools in helping children who have been present during reported cases of Domestic Abuse. Please view the BBC short film about Operation Encompass.

[operationencompass.bbc.co.uk/p03y9r5h](http://operationencompass.bbc.co.uk/p03y9r5h)

It is important to know that a large number of children are present or in the same household during incidents of Domestic Abuse and that this has a significant impact on children's long term mental wellbeing. Please contact Anna Moss if you would like to speak about any of these issues.

### COVID-19

Advice from the Department for Education is sent to schools each day and at this point, the advice is to stay open and 'business as usual'.

If we are directed to close in the near future, we have prepared resource packs for the children to take home and will then provide work on the parentapp and website.

The office email account will still be monitored and an email will be provided to support safeguarding matters on a letter sent home in the event of closure.

We very much hope that these plans are not required, but we are preparing in the event of a sudden directive.

### EMAILS to school

If you wish to pass on messages to teachers and are not able to speak with them directly, please use the

[office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) email and **not their individual school emails**. This ensures that messages are monitored promptly, even when teachers are teaching.

The teachers will not respond to direct emails, with the exception of Nursery. Thank you for your co-operation.

### EASTER COFFEE MORNING (AND NURSERY AFTERNOON)

We wish to invite you to our giant coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The children will perform a song or two and also spend time with you enjoying Mrs Barker's Easter treats.

The hall gets very congested so please come along when your child's class is performing. If you have children in separate sessions, we appreciate that you may need to be here rather longer! (Nursery families- please join the Nursery children in the hall at 2.30pm).

Red Class 9am/ Green Class 9.30am/ Purple Class 10am/ Yellow Class and Blue Class 10.30am

Money raised will be funding additional classroom resources such as new reading resources to support one of our focus areas for this year.

25.3.20 Dance Festival- Y2s

3.4.20 Easter Coffee Morning and Nursery Coffee Afternoon 'Sing Song' / Term ends

6-9.4.20 Holiday Club

6-17.4.20 Easter holiday

20.4.20 School opens for Summer term