

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back and a Happy New Year! We hope you had a good Christmas holiday and are well rested and ready and raring to go for the new term. The children had a very successful first term, are familiar with routines and expectations and are now ready to be challenged even further to develop their academic skills, independence and skills for life. We enjoyed a thought-provoking day on Wednesday where the children explored a range of paintings and photographs from the past and present depicting wealthy and poor families. A dilemma was then presented to the children: Should all members of modern day society be able to access 'tasty' treats? (This links with our new topic.) The children came up with creative solutions, showing great empathy and it provided them with the opportunity to consider different viewpoints alongside developing social and moral awareness, all of which underpin our school vision, key values and competencies. We have many engaging learning opportunities planned for the term, involving daily reading and writing activities, a range of foundation subject investigations and new knowledge and skills to learn, enjoy and rehearse supporting the development of lifelong learners. We look forward to sharing in the children's learning journey with you throughout the term.

TOPIC

'Build a Business' is our new topic and the children will be planning their own learning and skills needed to set up their own 'Tasty Treat' business, using solutions from their dilemma-based learning. You will hear more about it as the children develop and promote their ideas and hopefully you will be able to support and enjoy their enterprise!



D.T. and Science are the main subjects taught during this topic. Cooking and nutrition is the area of focus in D.T. and this is where our business will really kick off! After researching what is already available in the market, children will design their own recipe for tasty bread and design eye-catching packaging too, linking to our literacy story. You will have the opportunity to pre-order some of our tasty treats and we will bake them to perfection for you to savour!

In Science lessons, children will take inspiration from famous scientists in the past, using their stories to learn more about what makes a good scientist. Then they will explore changes in states of matter, defining solids, liquids and gases and planning a fair test to explore changes of state. This will help them to understand the scientific processes behind their bread making in D.T. Children will use their new knowledge to help understand how the water cycle works too.

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.

RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

If you were to ask your child 'What is Miss Townsend's most important life rule?', hopefully they will say 'being kind'. Developing respectful and responsible citizens is one of our school values and underpins our curriculum and Relationships and Behaviour policy. It is lovely to see the children developing these qualities which are evident as soon as they enter the classroom where many greet the adults with "Good morning, how are you today?" Having additional responsibility throughout the school day is something they take great pride in but also approach with great seriousness! Seeing them support younger children with good listening in assembly, delivering messages around the school, completing their Year 4 jobs independently in their own free time, saying thank you to the kitchen staff after lunch without being asked to are some of the lovely things we see throughout the school day which make us very proud of them.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the support from home working on their targets in Reading, Writing and Maths. It is making a big difference and is helping the children to continue to catch up on some of the missed learning in light of disruption to their education as a result of Covid-19.

Please continue to work on the targets from their reports alongside daily reading and times table practice.



LITERACY

The Little Grey Men by BB is the text the children will enjoy as they develop their reading, speaking and writing skills. When reading, they will be given opportunities to use dictionaries to support their understanding of new vocabulary, summarise what they read, infer, pose questions, discuss author intention and identify words and phrases that capture their interest. Their reading will then support their writing skills where they will experiment with their own words and phrases to capture the reader's interest when writing poems and a gnome adventure story!



Learning how to write complex sentences using subordinating conjunctions will be a focus to develop their sentence writing skills alongside using a range of adverbials such as time adverbials (suddenly), prepositions (inside) and adverbs (curiously).

In Spelling, the children will learn how prefixes such as ir-, in-, im- and il- change the meaning of root words, spell words with the 'ay' sound spelt with ei, eigh and ey and explore more homophones.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be helpful if the children could practise these tricky words at home alongside any individual spelling lists sent home.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will continue to develop their use of mental and written calculation strategies for subtraction and the application of these skills when problem solving, including 2-step problems. They will also develop their geometry knowledge and skills by investigating symmetry, angles and different quadrilaterals (e.g. parallelograms and trapeziums), triangles (equilateral, isosceles and scalene) and their properties.

Mental maths will focus on the 8 times table, counting in 6s, 25s and 1,000s, using place value to calculate e.g. 500×3 , doubles and halves to 5,000 of multiples of 100 and adding and subtracting any 2-digit numbers using efficient methods (ask your child to tell you about MC RAPA CODA NUMBO!).

Please help your child to recall their times tables fluently by encouraging them to practise for 5 minutes each day. Thank you.

Take a look back at last half term...



art inspired by The Willow Pattern story



using concrete apparatus to help understand column addition



tucking into our delicious Christmas dinner



having lots of fun learning about the digestive system



sharing our story sacks with our Yellow Class friends



Christmas Story Night

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, Miss Kuriger and Mrs Gwilliam