

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School



Blackwell First School,
St. Catherine's Rd.,
Blackwell,
Near Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire.
B60 1BN
October 2020

Dear Families,

Jackie Nash, a parent of children of the school a few years ago, is making this wonderful mosaic for us. What an amazing addition!

Blue, Purple and Yellow Classes enjoyed their woodland walk this week.



All classes have started their 'In the Woods' topic.



School visits
Educational visits form an integral part of our curriculum but this year, with restrictions, we are planning alternatives. Visitors to site and outdoor visits will feature more, with visits to Worcester Cathedral, from a group of CBSO musicians and to the botanical gardens provisionally booked.

...We are the rainbow children, staying together when the world was apart...

Saturday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. During this challenging period of time, we, as a school, are ensuring that we are working on supporting the children's 'catch-up' of their academic skills but also the children's wellbeing.

Our curriculum has always focused on developing the 'whole child' including the children's healthy bodies and minds. As part of our work this half term, alongside our National Curriculum teaching, we are running a 'Rainbow Project'. This involves the children working on a song, dance and piece of art, applying their skills, to reflect on the positives of 'lockdown' and the value we have placed on different things during this time. At the same time, incidental conversations about less positive aspects of lockdown will take place and this is important as part of the children's reflection.

Green Class children were the first to work with Mark Riley this week. Following a meeting with the school council last week, the children created rainbow leaves for the Blackwell oak tree from the school logo. The rainbow coloured leaves have been selected to represent the following as a reflection from this COVID-19 time. We have chosen the following themes: red for love; orange for achievement; yellow for sunshine and happiness; green for nature; blue for NHS and key workers; indigo for wellbeing and violet for our school. It is time for Purple Class next week but for the moment, enjoy these photographs...



Best wishes,
Mrs Moss



Painting rainbow leaves was harder than it looks!



NEW TOPIC 'IN THE WOODS'

During each topic, we work towards a project to make the learning meaningful to the children. Whether the children are writing letters to Plop (Green Class) or building a retreat for owls at Forest School (Red Class), everyone has a project to work towards. I wonder whether your child can articulate their project to you... Each class is using a new book as the inspiration for their learning, including The Owl who was afraid of the Dark (Green), Good night Owl (Red), Rosie's Walk (Nursery), Tin Forest (Purple), Fantastic Mr Fox (Yellow) and Worzel Gummidge (Blue).

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week we have been focusing on people who unite to make the world a better place and we have linked our discussion to medical professionals and scientists who are so crucial at this time.

SPORT and THE ARTS

Sport- We will soon be performing our Wake and Shake on Zoom to each class and the children are currently practising. Who will be our champion?
Arts - Our 'Rainbow Project' is our main focus but preparation for Christmas cards is also underway (shhh).

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We hope that you enjoyed the 'Open Evening' on the App. We are still battling with difficulties with the ParentApp. Hopefully this will be resolved soon. The teachers look forward to speaking with you next week. Please remember to check that your phone is ringing out at the time you are expecting a call. Thank you.



REMOTE LEARNING

Our 'Self Isolation' packs have now been used by three families and we are keeping a record of how many days they are used so that when children reach Day 10, we can start to plan more learning for the future. The COVID-19 cases have increased significantly in Bromsgrove over the last few days and we ask that you continue to follow all measures to ensure the risk of us closing a bubble or the school is reduced.

- Hand wash
- Do not attend school with symptoms
- Keep a social distance

As we move towards the end of this half term, it is a good time to reflect on the successes of the first few weeks of school.

- Nursery- The Nursery children have been introduced to almost all of the outdoor areas and are learning the ropes (and rules). Fantastic work from Mrs Mander, Mrs Allen and the Nursery team in ensuring tidying up is a priority and the children are slowly getting the hang of it!
- Red Class – Starting school is hard work and lots of Red Class children are adapting to life in a classroom. Mrs Webb and the team have worked hard on listening and looking and tidying up is also a priority here! Work on phonics and maths has started through songs and games and the children love them.
- Blue Class – The pace is picking up in Year 4! Miss Townsend and the team are so impressed by your enthusiasm and learning. Get ready for your range of 'exclusive to Y4' experiences this year (fingers crossed).
- Green Class – You are having an amazing time settling into Year 1 and we are enjoying having time to get to know you during 'Play and Explore'. You have certainly risen to the extra challenge that is Y1. Miss Davis and the team are impressed.
- Yellow Class – You have settled into Yellow Class well and are adapting to the challenge of Key Stage 2! Now that you are maturing, expectations increase so watch out, there's more work coming your way from Miss Phipps and the team...
- Purple Class- There is a lot to do in Year 2 and you are showing that you can work well. Mrs James and the Y2 team are working well and have had an excellent start.

The opportunities the teachers are planning for the children this term are supporting them in developing their skills as independent learners by encouraging them to think for themselves, make choices about their learning and work co-operatively with others. Please help with this at home. Well done children.

National Poetry Day

Last week was National Poetry Day and we shared this poem with the children from Year 1 upwards with the children during Collective Worship. We had been considering the work of the United Nations, following on from the 'UN Rights of the Child'.

A Poem about Children's Rights

This poem was printed on a calendar for 2002, displayed in the United Nations Building in New York.

**There shall be peace on earth, but not until
All children daily eat their fill,
Go warmly clad against the winter wind
And learn their lessons with a tranquil mind.
And then, released from hunger, fear and need
Regardless of their colour, race or creed
Look upward smiling to their skies,
Their faith in life reflected in their eyes.**

Dorothy Roigt

Sharing with the children, in an age appropriate way, that the world is not equal and that we should strive towards a more equal world forms the basis of much of our work in Collective Worship.