

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back after the half term break. We are now half way through this academic year and the children are working extremely hard and developing excellent attitudes towards their learning. The last half term was certainly a busy one...creating a Little Blackwell Bakery business raising money for local families, developing cultural awareness with a fascinating trip to a Hindu temple, learning tricky gymnastic balances and creating thoughtful and intricate textile artwork were just some of the highlights. We have lots more exciting learning and experiences in store for this half term too to continue to develop the children into lifelong motivated and curious learners. In a few weeks' time, we look forward to meeting with you during parent consultations and sharing with you both your child's academic progress but also their social and personal development, alongside targets to work on in school and home.

TOPIC

'A Land Far Away' is our new topic where the children will be investigating the 'Golden Age of Baghdad' which was introduced to the National Curriculum in 2014. To develop their thinking and collaborative skills, we started the topic on Monday, investigating this round city and its significance and the children were then faced with the dilemma: If you had to build a new city, where would it be, what features would it have and what 'Golden Rules' would you enforce? The children were certainly creative with their ideas and showed excellent reasoning skills.



'Blackwell's Brilliant Writing Competition' is the project for our new topic. Mrs Moss and the School Council have worked together to plan this project where all children across the school will have many opportunities to enter this competition with prizes galore! This project has been designed to motivate the children and inspire them to become creative writers following two years of Covid-19 hit learning where, nationally, writing was the curriculum area that was particularly challenging for children.

History and Art are the main subjects taught during this topic. In history, children will learn about many aspects of the rise and fall of Early Islamic Civilisation. They will get to grips with different historical sources and assess the views of different historians about the period to find out why some historians have described the fall of Baghdad in 1258AD as 'the greatest catastrophe in history'.

In art, children will further develop collage skills, using the work of Francis Bacon, Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol as inspiration. They will represent historical images in collage, showing the importance of scholars, scientists and mathematicians in the Golden Age of Baghdad.

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.

BITS AND PIECES

Thank you for supporting your child at home with daily reading and times table practise. It makes a big difference and with continued regular practise, they will be secure with these key learning skills in preparation for middle school.

Even though we still have half a year left, it is important we work together to further develop the children's independence before they go to middle school. Encouraging them to check their own book bags for things they need, carrying their own belongings to and from school and talking to their friends or adults in school if they have any problems are some of the small things that can make a big difference.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. Many thanks. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

LITERACY

In Literacy, we will be exploring non-fiction texts to learn more about the 'Golden Age of Baghdad'. We will visit our school library, use contents, indexes and glossaries to retrieve information efficiently and learn more about non-fiction features and purposes.

The children will then use these reading skills to help them to plan their own non-chronological report about their newly designed city, following on from the first day's dilemma. Writing with cohesion and with a variety of sentence structures will be the focus and their final piece will be entered into the writing competition.

Spelling for this half term will focus on words ending in -ture, possessive apostrophe with plural nouns, homophones such as ball and bawl and the prefixes inter- and anti-.

Take a look back at last half term...



learning about Hinduism on our trip



developing coding skills in Computing



learning about different types of triangles in Maths



bread making in D.T.



counter balances in P.E.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will focus on the following mental methods for multiplication and division:

multiplication	division
x 4: double twice	÷ 4: halve twice
x 8: double thrice	÷ 8: halve thrice
x 5: x 10 then halve	÷ 5: ÷ 10 then double
x 50: x 100 then halve	÷ 50: ÷ 100 then double
x 25: x 100 then halve twice	÷ 25: ÷ 100 then double twice

Problem solving continues to be part of every maths lesson and the children are developing skills to solve complex multistep problems through the use of bar modelling.

A key life skill learned in maths is to tell the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks to 5-minute intervals. We only have a couple of weeks during the year to teach this tricky concept so support from home makes a big difference. The following link is to an online game to help consolidate understanding.



https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling_the_time#