

# NEWSLETTER

## Blackwell First School – Purple Class



### Welcome to a new school year...

A very warm welcome to the first Purple Class newsletter of the year! We hope that the summer holidays brought you lots of time for fun and rest and that you are feeling ready for a new school year. Mrs Marks, Mrs Miles, Mrs Hampton and I are excited to be teaching in Purple Class this year and together we aim to give your child a smooth transition into Year 2. We look forward to supporting the children academically and socially, particularly focusing on developing the children's independence and resilience at the beginning of the new school year. This newsletter will give you an insight into what we will be learning.

### TOPIC

Our first topic of this school year is 'Long Ago' where we will be learning all about 'The Gunpowder Plot'. Topic lessons will focus on History and Art as well as DT.

In History, children will begin to explore a range of historical sources to see what they can learn about the causes and consequences of the Gunpowder Plot. In Art, we will develop our drawing skills to create portraits of significant figures from the Gunpowder Plot. In DT, we will be exploring different mechanisms and structures and the children will make their own moving picture to tell the story of the Gunpowder Plot. During this topic we will create a class 'floor book' which we look forward to sharing with you at our open evening on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm.

### BITS AND PIECES

#### HOME READING

Each week, your children will bring home a reading book matched to their current reading band and also a 'library book' which will be a free choice book. Matched reading books will normally be changed on a Monday. The library book will support the children by exposing them to a wider range of texts and tend to be tricky for independent reading. Please enjoy this book together. This book can be changed as and when they are finished. We let the children take a new library book home when they have returned their previous library book.

In addition to this, the children will bring home a copy of the Little Wandle Book that they have been reading in their group reading sessions each week. **Please return this book on a Thursday** so that **their new book can be issued every Friday**. We are unable to send a new book home until the previous book has been returned.



#### Forest School Days

**Group 1** – Tuesday

**Group 2** – Wednesday

**Group 3** – Monday

(There have been some changes to enrichment groups from last year, please see Parent App for the updated group lists.)

Please send your child in wearing plain, dark coloured jogging bottoms/leggings and their arms covered on these Forest School days. If it is a particularly warm day, we are happy for the children to change into this later in the day.

#### PE

PE is usually outdoors every **Monday** this term. Please make sure your child has trainers as part of their PE kit and children who wear tights need a pair of socks in their PE kits. Hats are needed in school during sunny weather too. Long hair must be tied up and earrings removed on these days.

#### HOMEWORK

Weekly homework remains optional for KS1.

### ENGLISH

We are going to be exploring our literacy learning using the story 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew.

This story will teach us about many of the famous landmarks in London, which links well to our topic learning about the Gunpowder Plot. As a class, we will learn a retell which the children will then write, ready to share with you at our open evening in October.

Spelling, handwriting and discrete reading sessions will continue. We will work hard on securing punctuation.

### MATHS

The start to this term in maths is all about number, counting, place value, number bonds, addition and subtraction. Children will be counting in steps of 2, 5 or 10 and working with number bonds to 10 and 20 (e.g. 1+9, 11+9). They will focus on 1- and 2-digit numbers.

Spending time securing children's understanding of smaller numbers is crucial for the development of calculation skills later on in the year.

### 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
- PE kit (to include jogging bottoms, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, hair bobble for shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic bag for muddy trainers)
- wellies and a pair of thick socks

**Please label ALL belongings with your child's name.**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 13.9.25 – PFTA Sponsored Mile on the field
- 16.9.25 – Immunisation Day
- 8.10.25 – Open Evening
- 17.10.25 – PFTA Change the Rules Day
- 18.10.25 – Scarecrow Festival
- 21/22.10.25 – Parent Consultation Meetings
- 23/24.10.25 – TEDs – School closed to children
- 27-31.10.25 – Half term

We are looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best. If there is anything you wish to ask, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or send an email to

[office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk)

Many thanks in advance for your support,  
*Miss Bailey, Mrs Marks,  
Mrs Miles and Mrs Hampton*