

# 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, a class assembly 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 and they have an additional outdoor play during the morning. 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 Take a Trip and Health and fitness. (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 2 books called 'The suitcase' and 'My friend Earth' We are going to use 'Our Friend Earth' to create some descriptive poems about the beauty that exists in our world and the text is a brilliant way to expand the children's vocabulary. We will use 'The Suitcase' to support our story writing and explore themes such as displacement, sentimental value and right and wrong actions. 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 the children 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 and is a test of the children's ability to sound talk and blend. Reading continues in our groups 3 times a week.

**Handwriting-** this half term we will work on careful letter joins and will make sure letters all start 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 'Take a trip' topic we have the focus subjects of Geography, Science and RE. All our learning will be focussed upon our celebration event during which the children will showcase their learning, dance and sing together and may come to school dressed in the colours of a flag of their choice. (This event is just for the children). 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.

In science, we will be learning about forces such as pushes and pulls.

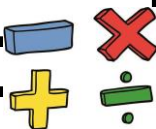
PE will continue weekly with a focus on outdoor games in preparation for our sports event day. Children will learn key skills such as throwing and catching. Computing this half term will have a focus on using apps and packages to create paintings and animations.



### Homework

Thank you for all the super effort you are putting 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. Our Little Wandle books and e books accessed on the Collins website are the most 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 footballs and another 5 footballs gives us 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. (50p) 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 Thursday. Please see ParentApp message for which group your child is in as these have changed this term.

**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 best practice rather than taping earrings for children who cannot remove them themselves.**

(Wednesday 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](mailto: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 Thompsom