

NEWSLETTER

For Blackwell First School – Purple Class



Welcome back...

We hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful break and are ready for the final half term in the run up to Christmas! Last half term we said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Robinson and we are pleased to have Mrs Cooper joining us in purple class on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

The children have made a fantastic start to their time in Purple Class and it was lovely to meet with you all during our parents consultation evenings. This half term, the children's learning will progress further and we have lots of exciting events planned. Mrs Hampton, Mrs Cooper and I will continue to support the children to develop confidence and their independent learning skills across all subjects.

TOPIC

Our first topic of the half term is 'Best Books'. Geography and Science are the main foundation subjects for this topic. In geography, our focus is global geography. Here, the children will learn to identify global features, including the names of all continents and oceans, compare climates, identify human and physical features and use geographical language accurately. To do this, we will focus on India, a country which Edward Lear (familiar poet) spent over a year travelling in and around. In science, the children will investigate whether there is a pattern between human age and size, learn to describe what animals and humans need for survival and learn about food classification and what humans need to stay healthy.

We have an exciting family event where we are looking forward to inviting you into school on **Friday 1st December 2023**. During this event we will display some of our learning. More details to follow. (See poster)

During the second half of this half term, we will enjoy our 'Christmas' topic. Here, RE and Art will be our foundation subject focus.

Music, Computing, P.E. and philosophy are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum area'.

BITS AND PIECES

Our Nativity is on **Thursday 14th December at 9:30am**. More information to follow. (See school newsletters)

Each week, your child will bring home a reading book matched to their current reading band and also a 'library book' which will be a free choice book. The library book will support children in being exposed to a wider range of texts and will be tricky for independent reading. Please enjoy this book together. Matched reading books will normally be changed on a Monday, library books can be changed as and when they are completed and each Friday, we will send an eBook and the reading book read in school which the children will be familiar with. Reading this book will help develop children's fluency.

Forest School Days remain the same:

Group 1 – Mon / Group 2 – Tues / Group 3 - Weds

Please send your child in wearing plain, dark jogging bottoms/leggings on these days.

Please also make sure they have gloves, hat, scarves now that the weather is getting cooler.

Please read with your child daily to help build fluency, and develop comprehension.

ENGLISH

'The Quangle Wangle's Hat' is our English text for our 'Best Books' topic.

It is a nonsense poem written by Edward Lear in 1872. During this topic, the children will develop reading comprehension skills whilst exploring the details of the text. As well as revisiting previous learning, the children will be taught to use contractions, make good word choices and to use question marks and exclamation marks accurately. They will then apply these skills to their final piece, a fictional character description.

Phonics/ Spelling, handwriting and discrete reading sessions will continue daily.



MATHS

In mental maths we will continue to work on our fluency when counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s as well as doubles and halves to 15 + 15 and instant recall of number bonds to 20. Please see the mental maths sheet that I shared with you during Parent meetings.

This half term we will continue to develop our understanding of a variety of written and mental strategies for addition.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A checklist for each day in school:

- school book bag
- reading/library book and card
- water bottle, 50p for tuck or a healthy snack (no nuts)
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E. kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellies and a pair of thick socks



Please label all belongings with your child's name.

I have really enjoyed teaching the children during the last half term, their enthusiasm to learn is wonderful. If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

Many thanks

Miss Bailey, Mrs Hampton and Mrs Cooper