

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back after the half term break. We are now half way through this academic year and the children are working hard and developing good attitudes towards their learning. The last half term was a busy one...making their own films to share with Yellow Class, developing cultural awareness with a fascinating trip to a Hindu temple, learning tricky gymnastic balances, sharing a zoom with the author Allan Drummond and creating their own information poster highlighting the importance of water were just some of the highlights. We have lots more exciting learning and experiences in store for this half term too to continue to develop the children into lifelong, motivated and curious learners. In a few weeks' time, we look forward to meeting with you during parent consultations and sharing with you both your child's academic progress but also their social and personal development, alongside targets to work on in school and at home.

TOPIC

'Exploring History – The Vikings' is our topic to kick start the new half term where the children will be planning an after school event where they will have the opportunity to share their learning with families. Having a project approach to their learning helps to motivate the children and make all learning purposeful. More information about this event will be shared with you soon.



To develop their thinking and collaborative skills, we started the topic on Monday, investigating the life of the Norse explorer, Eric the Red. Once they had discovered what his early life had been like and some of the problems and battles he had, the children were faced with the dilemma: How can Eric the Red persuade people to move to Greenland? The children were certainly creative with their ideas, considered different viewpoints well and showed excellent reasoning skills.

History, DT and Art are the main subjects taught during this topic. In History, children will learn about the concept of invasion and settlement and about some main events during the Viking Age in Britain. We will learn about the reliability and usefulness of sources from and about this period in history and how different interpretations can be made by historians.

In Art, children will explore textiles and multimedia, producing work inspired by that of Michael Brennand-Wood. They will learn more about resist techniques with fabric dye, such as wax resist and tie dye.

Finally, in DT, children will explore cooking and nutrition, designing their own recipes and creating their own bread – the non-Viking sort! We hope to share this bread with you soon in a family event – details to follow.

PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E. and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

BITS AND PIECES

Thank you for supporting your child at home with daily reading and times table practise. It makes a big difference and with continued regular practise, they will be secure with these key learning skills in preparation for middle school.

Even though we still have half a year left, it is important we work together to further develop the children's independence before they go to middle school. Encouraging them to check their own book bags for things they need, carrying their own belongings to and from school and talking to their friends or adults in school if they have any problems are some of the small things that can make a big difference.

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk. Many thanks. Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

LITERACY

The Old English mythical story of 'Beowulf' will be the focus during this topic. This tale will be used to inspire and engage the children whilst developing their language, reading and writing skills. They will be given opportunities to ask questions about the text, make predictions, infer and summarise what they read, key Year 4 reading skills. Focusing on the rich language and ideas used in the text will develop their use of vocabulary and creativity when writing a character description for their own mythical beast. Ensuring the children are developing their writing stamina, their consistent use of a range of punctuation and starting complex sentences in a variety of ways will be a focus throughout this sequence of learning.



Spelling for this half term will focus on the prefixes inter- and anti-, words ending with -cian, -sion, -tion and -ssion, and words with the 's' sound spelt with 'sc' e.g. science, descend, abscess...

Take a look back at last half term...



learning about Hinduism on our trip



exploring column subtraction in Maths

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will focus on the following mental methods for multiplication and division:

multiplication	division
x 4: double twice	÷ 4: halve twice
x 8: double thrice	÷ 8: halve thrice
x 5: x 10 then halve	÷ 5: ÷ 10 then double
x 50: x 100 then halve	÷ 50: ÷ 100 then double
x 25: x 100 then halve twice	÷ 25: ÷ 100 then double twice

Problem solving continues to be part of every maths lesson and the children are developing skills to solve complex multistep problems through the use of bar modelling.

A key life skill learned in maths is to tell the time on analogue and digital 24-hour clocks to 5-minute intervals. We only have a couple of weeks during the year to teach this tricky concept so support from home makes a big difference. The following link is to an online game to help consolidate understanding.



https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/116/telling_the_time#



zooming in with Allan Drummond



performing our gymnastic routines to the rest of the school