

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



Welcome back to everyone! I hope that you all had a lovely holiday period and are looking forward to all of the exciting opportunities available this half term. Mrs Morgan and I are still working together to provide your children with a classroom that allows them to explore different resources to support their new learning. We are all working really hard to develop children's memory by asking mental maths facts at different parts of the day. We are also continuing to understand Code of conduct and develop reflectiveness to help ourselves to improve further.

TOPIC

We are going to start this half term with our topic "Off to Scotland" with the focus being on the story of 'Peter Pan'. The children have had the opportunity to watch 'Peter Pan' at The Rep theatre in Birmingham and this will help their understanding of the story and the work that they will be doing.

Art, Geography and Science are the areas of the curriculum taught during this topic. In Science, children will be learning about friction and how materials have different purposes based on their properties. For example: tyres have good friction which help to slow a car down. This will then progress on to magnets and how they react to different materials.

Geography will focus on map skills. The children will be able to use 8 compass points and 4 figure grid coordinates to help describe where places are in relation to one another.

Art will focus on using textiles to print on.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'Peter Pan' which will help us to understand the structure of a good story and develop the use of interesting vocabulary. The children will then have the chance to create their own story, using good word choices, time adverbials, speech and expanded sentences to capture the reader's attention. The children will have regular handwriting sessions to help continually develop their cursive handwriting to assist them in becoming fluent writers. In phonics, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including words ending in -que and -gue and adding prefixes sub- and tele-. We will also work on understanding the use of apostrophes for contractions. We will practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:
experience, experiment, favourite, February, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, important, increase, interest, island, knowledge, learn, length, library.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of division. They will be introduced to remainders too. The children will then investigate the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Mental starters will focus on counting in tenths, finding a quarter of a given number, number bonds to 1000 and place value number bonds ($10 + 90 = 100$, so $100 + 900 = 1000$). We will also revisit the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times table to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order. **Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too!**



CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card with book
- **water bottle**
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include **jogging bottoms and shorts**, white t-shirt, jumper, **trainers and pumps**, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks

Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.



BITS AND PIECES

Forest School for children in Yellow Class will take place on Wednesday (group 6) and Friday (group 7 and 8) this term. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

Your child will bring home reading books to share with you but we also encourage the children to read books that they enjoy from home too to help foster a love of reading. Please find time **each night** to support your child with their reading. The children are expected to read at least 4 times a week at home as regular reading practice has a **significant** impact on children's learning.

If you would like your child to have afternoon fruit, please remember to get a letter from the office. Payments are needed as it is a new term.

We have a rich and varied curriculum each day in school which often involves physical and messy activities. To avoid painful tangles and unwanted visitors, it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.



I am really excited about the learning this half term and looking forward to seeing the ever increasing progress that your child is making. Please pop in for a chat at the end of the school day if you have any questions or if you just want to say hello. Thank you. *Miss Phipps*