

NEWSLETTER

Blackwell First School – Purple Class



Happy New Year! We hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful festive break and are ready for the first half term of 2026. At the end of last term, we enjoyed lots of festive events including a trip to the theatre, a visit from the pantomime, Christmas Lunch and Christmas Story Night. This half term, we have lots more exciting events planned. The rest of the Purple Class team and I will continue to support the children to develop resilience and their independent learning skills across all parts of the school day.



A trip to see the Snowflake at The REP.

TOPIC

Our first topic of this half term is 'Let's Perform - Circus'. Art and Science are the main subjects for this topic. In Art, our focus is collage. Here, the children will learn about complimentary colours and will apply this learning to create their own piece of art work. We will take inspiration from the work of Henri Matisse, Bridget Riley and Kurt Schwitters. In Science, the children will be learning about materials. Here, we will explore the properties of different materials before carrying out a fair test to help us to decide which material would be best suited for Mister Magnolia's new boot. During the second half of this half term, we will enjoy our 'Beliefs' topic. Here, DT and Geography will be the main subjects. Music, Computing, P.E. and philosophy are taught throughout the year.

ENGLISH

We are going to be exploring our literacy learning using the story 'Mister Magnolia' by Quentin Blake. The children will work towards writing a retell of the story which they will then perform to the rest of the school at the end of the project. New punctuation will be taught including how to use commas in a list (I went to the shop and bought apples, oranges and bananas.) and how to use apostrophes for contracted forms (e.g. 'will not' - 'won't'). Any encouragement you are able to give your child to apply this new knowledge when writing at home will support their progress.

Spelling, handwriting and discrete reading sessions will continue.

BITS AND PIECES

Banded reading books will continue to be changed every Monday.

Little Wandle books need to be returned every Thursday please so that we can send their new Little Wandle book home every Friday. **Please return these as other groups need them.**

Library books (Reading for Pleasure books) 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.

Forest School Days

(New Groups – group lists can be found on Parent App)

Group 1 – Tuesday

Group 2 – Wednesday

Group 3 – Monday



PE

PE will continue to be every **Monday** this term. Please make sure your child has trainers as part of their PE kits and children who wear fights need a pair of socks in their PE kits.

HOMEWORK

Weekly homework remains optional for KS1.

MATHS

In mental maths we will continue to revisit everything that has been visited so far as well as learning some new concepts including the 10 times table, recognising what must be added to any 2-digit number to make the next multiple of 10 and efficient strategies for adding 3 single digit numbers.

Any support that you are able to give to support your child with these mental maths skills is greatly appreciated.

This half term we will develop our understanding of a variety of mental and written strategies before moving onto geometry.

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)
- wellies and a pair of thick socks

-As temperatures remain low, please make sure your child has a named coat, hat and gloves in school.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or email the office. Many thanks for your support, *Miss Bailey and the Purple Class Team*



What a brilliant job the children did in their Nativity at the end of last term. We hope you enjoyed the performance.



A visit from the Pantomime!



Enjoying our Christmas lunch.