

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



Welcome back to school. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and that the children are ready for their final term in Green Class. This year has really flown by! We ended the spring term in style with a wonderful Easter performance on the steps and 2 exciting topics. This term, we take a more formal approach to learning in preparation for Year 2. The children no longer have Play and Explore time but do still continue to access our resources once their work is complete. The children are more than ready for this next step in their learning journey and I know I will continue to feel very proud of them. We have two exciting topics this half term which are Globe Trotters and Happy and Healthy. (More details will follow on our sporting events during that final week of the half term.)

English

We start this topic as always with the arrival of our book from Mrs. Moss. This topic, we have a book called 'We're going on a lion hunt' which mimics Michael Rosen's classic- 'We're going on a bear hunt'. The setting of the book is Africa, and we are going to be learning about the country of Tanzania more closely in terms of culture, lifestyle and how it differs from our own. In English we will be learning to write our own African story. Our focus as always will be on using capital letters and full stops after EVERY sentence and using our phonics to spell words we don't know. We use our 'Grow the code' charts to pick the spelling patterns we need and make sure that what we write makes sense. We will also practise tricky word spelling daily. (These words are listed on the homework sheet)

Phonics- in lessons, we will be continuing to learn different graphemes for sounds we already know and also revise all previously taught sounds in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check. ('Quiz' is the vocabulary we use in school rather than test) We will also learn the skill of reading alien words as the check requires us to. Children will need to read 40 words with an adult. 20 are real and 20 are not. This will happen later in the term.

Handwriting- this half term we will work on careful letter joins and making sure letters all start and end from the line and are the right size when compared to each other i.e. tall letters such as l,b,d,k,h are all taller than other letters.



Topic

During our 'Globe Trotters' topic we have the focus subjects of Geography, and RE. All our learning will be focussed on our celebration event which Mrs Moss will share the details of. The celebration event falls excellently with the Coronation of the King which we will learn about too. Our work in geography will be comparing our own locality to a similarly small part of Tanzania. Our work on Tanzania will draw on similarities to the children's work last year about Kenya which borders Tanzania.

In RE, we will be learning about how to care for others and the world and why it is important. We will learn about this from a religious and non religious stance and look at elements such as giving thanks and charity. Our topic is designed to broaden children's horizons into diversity on a local and global scale.

PE will continue weekly with a focus on dance during our Globe Trotter topic where we will listen to and choreograph dances from around the world and for the remainder of the topic children will learn outdoor games in preparation for our sports event day.

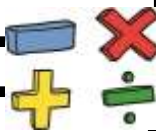
Computing this half term will have a focus on using apps and packages to create paintings and animations.



Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting into helping children with their homework. Please just remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so that 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. Reading remains the best homework you can do with children, multiple times a week as it has a **significant** impact on their progress. **Our Little Wandle e books accessed on the Collins website are the most phonically well matched to your child's ability and will be a book they have read 3 times in school already making it an enjoyable fluent read for you (hopefully!)**



Maths

Mental maths continues daily using facts listed on the homework sheet. Maths lessons will have 3 focus areas this half term which are multiplication, division and fractions. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and grouping. Children will work in concrete ways (using real objects) then will begin drawing objects from stories e.g., 5 red footballs and 5 blue footballs makes 10 red footballs. We don't use the x symbol in Year 1, but all this work is essential for children to understand before they commence formal times table learning in Year 2.

A similar approach is taken to division where children will share and group objects and quantities in order to understand what dividing /division means.

During our fractions learning, children will learn to understand how to find halves and quarters of numbers, shapes and quantities starting with a concrete approach by using real objects.

Healthy lifestyles

Snacks- Please send children to school with a healthy, nut free, 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.

Forest School- This is taking place as mixed key stage groups weekly as follows- Group 1 Monday, Group 2 Tuesday, Group 3 Wednesday, Group 4 and 5 Thursday. Please see ParentApp message for which group your child is in.

PE and sports club- Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week, please make sure long hair is tied up **and removing earrings is the best practice rather than taping earrings for children who cannot remove them themselves.** (Tuesday is our main PE day) Children will need shorts, t shirt and trainers in their PE bags for outdoor PE.

Sun safe- as the weather hopefully improves, please send children to school with a named hat and sun cream applied.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please telephone or email the office office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk and I will telephone you back or informal chats can happen at the end of the school day on the back playground.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs James and the Green Class Team