

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back everyone. We hope you had an enjoyable half term break and a good rest. The children in Blue Class are now in their final half term at Blackwell First School and we are very proud of how hard they have worked this year. Despite a couple of years of challenges due to Covid-19, they have developed excellent learning behaviours including resilience and independence and leave us being respectful and responsible individuals with minds full of aspirations. However, it's not over yet! We have a very busy last half term and we hope to make it an exciting and memorable one for all children so they will take away very fond memories of their time here. We have two fascinating topics left ('Castles and Tudors' and 'On the Farm'), a trip, creating a puppet show inspired by William Shakespeare, a day or two working with our artist in residence, more bell boating and the event that the children have been looking forward to all year... our residential!

TOPIC

'Tudors and Castles' is our new topic where the children will be investigating the impact the Tudors had on life in Britain. A dilemma based on preserving historical buildings and the need for new houses will start the topic where the children will have the opportunity to ask questions and make difficult decisions. A trip will further enhance their learning enabling them to see history in real life, supporting engagement and developing local cultural and social awareness. The project during this topic planning and creating a short film to showcase their learning titled, 'Kenilworth Castle – Fit for a Queen.'



History and Art are the main subjects taught during this topic. In History, our learning will be framed around the question 'Was the Tudor period good or bad for Britain?' Children will create their own hypotheses surrounding this and throughout the topic will gather and sift historical evidence to prove or disprove their hypothesis. They will learn about the main events during the reigns of each Tudor monarch and will discover how causes, consequences, continuity and change affected the legacy of the Tudors.

In Art, children will learn about 3D art and sculpture. They will embark on the difficult skill of coiling with clay and use this skill to create clay pots with a regal twist! Fine detail will be added using previous colour mixing skills. As with all art, children will evaluate their work and the work of others. You will hopefully see some of our creations at the summer fair.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught regularly throughout the term. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

To prepare your child for middle school, the following would be supportive:

- staying at school until 3.15pm as much as possible
- develop their independence by giving them more responsibility e.g. packing their own school bag, taking responsibility for reading each night, handing forms from their bags to you themselves and returning them to school etc.
- reminding them that a good quality piece of homework should be handed in every Tuesday
- talking to your children about moving to middle school, talking openly about feelings and changes in a positive and honest way

LITERACY

One of William Shakespeare's great plays, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is the text to inspire the children's reading, communication and writing skills.



Predicting, summarising, inferring and identifying good word choices as they explore the story will help to develop their reading skills. Hot seating and considering characters' thoughts and feelings will support their retelling and writing from a character's viewpoint alongside developing their sentence construction through the use of subordinating conjunctions and correctly punctuated dialogue. The children will work collaboratively to retell part of the story and perform it as a puppet show.

Spelling lessons will focus on using apostrophes for possession for singular and plural nouns, exploring prefixes such as auto-, sub- and re- and adding the suffix -ly to words ending in -ic, -le and -y.

Handwriting lessons continue to help increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting and pens will be introduced to support transition to middle school.



Take a look back at some of last half term's highlights...



NUMERACY

Fractions and measurement are the areas of focus. During their fraction learning, they will use concrete apparatus to develop a secure understanding. Making fractions, counting in fractional steps, adding and subtracting, comparing, finding equivalences and finding fractions of numbers (i.e. 5/7 of 56) will be some of the challenging learning the children will explore. Measurement will include calculating area and perimeter and telling the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks.

The children have now been taught all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. Over the next few weeks, they will complete the national 'Times Table Check'. It is important that children can recall all times table facts fluently as this will help them to more easily access the Y5 and Y6 maths curriculum so please encourage your child to practise them daily. Thank you.

Please see the homework sheet to see which other mental maths facts and skills we will be focusing on this half term.

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