

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 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 Blackwell Film festival so we are going to have a lot of fun with our new learning!

TOPIC

In our 'Film Festival' topic, our subjects of focus are Art 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 short film of our learning to share with another class.

In Art, the children will be focussing on textiles. They will be learning the techniques of dip-dyeing and printing to create a background for a puppet show. The children will be using the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat' as inspiration for their backgrounds.

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 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear. The children will learn about new writing features such as dialogue and time adverbials and will continue with punctuation work to be able to create their own version of The Owl and the Pussycat.



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 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 the same days as last term.

They can come to school wearing plain, dark coloured jogging bottoms on the day they visit the forest.

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 film for the film festival. 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.

Miss Davis and Mrs Marks