

NEWSLETTER

For Blackwell First School – Purple Class



Happy New Year!

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and have rested well. A big well done to all of the children for your performance at the end of last term. You displayed some excellent singing, dancing, acting and speaking. All of the grown-ups were very proud of you all.



TOPIC

Our first topic of the term is 'Blackwell Film Festival'. Science and Art are the main foundation subjects for this topic.

In Science, our focus is 'materials'. Here, the children will learn about the properties of different materials, will compare their strengths before deciding which material would be best suited for Ella's new slipper (character from English text).

In Art, our focus is 'textiles'. Here, we will use a range of techniques including dip dye, surface rubbing and printing to create our own decorated fabric for Ella's dress for the ball.

We are looking forward to organising our very own KS1 film festival with Green Class.

During the second half of this half term, we will enjoy a 'What's Special?' topic where we will explore special things and special values. During this topic the main subjects will be RE, Art and Geography.

Music, Computing, PE and Philosophy are taught throughout the year. The school website has information about these subjects in the 'Curriculum area'.

BITS AND PIECES

Each week, your child will bring home a reading book matched to their current reading band and also a 'library book' which will be a free choice book. The library book will support children in being exposed to a wider range of texts and will be tricky for independent reading. Please enjoy this book together. Matched reading books will normally be changed on a Monday, library books can be changed as and when they are completed.

Each Friday, we will send children who are reading Little Wandle Books, an eBook and the reading book read in school which the children will be familiar with. Reading this book will help develop children's fluency.

Forest School Days remain the same:

Group 1 – Mon / Group 2 – Tues / Group 3 - Weds

Please send your child in wearing plain, dark jogging bottoms/leggings on these days.

Please also make sure they have **named** gloves, hat, scarves now that the weather is getting colder.

Please read with your child daily to help build fluency and develop comprehension.

ENGLISH

'Ella's Big Chance' is our English text for our new topic. It is a retell of the classic fairy-tale 'Cinderella'. During this topic, the children will develop reading comprehension skills whilst exploring the details of the text. As well as revisiting previous learning, the children will be taught how to use possessive apostrophes and how to use the past tense accurately. We are continuing to work hard at learning to write a variety of sentence types (commands, statements, question and exclamation) using the correct punctuation.

The children's final piece will be a letter written in first person from Ella to the Duke, which we are looking forward to sharing with Green Class during our KS1 film festival.

MATHS

In mental maths we will continue to work on our fluency when counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s as well as doubles and halves to 20 + 20 and instant recall of number bonds to 20 and addition and subtraction facts from 5 – 12.

We will now begin to learn our 2 and 10 times tables. Please see the mental maths sheet that I shared with you during parent meetings. We will begin this half term by continuing to develop our understanding of a variety of written and mental strategies for subtraction.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A checklist for each day in school:

- school book bag
- reading/library book and card
- water bottle, 50p for tuck or a healthy snack (no nuts)
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E. kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers)
- wellies and a pair of thick socks



Please label all belongings with your child's name.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk

Many thanks

Miss Bailey, Mrs Hampton and Mrs Cooper