

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Purple Class



Welcome back!

We hope that you all had a relaxing break with lots of rest and are now ready and raring to go for another half term. We are now halfway through the year and are looking forward to lots of new learning as part of our new topic, 'A Land Far Away'. We'll travel back in time and discover all about the importance of Baghdad in AD900.

TOPIC

In our topic lessons this half term, history and art are the main areas of the curriculum being taught through the topic.



In history, the children will develop their historical skills by learning about the Early Islamic Civilisation. Their learning will build up to answering our research question.

'Why was Baghdad an important place long ago?'

We will explore primary and secondary sources, giving our own interpretation of these with reasoning, to find out about the past. At the end of their learning, the children will be able to explain the significance of the historical event and answer our research question.

Art will focus on 3D art, where they will be able to develop and build on their skills of shape, clay work, patterns, mark making and painting. Their project will focus on the skills they have developed through the lessons by creating a mosaic tile. The children will also have the exciting opportunity to enter a writing competition as part of our topic learning!

Before the end of term, we will also learn more in RE and art lessons during our Easter topic.

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

LITERACY

As a class, we will read 'The Golden Sandal' by Rebecca Hickox. This is a Middle Eastern version of the story of Cinderella which reflects our topic of 'A Land Far away' - Baghdad.



The children will first develop their understanding of the text through questioning, identifying word meaning and summarising. They will have the opportunity to make story comparisons between the well-known version of Cinderella and this Middle Eastern version.

Then children will focus on literary features such as adjectives, conjunctions, verbs, and adverbials. Lessons will support the children's existing knowledge of the punctuation expected for Year 2 (full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas for a list and apostrophes for contraction and singular possession).

Towards the end of the topic, children will complete an entry for the writing competition to apply their learning – either a recount, instructions for their own city or a diary entry. In spelling lessons, the children will be taught about contractions, suffixes and homophones. We will also practise reading and spelling the following tricky words: **door, floor, poor, child, both, behind, mind, find, kind, hour, wild, climb, class, grass, pass, plant, bath, path, water, their, move, prove, improve, through, thought** Handwriting sessions will continue to focus on specific letter formation and some number formation too.

BITS AND PIECES

Forest School days remain the same as before half term. Please make sure children have gloves, scarves and tights/trousers whilst the weather is still cooler. Spring will be on its way soon!

Thank you for your support with reading at home. Please continue to read daily with your child to support their fluency and understanding. Regular reading is crucial in developing skills as a speller and writer as well enabling children to more easily access the rest of the curriculum. We will usually change reading books on a Monday, so please send your child's colour banded book in each week. Library books, shared together at home, can be changed whenever finished and we will continue to upload ebooks weekly.



NUMERACY

During maths lessons this half term, the areas of focus are division and measurement (particularly money and calculating with measures). Children will learn about the 2 models of division, sharing and grouping, and then will focus on grouping as the more efficient way to solve division calculations and problems. With money, children will use different coins to make the same amount and will solve problems involving money.

Please see the homework sheet for some of the mental maths objectives we will further develop this half term.



Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to talking with you soon at parent consultations, where we will share your child's progress and some targets to work on. Should you wish to talk with us before these meetings, please email the office or speak with us at the end of the day.

Miss Chamberlain, Miss Kuriger, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Morgan.