

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School – Green



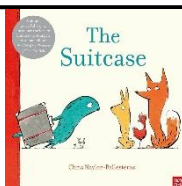
Welcome back to school. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and that the children are ready for their final term in Green Class – this year has really flown by! We ended the spring term with a wonderful Easter performance on the steps, a class assembly and two exciting topics. It was lovely to see the children come alive with their Great Fire of London topic, I know they all enjoyed learning about it. We continue to be proud of the children for the way they are persevering with their work and always trying their hardest. We have one exciting topic this half term which is 'Let's Travel'. We will finish the first summer half term with Sport's Day (Friday 23rd May). More details will follow.



English

We start this topic with the new arrival of our books from Mrs Moss. This topic, we have two books called 'The Suitcase' and 'Our Friend Earth'. We are going to use the books to create some descriptive poems and expand the children's vocabulary.

We will explore the different themes within the books such as displacement, sentimental values and wrong actions. Our focus, as always, will be on using capital letters and full stops in EVERY sentence and using our phonics knowledge to spell words.



Topic

During our 'Let's Travel' topic, we have the subject focus of geography, science and RE. All of our learning will be focused on our celebration event where the children will share their learning with the wider school.



In geography, we will be comparing life in and around Johannesburg to life in and around Birmingham. Our work on Johannesburg will draw on similarities and differences.

In RE, we will be learning about how to care for others and the world and why it is important. We will learn about this from a religious and non-religious perspective and look at elements such as giving thanks and charity.

In science, we will be learning about forces such as pushes and pulls.

PE will continue weekly with a focus on outdoor games in preparation for Sport's Day. The children will learn key skills such as throwing and catching.

Computing and PSHE continue weekly as well.

Phonics, reading and handwriting

Phonics - In lessons, we will be continuing to learn different graphemes for sounds and revise previously taught sounds in preparation for the National Phonics Screening Check (we say quiz). We have started learning the skill of reading alien words as the check requires the children to read 40 'items', 20 that are real words, 20 that are not. This will happen later in the term and is a test of the children's ability to sound talk and blend.



Reading – 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 other children can take these books home.**

Handwriting – this term, we will work on careful letter joins and will make sure all letters start from the line and are the correct size such as l, b, h, d, k are taller than other letters (ascenders).

Maths

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.

Maths lessons will have three focus areas this half term which are multiplication, division and fractions. We will understand multiplication as repeated addition and grouping. Children will work using concrete apparatus (real objects) and will then begin drawing objects from stories. For example, 3 flowers and another 3 flowers gives us 6 flowers. We don't use the 'x' symbol in Year 1, but this is all working towards formal times tables learning in Year 2.

A similar approach is taken to division where children will share and group objects in order to understand what dividing means.

During our fractions learning, children will learn how to find halves and quarters, shapes and quantities starting with the concrete approach.

Homework

Thank you again for all the super effort you are putting into helping the children with their homework. Please remind children to hand in their books if they have completed any work at home so we can celebrate their successes. As always, homework is optional and activities are designed to help you see what your child is up to in the classroom. Reading still remains the best homework you can do with children, multiple times a week has a significant impact on their progress.



Bits and bobs

Snacks – Please send children to school with **one** healthy morning snack such as fruit and a named, empty, washed water bottle.

Enrichment clubs – Forest school days: **Group 1 = Friday. Group 2 = Wednesday.** On forest school days, children can come into school in plain, dark coloured joggers / leggings. Please keep their school tops on.

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 finally improving, please send the children into school with a sun hat to keep them safe from the sun.



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.