

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back after the Easter holidays!** We hope you all enjoyed the break and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. Last term was very successful with the children continuing to work with enthusiasm and great care and effort when learning about The Golden Age of Baghdad and Easter. It was nice to be able to end the term with the children performing with confidence to you to welcome in Spring. It was lovely to meet with you all during parent consultations to share your child's books and discuss the progress they are making, not only with their academic skills but their social and independence skills too. Targets were sent home at the end of last term for the children to work on at home to help them make progress further. We are now in our final term which is always a busy one. Transition work will be an important aspect and we will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school. We look forward to lots of new learning and experiences too during this term... bell boating, residential, a castle trip and Coronation celebrations... to name just a few!

### TOPIC

'Globe Trotters' is our new topic where the children will be learning about different places and cultures around the world. The topic will start off with dilemma-based learning about aspirational people from the United Kingdom and beyond who are trying to make our world a better place now and for the future. Working collaboratively, they will be tasked with deciding how to spend a set amount of money (fictional) to make local or global improvements. As well as learning about the importance of compromise and reasoning, this dilemma will help develop the children's understanding of becoming responsible and respectful citizens as they grow older.



As the King's Coronation approaches, the children will learn more about the Commonwealth during this topic and we look forward to welcoming you to our 'Coronation Arts Events' on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May where you will be entertained by children across the school including, fingers crossed, a special maypole dance by Blue Class!

Geography and R.E. are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Geography, learning will link to the text for literacy, 'The Rhythm of the Rain', and children will learn about the journey of a river from the source to the mouth, just like in the story. We will focus on the River Rhone, starting in Switzerland, reaching Lake Geneva and then travelling through France to the Mediterranean. Geneva will be our focus, learning about physical and human features and then comparing to Birmingham.

In R.E., our thematic learning is about the 'significant events of life' and what could be more significant than a coronation?! We will draw on our previous learning about Hindus and Christians and use this to see what helps people along the 'journey of life'.

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

### YEAR 4 TIMES TABLE CHECK

In June, children in Year 4 will take part in a national statutory times table check. This is an on-screen assessment designed to check whether they can fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of 25 questions with 6 seconds for each question (most questions will be the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12x).

As we do for the Year 1 phonics screening check and Year 2 SATS, we treat these like fun quizzes and we will complete similar quizzes most days in school so that the children become familiar with the layout, timing and how to input their answers. Here is a good times table check practice site for the children to have a go on at home.

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check>

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](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). Many thanks.  
Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

### LITERACY

The award-winning picture book 'The Rhythm of the Rain' by Grahame Baker-Smith is the main text that will develop the children's speaking, reading and writing skills. The story narrates the journey of water across the world which will revisit previous science learning and inspire them to create their own adventure picture book for our Red Class friends.

Considering the purpose of and audience for their writing will be at the heart of all lessons as they continue to consolidate sentence writing skills such as using a range of adverbials (prepositions, adverbs and time adverbials) and structuring complex sentences in a variety of ways.

Spelling for this half term will focus on homophones, words ending in -cian, -sion, -ssion and -tion and words with the 's' sound spelt with 'sc' i.e. science, scissors...

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too in addition to any personal spelling lists you've received.

Take a look back at last half term...



*enjoying spending their hard-earned money at 'Tea and Toast'*



*using concrete apparatus in maths to help learn about column multiplication*



*exploring counter and counter tension balances in gymnastics*

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will develop their understanding of decimal numbers involving tenths and hundredths. They will make them using a range of concrete apparatus to help develop a secure understanding of what decimal numbers are, compare and round them and solve problems. Investigating other fractions will follow this where they will count in different fractional steps, identify unit and non-unit fractions of shapes, objects and amounts i.e.  $\frac{5}{7}$  of 42, add and subtract fractions and recognise equivalences.

We will also be learning about position and direction and spend time describing positions using co-ordinates and movements between positions.

Mental maths will focus on the 9- and 12-times tables, deriving sums and differences of pairs of multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000, recalling near doubles and using efficient mental methods to multiply and divide by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25.

### YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school, all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.