

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School – Green



Welcome back! I can't believe I am writing the final instalment of Green Class news for the year. We hope you had a good rest over the half term break or enjoyed your travels if you went away. We were very proud of the super sports effort shown by the children in Sports Day. This half term is a busy one as we prepare children for their transition into Year 2 and take part in many wonderful events including a whole school trip. We have two topics this half term that are 'Back in Time – Explorers' and 'Amazing Earth – Deep in the Jungle'. I want to let you know that I will be leaving Blackwell at the end of the school year as my contract ends when Mrs Webb returns from maternity leave. I am incredibly grateful for the time I have spent with your wonderful children! I will be talking to the class soon to share this news with them but reassuring them that everyone else will still be at BFS and Mrs Webb will be returning.



English

We start our 'Back in Time – Explorers' topic with an exciting book from Mrs Moss all about Mary Anning. This half term, our writing focus will be on creating a biography about the remarkable Mary Anning and her incredible fossil-hunting discoveries. I know we have plenty of budding natural historians in Green Class, so I'm sure the children will be fascinated by her story! In our writing, we'll be working on using capital letters, full stops, and adjectives to make our sentences more descriptive and engaging. We'll also continue to practise tricky word spellings daily – all of which can be found on the homework sheet.

Phonics, reading and handwriting

Phonics – this half term, we will secure alternative pronunciations for known graphemes. The children will take part in a National Phonics Check in the coming weeks and results will be shared with you in their end of year reports. The check requires the children to read 40 words, 20 that are real, 20 that are not. This is a test of the children's ability to sound talk and blend. We do not use the word 'test' with the children, we say 'quiz'.

Reading – as always, the children will continue to read to an adult 3 times a week to practice 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.**

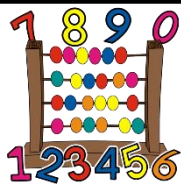
Handwriting – this term, we will work on careful letter joins and will make sure all letters start from the line and are the correct size.



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. We are going to begin weekly mental maths timed quizzes which aid the children's maths fluency. These dashes will take place daily in Year 2 which is a whole school approach. Our lessons will focus on counting, ordering and comparing numbers up to 100 and then we will move onto developing our addition and subtraction skills including bar modelling (a whole-school approach which provides children with visual representations).

Additionally, we will be learning about positions and directions including using words such as left and right and making different turns such as whole turns and half turns.



Topic

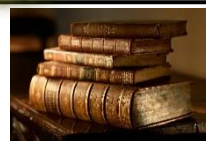
During our 'Back in Time – Explorers' topic, we have the subject focus of Art and History.

In History, we will be learning about some achievements and discoveries of significant individuals such as Christopher Columbus and Amelia Earhart. We will be finding out about where they came from, what they are famous for, what impact they had on others and why some individuals have special monuments to remember them.

In Art, we will be looking at Andy Goldsworthy's work and Richard Long's work and learning how to create lines and shapes for 3D art using found objects.

PE will continue weekly with a focus on dance. The children will be enjoying the outdoors whilst we learn the basic skills and steps of country dancing and may pole dancing.

Computing and PSHE continue weekly as well.



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.

Forest School – We still require children to have arms and legs covered, even in hot weather. Long sleeved cotton tops can be kept in PE bags for hot days to avoid the need for jumpers / waterproofs or worn to school if preferred. We still require children to have arms and legs

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. We are going to be outside for our PE lessons and hopefully we will be blessed with some hot weather, so please ensure children have PE shorts in school.

Dressing for the weather – 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.