

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Yellow Class



**Welcome back to everyone after Christmas!** I hope that you had a lovely time celebrating and spreading the Christmas spirit. Mrs Marks, Mrs Flynn, Mrs Dudek and I will be working hard this half term to develop children's independence to allow them to explore different resources to support their learning. Our new topic is Building a Business so we are going to have a lot of fun with our new learning!

### TOPIC

In our 'Building a business' topic, our subjects of focus are DT and Science. In school, we teach some subjects weekly and others as part of 'topics' where that suits the learning. During each topic we work on a project and this half term our project is creating a business to raise money for a charity. In DT, children will be investigating different flavours of muffins before planning, designing and creating a product to sell to families. Before it will be sold, the children will evaluate it and suggest improvements so that you get the best product possible! In Science, children will learn about magnets and how they attract and repel objects. The children will have the opportunity to sort materials depending on whether they think that they are magnetic or not, and then learning will be further developed by introducing the children to forces and how objects move on different surfaces due to friction. 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.

### LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'Farther' by Grahame Baker-Smith. The children will learn about new writing features such as the use of conjunctions, prepositions and adverbs to create a diary entry and write their own chapter of what might happen after the story finishes. The children will continue to have many writing opportunities to support their development in writing stamina. Handwriting sessions will be focussing on specific letter formation and some number formation too.



In spelling, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including adding prefixes sub- and tele- and understanding the use of apostrophes for contractions. We will also practise reading and spelling the following tricky words:

*experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward, forwards, fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, important, increase interest, island.*

The game 'Little Bird Spelling' on [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com) is very useful and the children enjoy playing this.

### BITS AND PIECES

If your child is in school, please check that they have the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card
- water bottle and snack/tuck money
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, **trainers and pumps**, white t-shirt, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks

**Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.**

Forest School will be taking place on a Monday for group 5, Tuesday for group 4 and Wednesday for group 6. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they visit the forest.

Please read with your child daily to help build fluency, develop word meaning and check their inference skills.

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of mental and written subtraction. They will be starting to learn the different strategies that can be used to subtract mentally before moving on to counting on and back on a number line and then finally column subtraction.

Mental starters will focus on counting on and back in 4s, 11s and 8s. They will develop their knowledge of number bonds to 100 (any number, e.g.  $53 + 47$ ) and 1000 (multiples of 100) and place value number bonds ( $12 + 23 = 35$ , so  $120 + 230 = 350$ ). We will also revisit the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times table to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order.

**Daily times table practice at home significantly helps too! Squeebles and Hit the Button are great apps to use.**



We are very excited about the learning this half term, especially creating our new business. It is great to see the fantastic progress the children are making. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any queries at [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk).

*Miss Davis, Mrs Marks, Mrs Flynn and Mrs Dudek*