

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Wow! Where does time go? We can't believe that we are half way through the year already. We hope you have had a good half term break and we look forward to the second part of the spring term in Green Class. The children worked incredibly hard last half term and we are very proud of them. They put on their performance during our class assembly as part of our 'Off to Scotland' topic and learned lots about the Sikh faith. During this half term we have two exciting topics: A Land Far Away and Easter. We also look forward to meeting with you during Parent Consultations to discuss your child's progress.

### English

During our Land Far Away (Ancient Greece) topic we will be using the story book 'The Big big sea.' We will use this story to help us with our story writing. We will continue to focus on accurate use of capital letters and full stops when writing at length and also develop our punctuation and spelling by using contractions such as I'll and use conjunctions to extend sentences. (and, but so, because)

During our Easter topic, children will learn to write non-fiction based on customs and practices which take place during the Christian festival.

In phonics, we will continue to work on alternative pronunciations for graphemes already known for example the way i can make the sound in ink and can say its name such as in the word child. Children will take part in a national phonics check during the summer term. This purely tests children's ability to segment (split words into phonemes/sounds) and blend. These will be real and 'alien' words. There is no need for you to do anything other than normal, **regular** reading at home with your child in preparation for this. It is more of a priority that children become fluent readers who comprehend what they have read. We will share methods for this at parent consultations.

### Maths

This half term we will continue to develop our understanding of numbers and ability to calculate with them in a variety of ways. We do not learn formal times tables in Year 1 but embed the skills children need so that they understand what multiplication is about.

We will also be introduced to money, length and height as units of measure and will use measuring tools such as trundle wheels and rulers and develop our recording skills to record our measurements in a logical way.

### Homework

Homework is sent home on a sheet to give you some ideas of activities which will support the children's learning during the half term. It remains **optional** but children need to ensure if they do complete some work they hand it in by Wednesday to be marked and certificates written for Friday.

Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home and vary what children read. For example, ask children to read menus, signs, toy instructions etc. Also value the importance of you reading to them so children learn that reading is for pleasure not a chore for some children who find reading difficult. Please remind your child to change their book themselves each morning and check it is the right colour which is indicated by the coloured card in their bookbags. They can always come back at the end of the day if you see they have not changed it.

The more  
that you read,  
the more things  
you will know.  
The more that you  
learn,  
the more places you'll go.



### Getting ready for Year 2

Whilst it may seem a long way off, we have a very tailored timetable designed to increase expectations on the children which will see 'Play and Explore' time decrease and more whole class lessons increase. This is to ensure children will be ready for a formal approach to Year 2. We continue to be delighted with our approach taken to Year 1 and the children have been complimented by visitors from other schools and governors on their independence, the variety of learning taking place and their great behaviours for learning.



Developing communication and independence in Play and Explore time.

**Topic-** We will look at the lives of the Ancient Greeks and recognise key differences between the past and present. In Geography we will learn about where things are located and the difference between human and physical features of Geography. In PE will be developing our gymnastic skills and mutiskills by using equipment such as balls, bats and beanbags.

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks-** please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. (30p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**Clothing-** please can all hats and gloves be labelled as we are ending up with lots of strays.

**PE-** All children take part in outdoor PE/clubs. They need trainers for this and jogging bottoms. Children with long hair also need it tied up. Our whole class PE day is normally Tuesday but hair ties can be kept in bookbags and used when required.

**Forest School-** Clubs remain unchanged so will continue to take place every week as follows:

**Group 5- Tuesday, Group 3- Wednesday, Group 4-**

**Thursday** On these days it is essential that children wear warm jogging bottoms and socks as waterproof trousers do not provide the warmth needed on cold days.

As always, we remain grateful for the support you give to your children. If there is anything we wish to chat about please don't hesitate to ask. Mrs James is usually available on Wednesday afternoons but can always telephone call on other days.

Mrs James, Mrs Dudek, Mrs Hampton and Miss Gardner