

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back after the Easter holidays!** We hope you all enjoyed the break and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. Last term was very successful with the children continuing to work with enthusiasm and great care and effort when learning about The Golden Age of Piracy and Easter. It was nice to be able to end the term with the children performing with confidence to you to welcome in Spring. It was lovely to meet with you all during parent consultations to share your child's books and discuss the progress they are making, not only with their academic skills but their social and independence skills too. Targets were sent home at the end of last term for the children to work on at home to help them make further progress. We are now in our final term which is always a busy one. Transition work will be an important aspect and we will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school. We look forward to lots of new learning and experiences too during this term... bell boating, a residential, sports day and a Victorian trip... to name just a few!

### TOPIC

'Take a Trip' is our new topic where the children will be learning about different places around the world and aspirational people from these places. The project the children will be working towards is preparing to share their learning with the rest of the school through an assembly. Developing their communication skills will be one of the key competences this project will enable the children to focus on.



Geography, Science and R.E. are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Geography, we will 'take a trip' to Switzerland. We will recall previous learning from The Rhythm of the Rain book, focusing on the River Rhone and learning about the journey of a river from the source to the mouth. We will start in Switzerland, reaching Lake Geneva and then travelling through France to the Mediterranean. Geneva will be our focus, learning about physical and human features and then comparing to Birmingham.

In Science, we 'take a trip' to Africa and discover the impact of the invention of the wind-up radio. This will link with learning about electricity, circuits, conductors and insulators. There will be opportunities to investigate different components and to test hypotheses about materials.

In R.E. this term, our thematic learning is about the 'significant events of life'. We will compare life to a 'trip' or a 'journey', drawing on our previous learning about Hindus and Christians and use this to see what helps people along the 'journey of life'.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

### YEAR 4 TIMES TABLE CHECK

In June, children in Year 4 will take part in a national statutory times table check. This is an on-screen assessment designed to check whether they can fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of 25 questions with 6 seconds for each question (most questions will be the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12x).

As we do for the Year 1 phonics screening check, we treat these like fun quizzes and we will complete similar quizzes most days in school so that the children become familiar with the layout, timing and how to input their answers. Here is a good times table check practice site for the children to have a go on at home. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check>

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). Many thanks.  
Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

### LITERACY

Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo is the text the children will be exploring in Literacy to develop their reading, speaking and writing skills. 'Set in the dangerous landscape of apartheid South Africa, this is the inspiring story of two brave children who will do anything to save their little sister.' On our introductory day, through 'dilemma-based learning', the children learned about aspects of the life of Beverley Naidoo, who lived during Apartheid, some of the challenges she faced and the significant role played by the aspirational leader Nelson Mandela.

Posing questions, summarising, inferring and identifying good word choices will help to develop reading skills as children explore the story. Interviewing and analysing characters will support their letter and story writing skills alongside developing their sentence construction through the use of conjunctions, adverbs and correctly punctuated dialogue.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too in addition to any personal spelling lists you've received.

Take a look back at last half term...



Easter 'Singing on the Steps'



Creating and playing 'Pirate' board games



Blackwell Bakers as part of DT learning

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will develop their use of written methods for multiplication and division and their application of these skills when solving word problems. Following this, we will be learning about position and direction and spend time describing positions using co-ordinates and movements between positions. Towards the end of the half term, the children will develop their understanding of decimal numbers involving tenths and hundredths. They will make them using a range of concrete apparatus to help develop a secure understanding of what decimal numbers are.

Mental maths will focus on the 7-, 9- and 12-times tables and corresponding division facts, recognising factors and factor pairs, doubling and halving multiples of 100 up to 5,000, deriving sums and differences of pairs of multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000, using efficient mental methods to add and subtract 2 2-digit numbers and using efficient mental methods to multiply and divide by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25.

### YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school, all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.