

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Green Class



A very warm welcome to Green Class 2025. This year you get two for the price of one as Mrs Hampton and Mrs Webb join forces for what will be an exciting time for the children as they move into Year 1. Mrs Thompson will be completing the Green Class team. Together, we will build on early foundations and increase our expectations for learning through the National Curriculum. To manage the transition into Year 1, the children will continue to access 'Play and Explore' using resources (rather than toys) and challenges linked to National Curriculum subjects. They will continue to work in whole class and small groups as well meeting new learning partners throughout the year. With lots of new learning, we expect to see some tired little faces, particularly in the first half term, so just a reminder that the children may be collected at **1.40pm** or join us for enrichment clubs until 3.15pm. We start this half term with two terrific topics: **Long Ago - Toys** and **Our World - Seasons**.

English

To start the half term, we will be reading, '**Where the Wild Things Are**' by Maurice Sendak. We will spend time exploring the story through speaking and listening and drama activities before planning and writing sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will use our knowledge and skills to create a floor book with examples of our work.

During daily Phonics lessons, the children will revisit all taught phonemes and tricky words. They will apply their learning during their 3 x weekly group reading sessions. Just like last year, they will continue to bring home two reading books. One of the books will be their familiar group reading book and the other will be matched to their phonics learning. The children will select a library book too.

Daily handwriting lessons will include Write Dance, practical fine motor activities and cursive letter formation.



Maths

We love Maths in Green Class! We will start the half term by exploring numbers including learning how to count, read, write and compare numbers. We will then work through stages of addition and subtraction which will include: using concrete objects, calculating mentally, using written methods and then problem solving. This year is all about developing fluency in maths and knowing everything about numbers 0-20 before working on greater numbers. Please help the children to mentally calculate within 10 e.g. 7+2, 4+3, 5-1 etc.

Homework

Reading is the most important homework you can do with your children at this age. Reading at home has a **significant** impact on your child's reading progress. Please read as often as you can at home, at least 4 times a week is preferable. Our reading books are designed to help children notice and apply all the phonic patterns learned in class. Please talk to your children about them e.g. when they encounter a challenging word, ask them which sounds they know.

Each half term, the children will receive a new homework sheet linked to their class topic. We suggest they complete an activity from each subject area, however, homework is **optional**. We award homework certificates during our celebration assembly on Fridays.

Topic

Throughout the autumn term, we cover all foundation subjects from the National Curriculum. During our first topic, Long Ago - Toys, we will focus on **History**, **Design Technology** and **Art**.

History lessons will be all about toys! We will compare toys of today to toys of the past, developing our investigation skills using a variety of sources such as toys from the past, artwork and videos.

In **Design and Technology**, we will explore construction materials and design and make our very own toy puppets to retell the story of 'Where the Wild Things Are'. During **Art** lessons, the children will develop their drawing skills by choosing their own tools to create patterns and work on different textured surfaces. They will use their skills to create scenery for their puppet shows.

Music, **PE**, **PSHE** and **Computing** are taught weekly. In Music, the children will learn to keep a steady pulse and sing songs with actions in time. In PE, the children will take part in multi skills, developing their control when running, jumping, hopping and skipping and learn how to move a ball in different ways. Computing lessons will focus on coding using Bee-Bots.

Happy and Healthy

Snacks- Please send children to school with a healthy morning snack or with 50p to purchase something from our tuck shop. Also send children into school with a named, empty water bottle each day.

PE- This takes place on a Tuesday. Please tie up long hair and send in socks to stay in PE bags when children wear tights to school.

Forest School -On Forest School days, the children should wear jogging bottoms and their usual school top. It is a good idea to send in a warm pair of socks to keep in their PE bag. We also need a named pair of wellington boots to stay in school. Please see Forest School days below:

Tuesday - Isri, Connell, Lachlan C, Freddie, Harvey, Joshua, Freya, Jackson, Matilda, Harris, Francesca, Lachlan W, Flynn, Alex.

Wednesday - Elsie, Isla, Logan, Rudi, Oscar, Aaruv, Amelia, Theo, Harriet, Jack, Hattie, Evie, Poppy, Johan, Jessica, Lily.



If you wish to speak to us about anything, please leave a short message with Mrs Moss at the school gate or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. You can always find us at the end of the day for an informal chat. We're always happy to help.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Hampton (Monday and Tuesday),
Mrs Webb (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
Mrs Thompson (every day)

