

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



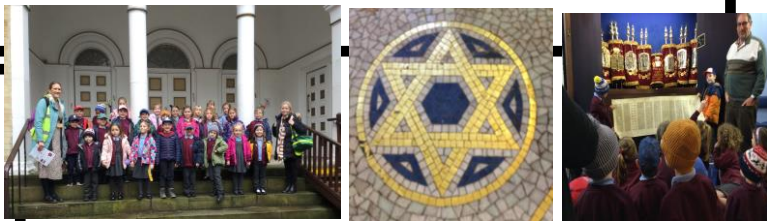
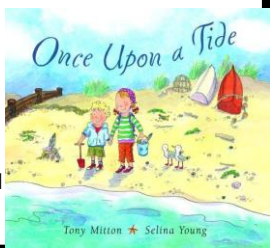
Welcome back to school. We hope you had a restful half term and the children are ready for another exciting half term in Green Class. Our last half term was short but the children enjoyed a film festival with Purple Class and a trip to Singer's Hill Synagogue where they learnt a lot and represented the school and themselves excellently. We continue to be very proud of them and are looking forward to the next steps in their learning journey by altering our approach to focus groups which will allow children to work more independently from adults in preparation for Year 2. Whilst it seems a long way off, we make changes to our day gradually for it to be as smooth as possible for the children. This half term we look forward to the topics of Pirates and Easter. We have family events during both topics. Please see ParentApp and Mrs Moss's Newsletter for dates and times.

English

We start our half term with the exciting arrival of a book from Mrs Moss, and for our 'Pirates' topic it is called *Once Upon a Tide*. The book lends itself to lots of opportunities for writing including postcards which the characters sent from their travels, place descriptions and stories. Our focus will be on writing accurate sentences which have capital letters, full stops and accurate use of phonics. This is the sole aim for Year 1 and is certainly a challenge.

Reading

This half term we continue to learn that sounds we know can be made by different graphemes e.g. all these graphemes make the same sound- ai, ay, a, a-e! Our work will help in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in June. All children will be 'tested' on their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. 20 are real and 20 are alien words. The pass mark is usually around 32. Whilst we don't use the language of 'test' with children and they often enjoy the 1:1 reading sessions with Mrs Moss and myself, it is really important that child practise the skill of accurate sound talking and blending at home and at school. **Our Little Wandle physical and eBooks are great practise for this.**



Topic

During our 'Pirates' topic, we have a focus on DT and History. In History, we will be learning about the life of famous pirates such as Blackbeard and Anne Bonny and debating whether it was good to be a pirate or not.

In DT, we will be learning about cooking and nutrition. We will learn about healthy diets and why pirates were often poorly. We will be tasting and preparing our own salads using the skills of chopping, grating and peeling.

Computing continues weekly and we will be teaching the children to write their own codes in order to make events happen. All of our learning will be showcased in our class assembly which we hope you can join us for.

For the final week of the term, Religious Education forms the focus for our Easter topic.

In PE we will be choreographing a special pirate dance by creating motifs which will be linked together in a sequence. PSHE is taught weekly and for this half term the children will learn about respectful relationships.



Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting in to 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. Reading remains the best homework you can do with children multiple times a week as it has a significant impact on their progress and our Little Wandle books are essential for children to develop reading fluency at the correct level.

Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's understanding of subtraction which is the most complex of all the calculations. We will be solving subtraction calculations by counting back and counting on when the numbers are close together e.g. for 30 - 27 the children will count on from 27 rather than count back 27 from 30. We will use this knowledge to help us find the difference between 2 numbers. As always, we will use bar modelling as a visual representation for the maths we are doing. Children will develop their written method of subtraction and mental methods. We will be calculating with numbers up to 100. We end the term with a measurement unit where the children will be measuring and calculating with money and learning to tell the time to o'clock and half past times.

Mental starters to lessons happen daily and we will work on instant recall of number bonds to 10 and 100 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 on the homework sheet, which when practised at home, will help them become extra fluent.

Parts of Subtraction

$$\begin{array}{c} 5 - 1 = 4 \\ \text{Minuend} \quad \text{Subtrahend} \quad \text{Difference} \end{array}$$

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 (50p). Also, please send children into school with a named, empty, washed water bottle each day.

Forest School- This is taking place as mixed key stage groups as follows- group 1- Monday, group 2- Tuesday, group 3- Wednesday. **This is unchanged from last half term.**

PE and sports club- Children take part in sports lessons multiple times a week. Please make sure long hair is tied up and children have socks in their PE bag if they wear tights to school.

As the weather is so interchangeable, please send children to school in a waterproof coat as we aim to go out in all weathers.

At the end of the first week of the half term, we bid a fond farewell to Miss Lewis who will be continuing her teaching practice at another school. We have very much enjoyed having her in Green Class and wish her every success for her teaching career.

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 Mrs Thompson