

# NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School – **Green Class**



A very warm welcome to Green Class and a new school year! We hope that the summer holidays have been both fun and relaxing, filled with lots of great memories. Children will now be accessing the National Curriculum through taught sessions, guided focus groups and continuous provision (play and explore time). Using this approach makes the transition more manageable for children and continues to develop their positive attitudes towards learning. We are excited to be teaching and supporting Green Class this year and look forward to having a really successful year together. We start the half term with two exciting topics: Long Ago (Toys) and Our World (Seasons).

Children may be tired returning to school full time, so remember that leaving school at 1.40pm is always an option.

## Topic

All National Curriculum subjects are taught and explored throughout each term. Below are the focus subjects for our topic lessons this half term.

We start with a **history** focus where we will be learning about toys long ago and the invention of the very first Teddy Bear. We will be developing our historical investigation skills using a variety of sources such as books and videos.

In **Design and Technology**, we are going to create our own sliding mechanisms based on the characters in our English text.

In **Art**, the children will be learning about using different tools and textures to make marks as part of drawing. The children will be using the knowledge and skills they learn to create their own 'Where the Wild Things Are' pictures.

**Music, PE and Computing** are taught weekly. In music, children will learn how to keep a steady pulse and sing songs with actions in time. In PE, we will be doing multi skills where children will practise their hopping, skipping and jumping skills. In computing, we will be learning all about coding using Beebots.

## English

To start the half term, we will be reading 'Where the Wild Things Are', discussing the story before writing our own sentences. We will focus on the importance of full stops and capital letters and the way we can segment (sound out words).

In daily phonics sessions, we will revisit all taught phonemes and tricky words. Children will also read a book in a group 3 times a week with an adult to practise applying taught sounds and words.

Daily handwriting takes place with a varied mixture of Writedance, practical fine motor activities such as cotton bud painting and cursive letter formation.

To develop children's communication skills, they will work daily with a learning partner on practical or discussion tasks. These are chosen at random, and children will work with that person for the duration of the topics before then gaining a new partner. Resilience is key!

## Maths

We have a busy half term for the mathematicians of Green Class. We will start the half term by exploring numbers and we will be counting, reading, writing and comparing numbers. We will then work through stages of addition and subtraction which will include: using concrete objects, calculating mentally, using written methods and then problem solving. This year is about children developing fluency in maths and knowing everything about numbers from 0-20 before working on greater numbers. Please help them learn to mentally calculate within 10...7+2, 4+3, 5+3 etc..

## Homework

Children are given a sheet of optional homework activities in their homework books which will enable you to see the type of learning taking place within the classroom. It is suggested that the children complete an activity from a different subject area each week. Efforts are celebrated with weekly certificates.

Reading at home has a significant impact on children's reading progress. Please read as often as possible at home, at least 4 times a week is preferable (including weekends). The reading books we have are designed to help children notice and apply all of the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them. Reading is the most important homework you can do with your children at this age. Library books are also available as a book to be read to the children for pleasure.

## Bits and bobs

**Snacks** – Please send children to school with a healthy morning snack or with money to purchase something from our tuck shop (50p). Please also send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

**PE** – Takes place on a Tuesday. Please tie up long hair and send in socks to stay in children's PE bags when they wear tights to school.

**Forest School** – Takes place in mixed key stage groups during club time (after 1.40pm). On Forest School days, children can come to school dressed in jogging bottoms and their usual school top. We have all necessary waterproofs but please make sure we have a pair of named wellies in school. Please see below for groups:

**Group 1 – Thursday    Group 2 – Tuesday    Group 3 – Wednesday**

**Please see parent app message for groupings.**

If you wish to speak to us about anything, please email the school office and we will get back to you [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk) or catch us at the end of the day for an informal chat.

Again, a very warm welcome to Green Class and we look forward to the rest of the school year.

**Miss Smith, Mrs Thompson and the Green Class team.**