

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School – Green



Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely half term break and the children are ready for another half term in Green Class. We are so proud of Green Class for the way they have settled into a more formal learning approach and it has been lovely to see their perseverance and care with their work. We had a lovely start to the spring term, learning all about different artists and materials. We finished the half term with a trip to Singers Hill Synagogue where we learnt all about Jewish traditions and festivals. We have two exciting topics this half term – Exploring History and Easter. We have family events during both topics. Please see ParentApp and Mrs Moss's Newsletter for dates and times.



English

We start our Exploring History with an exciting new book from Mrs Moss, called *The Garden*. We will also be looking at different books about *The Great Fire of London*. We will be working hard to develop our understanding of the language used in the story and on our punctuation and grammar. As in all our English learning, we have a lesson sequence which takes the form of 1. Reading and Retelling, 2. Comprehension, 3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation and 4. Planning, writing, checking and editing our story. There will be lots of writing opportunities throughout the sequence.



Topic

During our Exploring History topic, we have a focus on DT and History. In History, we will be learning about the Great Fire of London and the impact it had on the city. In DT, we will be learning that food comes from animals and plants and look at the five food groups.



In PE, we will be starting athletics. We will learn how to move with good technique, learn the names of different athletics events such as long jump and be able to name some famous British athletes.

Computing and PSHE continue weekly.

Phonics and reading

In phonics this term, children will be continuing to learn that sounds we already know can be made by different graphemes. Our work will help in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in June. All children will be 'tested' on their ability to sound talk and blend 40 words. Whilst we don't use the language of 'test' with children, it is really important that children practise the skill of accurate sound talking and blending at home and at school.



Children will continue to read to an adult 3 times a week to practise taught skills and these books are then shared at home the following week. Children also have an additional decodable book and a reading for pleasure library book which can be changed on a regular basis. **Please remember to bring in reading folders on a Wednesday, so we can collect the Little Wandle books to change on Friday. It is important that these come into school on Wednesday so that other children can take these books home.**

Homework

A big thank you for all the super effort you are putting in to helping children with their homework. Please remind your child to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate their successes. I will then return their books on a Friday, ready for the weekend. I want to remind you that homework is optional, and activities are designed to help you see the type of learning taking place within the classroom.

Reading, as always, remains the best possible homework you can do with children multiple times a week as it has a significant impact on their progress and our Little Wandle books are essential for children to develop reading fluency at the correct level.



Maths

This half term, we will further develop the children's subtraction as counting back (when the minuend and subtrahend are far apart) and counting on (when the minuend and subtrahend are close together). We will be using a range of concrete apparatus to support the children's knowledge development.



We will be introducing children to measuring and calculating money. Children will be taught how to recognize and know the value of different denominations of coins and notes.



Additionally, we will be comparing, estimating, measuring and calculating time. Children will be taught how to tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times.



Each lesson, we start with a word problem linked to their current learning. We also start our maths lessons with mental maths and practising their counting on and back in 1s, 2s 5s and 10s.

Bits and bobs

Snacks – Please send children to school with **one** healthy morning snack such as fruit and a named, empty, washed water bottle. The school tuck shop offers a range of healthy snacks and supports the school so please send in 50p with your child and they can visit our High Street on the way into school.

Enrichment clubs – Forest school days: **group 1 on a Tuesday. Group 2 on a Friday.** On forest school days, children can come into school in joggers / leggings. Please keep their school tops on, with something warm underneath.

PE – Children still have PE lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. Please name all of the children's PE uniform and shoes. Make sure long hair is tied up and children have socks in their PE bags if they wear tights. We are going to be outside for our PE lessons now and with the weather being so unpredictable, please make sure children have shorts and joggers.

Dressing for the weather – As the weather is so interchangeable at this time of year, please send the children into school with a waterproof coat as we aim to go outside in all weathers. Send children in with **named** hats, gloves and scarves when the weather is especially cold.

Thank you all for your continuing support. If you wish to speak to us about anything, please do contact the office by telephone or email office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk or catch us at the end of the day for an informal chat.

Best wishes, Miss Smith and Mrs Thompson.