

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



Welcome back after the half term break and what a good first half term we have had. The children have settled happily and quickly into Blue Class where they are working hard, with great enthusiasm and are stepping up to the higher Year 4 expectations. Our first two topics, 'The Anglo-Saxons' and 'Planet Earth' provided an inspirational start to the year. Sharing their learning during Open Evening and through their floor book, going on an autumnal woodland walk, scarecrow making, applying for jobs and ending with a family assembly were just a few of the highlights. All of that in only one half term, and there are plenty more exciting learning opportunities in this half term too!

TOPIC

'Best Books' is our new topic with the children's classic 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' being the story of focus. The project the children will be working towards is planning and preparing for our **Big Blackwell Book Festival** on Friday 1st December (more information on poster). We started our topic by exploring real-life dilemmas about our book festival, thinking about what to include, not to include, how it should run, should we charge our visitors? etc. Dilemma-based learning engages the children in team work and problem solving whilst learning real-life knowledge and developing an understanding of different viewpoints.



Geography and Science are the main subjects taught during this topic. PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E. and Philosophy for Children will be taught each week too. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

Through Geography, children will further develop their knowledge and understanding of global features, exploring climate zones, latitude and longitude. We will consider which countries the land of Narnia could possibly be and will focus on Norway, looking at physical and human features and comparing to the UK.

Science lessons will focus on 'animals including humans' and the curriculum for Year 4 is about food chains, teeth and the digestive system. Children will explore the possible impacts of a change in a food chain and will learn about different types of teeth and their functions. We'll take part in a fun experiment to help explain about how the digestive system works!

At our book festival, we hope to share some of our Geography and Science learning.

YEAR 4 JOB SCHEME

Two of our school values we help our children develop into are respectful and responsible citizens and aspirational individuals. Our Year 4 job scheme supports these values and it is lovely to share with you that all children, who wanted to take part, have been successful with one of their applications. We had a lovely time reading some of the fabulous references! Over the coming weeks, they will receive training and start earning Blackwell pounds. Soon we will have fresh bread (made by our bakers) for sale in Lettuce Eat, sparkly windows (thanks to our window cleaners) and many other keen entrepreneurs busy at it! Your child will need a purse or wallet in school to keep their well-earned money safe.



LITERACY

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will develop the children's reading, writing and communication skills. The children will develop their reading skills by asking questions about the text, predicting and considering characters' thoughts and feelings through drama activities.

Exposing children to the rich language in the text will develop both their speaking and writing skills. The children will be planning, revising and redrafting a book review during this sequence of learning. Excitingly, we will be sending their reviews off to the new Blue Peter Book Club and we hope their hard work gets rewarded with the children receiving a treasured Blue Peter Book Club badge!



The children will learn how to write effective sentences using adverbials, subordinating conjunctions and good word choices. The children continually work towards their personal writing targets and it has been great to see many children achieving their first couple of targets already.

In Spelling, the children learn how to spell words with prefixes il-, in-, im- and ir-, words with the 'ay' sound spelt with 'ei', 'eigh' and 'ey' and words from their personal spelling lists. Please see the homework sheet for the tricky words of focus for this half term.

Take a look back at last half term...



Exploring John Brunson's painting techniques



Exploring 4-digit numbers



Experimenting with pneumatic systems in D.T



Playing tuned instruments from staff notation

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will be consolidating and developing their use of mental and written methods for addition and subtraction and the application of these skills when problem solving. Mental maths will focus on the 4- and 11 times tables, recalling number bonds to 100 and 1,000 (multiples of 50 only for the latter), doubling and halving numbers to 100 fluently (even numbers only for halving) and rounding any 4-digit number to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000.

TIMES TABLES

Oh no you might say! We had to learn them and so do children of today! Learning times tables is a very important part of children's mathematical development and in Key Stage 2 we use these facts all of the time in many areas of the maths curriculum. We help the children learn them at school in a variety of ways from old fashioned chanting, to games such as bingo and Bing, Bong, Zong! The APP 'Squeebles' is also popular with the children. However, to help the children **learn them by heart** we need you to help us too! Please encourage your child to practise their times tables at home. Like daily reading practice, **daily times table practice** has a significant impact on their learning. The aim is for them to be able to recall any of the taught times tables within 3-5 seconds. Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a 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, Mrs Spurgeon and Mrs Taylor