

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



Welcome back after the Easter holidays! We hope you all enjoyed the break and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. Last term was very successful with the children continuing to work with enthusiasm and great care and effort when learning about The Vikings and Easter. It was nice to be able to end the term with the children performing with confidence to you to welcome in Spring. It was lovely to meet with you all during parent consultations to share your child's books and discuss the progress they are making, not only with their academic skills but their social and independence skills too. Targets were sent home at the end of last term for the children to work on at home to help them make further progress. We are now in our final term which is always a busy one. Transition work will be an important aspect and we will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school. We look forward to lots of new learning and experiences too during this term...bell boating, a residential and sport's day...to name just a few!

TOPIC

'Take a Trip' is our new topic where the children will be learning about different places around the world and aspirational people from these places. The project the children will be working towards is preparing to share their learning through the creation of a board game they will play with others. Developing their co-operation skills will be one of the key competences this project will enable the children to focus on.



Geography, Art and R.E. are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Geography, we will 'take a trip' around the world to learn about Earth's tectonic plates and how the movement of these can give rise to earthquakes and tsunamis. We will learn more about the impact of these natural processes and how people can be more prepared for when they occur.

In R.E. this term, our thematic learning is about the 'significant events of life'. We will compare life to a 'trip' or a 'journey', drawing on our previous learning about Hindus and Christians and use this to see what helps people along the 'journey of life'. R.E. and geography learning will become part of challenge cards in our board games.

We will use printing skills in art to decorate the cards for our board games. We will develop skills for three different types of print – monoprinting, press printing and the use of collograph blocks. Our printing will be inspired by South Africa and our English text, 'Journey to Jo'burg'.

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.

LITERACY

Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo is the text the children will be exploring in Literacy to develop their reading, speaking and writing skills. 'Set in the dangerous landscape of apartheid South Africa, this is the inspiring story of two brave children who will do anything to save their little sister.' On our introductory day, through 'dilemma-based learning', the children learned about aspects of the life of Beverley Naidoo, who lived during Apartheid, some of the challenges she faced and the significant role played by the inspirational leader Nelson Mandela.

Posing questions, summarising, inferring and identifying good word choices will help to develop reading skills as children explore the story. Interviewing and analysing characters will support their letter writing skills alongside developing their sentence construction through the use of conjunctions, adverbs and correctly punctuated dialogue.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too in addition to any personal spelling lists you've received.

Take a look back at last half term...



Easter 'Singing on the Steps'



Bell boating along the canal



Blackwell Bakers as part of DT learning

YEAR 4 TIMES TABLE CHECK

In June, children in Year 4 will take part in a national statutory times table check. This is an on-screen assessment designed to check whether they can fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of 25 questions with 6 seconds for each question (most questions will be the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12x).

As we do for the Year 1 phonics screening check, we treat these like fun quizzes and we will complete similar quizzes most days in school so that the children become familiar with the layout, timing and how to input their answers. Here is a good times table check practice site for the children to have a go on at home. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check>

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will be learning about position and direction and spend time describing positions using co-ordinates and movements between positions. Following this, the children will develop their understanding of fractions and decimal numbers involving tenths and hundredths. They will make them using a range of concrete apparatus to help develop a secure understanding of what decimal numbers are. They will learn how to partition decimal numbers, find equivalences, multiply and divide whole and decimal numbers by 10 and 100, round to the nearest 1 and apply all of these skills when solving problems. What a busy time we have ahead!

Mental maths will focus on the 7-, 9- and 12-times tables and corresponding division facts, recognising factors and factor pairs, doubling and halving multiples of 100 up to 5,000, deriving sums and differences of pairs of multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000, using efficient mental methods to add and subtract 2 2-digit numbers and using efficient mental methods to multiply and divide by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25.

YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school, all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.

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