

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Happy New Year! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and a well-deserved break. The children worked incredibly hard last term and I think you'll agree, they did everyone proud in our Christmas production. We had a great end to the term by enjoying our Christmas lunch, storynight and many thanks to the PFTA for funding the pantomime on the last day. Now the routines and expectations of Year 1 are embedded, we are well placed to help the children make a great deal of progress this term and we will continue to challenge them by slowly increasing more formal aspects to our day to ensure Year 2 doesn't come as a total shock when the time comes! We are excited by our two topics this term which are the 'Building a Business' and 'Our world'.

### English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss and for our building a business topic it's called 'Five minutes Peace' by Jill Murphy. It is a theme I'm sure we can all relate to, and it will link to our PSHE work on having a healthy mind and what we can do to feel peaceful in our busy lives. We will be exploring many opportunities to write including writing some non-fiction about elephants and making advertising materials for our business. Our focus will be on accurate sentence writing with capital letters and full stops, neat, joined smaller handwriting and using the conjunction 'and' to make our sentences longer.

**Reading-** Most schools have now adopted a government validated phonics scheme. Our scheme is called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised'. The children in Green Class are taught phonics daily and also read in a small group 3 times a week with an adult. The children read the same book for 3 sessions all of which have a different focus. This book is then posted online onto your Collins electronic bookshelf. Children have personal logins which were issued last term but please do ask if you need to be given it again (**they are different from last year**). Your support with reading the book again allows for your children to show you fluent, confident reading making it more enjoyable for all parties! We still give children a physical book each week to ensure they have a breath of reading experience. Library books can be changed as frequently as children would like and they are books for adults to read and enjoy together. We really need your support for the children to make good progress. Please initial your child's reading card when they have read at home.

The focus of our phonics teaching will be on recognising when 2 or 3 letters are working together in a word and how to read longer words with more than one syllable such as starlight. We will also learn different ways that sounds we know can be made by different graphemes e.g. all these graphemes make the same sound- ai, ay, a a-e.



### Topic

During our building a business topic, we will have science and DT as our focus subjects. In DT we will be designing and making a snack for Mrs Large to enjoy for when she is getting her five minutes peace (or not!) We will be making our snacks to sell in order to make money for local charities. Please look out for further details.

In our science learning we will be learning about different materials and their properties. We will start by naming them and then deciding which materials will be best in different scenarios and why, such as what material would be best to make our snack packaging out of?

Computing will continue weekly and will have a focus on coding and word processing and in music we will learn to create an advertising jingle for our new business.

At Blackwell, we operate a topic-based approach to learning where all subjects are linked through a topic with a project. This makes the learning more memorable for the children and allows them to make links between subjects more easily. All subjects will have a link to our food business and we will be reading and writing in every subject.

### Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate and share their successes.

Homework remains **optional** and activities are designed to help you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. It is recommended that children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates in our Gold Book

### Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of number and how to compare, estimate and order numbers including using representations of numbers to prove their thinking. For example: which is larger 34 or 23? Prove it by using base 10 apparatus (10s and 1s rods) or an abacus. Children will learn to write numbers 1-20 in words as well as numerals.

We will also spend time on addition using a counting on method which includes using the visual representation of a bar model which is a whole school focus. Our focus will be on mental methods for addition as it is important children learn mental strategies before written ones.

We will end the half term by comparing, calculating and estimating length and height. This will include using bar models again to solve problems.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 10 including subtraction facts, recognising odd and even numbers and finding small differences between numbers. As always, there will be lots of singing in our lessons! Please see mental maths facts which need to be practised at home on the homework sheet.

### Healthy lifestyles

**Snacks-** Please send children to school with a healthy morning snack such as fruit or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop. (40p) Also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**Clothing-** As the weather is so interchangeable, please ensure children have a warm, waterproof coat in school at all times and that all hats, gloves and scarves etc are named.

**Forest School-** This is taking place as follows- group 1- Tuesday group 2- Wednesday, group 3- Monday. The club groups remain the same as last term.

**PE and sports club-** Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure they have jogging bottoms and outdoors shoes in school. All long hair needs to be tied up on Tuesdays, earrings removed and children who wear tights to school will need socks added to their PE kits.

**Speech-** We have been made aware that a few children in the class use dummies at home. In our experience, children who are using dummies at this age are likely to have issues surrounding their speech and language such as incorrect tongue positioning causing lisps and incorrect pronunciation of sounds. Should you require any further guidance or our support in discontinuing their use, we are always willing to help.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk), speak to Mrs Moss on the gate and I will telephone you to discuss your query or chat to me at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all a happy, healthy 2023.

Mrs James and all of the Green Class team