



# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Red Class



**Happy New Year!** Welcome to a new term in Red Class. We start the term with our new topic, 'Blackwell Film Festival' where the children will be creating a film based on their new class story, 'The Wind Blew' by Pat Hutchins. This term, we also welcome a student teacher to Red Class, Miss Olivia Smith. Miss Smith will have already visited school to get to know the children and she'll be working alongside myself throughout the spring term.

### **BITS AND PIECES**

- ❖ PE takes place every Monday. Please tie back long hair for **gymnastics**.
- ❖ Forest School takes place every Tuesday. **Remember your hats, gloves and thick socks.**
- ❖ Real books and ebooks are sent home on Fridays.

**HANDWRITING** This term, we will learn how to write each letter using the cursive script. We begin by learning the curly caterpillar letters (*c, o, a, d, g, q*) where we use a 'round and back' action. We introduce one letter each day. Here are some top tips for writing at home:

1. Write little and often (5-10 minutes each day).
2. Check your child's tripod grip and use chunky writing tools if needed.
3. Work 'big' on the floor, easel or at the table.
4. Use a range of sensory activities and media e.g. sand tray, shaving foam, felt tip pens.
5. Use this link to our You Tube channel to find letter formation videos:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_466TobEUoRugFnKKWbXSQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_466TobEUoRugFnKKWbXSQ)
6. Say the formation phrase together to support correct letter formation (see attached).
7. Follow handwriting with an activity of your child's choice e.g. "Handwriting now, outside play next."
8. Offer lots of positive praise. Together we will get there!

### **BLACKWELL FILM FESTIVAL**

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- \*Name and describe emotions.
- \*Know ways to keep a healthy mind and body e.g. exercise.
- \*Know who to talk to if we feel upset or worried.

#### **Communication and Language/Literacy**

- \*Identify vowel digraphs e.g. ai (rain) and ee (sheep) and begin to read and spell words using vowel digraphs.
- \*Share and retell, 'The Wind Blew', by Pat Hutchins.
- \*Write labels and captions.

#### **Mathematics**

- \*Read, make and understand teen numbers.
- \*Count in 2s.
- \*Use the part-whole model for addition and subtraction.
- \*Name and describe 3D shapes.

#### **Physical Development**

- \*Travel, roll, jump and balance.
- \*Safely move on, off and over equipment.
- \*Wake and Shake- 'La Bamba'.
- \*Begin to form recognisable letters.

#### **Science**

- \* Name, describe and sort materials.
- \*Find similarities and differences between materials.

#### **Art**

- \*Name and describe textiles.
- \*Shape, join and dye textiles.
- \*Create props for our film.

Finally, we say 'goodbye and good luck' to Mrs Birley who will be leaving Red Class at the end of January. We thank her for nurturing our little ones and helping them to learn and grow. Miss Andersen has been part of our team since the Autumn term. She will now extend her hours to support Red Class across the school day.

Many thanks for your continued support,

**Mrs Webb, Mrs Birley, Miss Andersen and Mr Chan**