

NEWSLETTER

for Blackwell First School - Blue Class



A big warm welcome back to everyone! We are delighted to welcome everyone back to the start of a new academic year where there will be many exciting learning opportunities for your child. Miss Townsend will be teaching your child every morning and Miss Kuriger every afternoon. Mrs Gwilliam will also be working in Blue Class and, as a team, we will work to ensure that your child is happy, works hard and fulfils their academic potential in a classroom where learning behaviours and code of conduct are continually developed and supported too. Year 4 is often seen as a very exciting year group to be part of with special trips (Malvern) and roles in school (Year 4 job scheme). We look forward to a very happy and successful year ahead. Let's see how it will all begin...

TOPIC

We kick start the year with a fascinating history topic, 'The Vikings'. We will delve into the past and investigate significant events in Britain's history.



The question of focus throughout the topic is: '*Vicious Vikings: Were the Vikings really so bad?*'. Learning will culminate in the children generating their own answer at the end of topic, with justified reasons and historical evidence.

Art and D.T. are the other main subjects taught during this topic. In Art, children will explore different drawing techniques and study the work of English artist, John Brunsdon and how he includes flowing bands of colour in his paintings. Using drawing skills, children will include the same flowing bands in their artwork to create landscapes of Britain in the Viking times. In D.T., children will explore pneumatic systems, working in pairs to design, create and evaluate a moving model.

Throughout the topic, the children will be involved in deciding the learning they would like to share with you. This will be in the form of a class floor book that all children will be able to bring home and share with you for an evening when the topic has finished.

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.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Please check that your child has the following in school with them every day:

- school book bag
- home reading card/folder
- water bottle and healthy snack or 40p
- hooded, waterproof coat
- P.E. kit: jogging bottoms - plain blue or black please, shorts, trainers and pumps, white t-shirt, jumper, hair bobble for children with shoulder length hair or longer and a plastic carrier bag for muddy trainers
- wellingtons and a pair of thick socks



Please name all of these items to help misplaced items be returned to the correct owner.

We are really looking forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is happy and achieves their best before they move on to middle school. 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 Nordic tale, 'East of the Sun and West of the Moon' 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 range of texts including a letter and their own Nordic tale. Ensuring the children are developing their writing stamina, cohesion and their consistent use of a range of punctuation including speech marks will be a focus throughout this sequence of learning.



The children will be introduced to their individual writing target and regular handwriting sessions will help them to develop their cursive handwriting so that they become fluent writers. In Spelling sessions, the children will be taught a range of spelling conventions including words ending in -sure, homophones including peace/piece and mane/main and the use of possessive apostrophes for singular nouns. The tricky words they will be learning to read and spell this half term are on the homework sheet.

NUMERACY

During Numeracy, children will be completing a range of activities to help develop their understanding of 4-digit numbers, Roman Numerals and mental and written methods for addition and subtraction. Concrete apparatus will be used throughout to support their understanding of concepts before moving on to pictorial and abstract methods.

Mental starters will focus on number bonds to 100 and 1,000 (multiples of 100), doubles and halves to 100 and near doubles. We will also

revisit the 2, 3 and 5 times tables to ensure the children know them by heart and out of order.

BITS AND PIECES

*The children worked hard last year to make accelerated progress and catch up in light of disruption to their education as a result of Covid-19 in recent years. Learning at home during Year 4 will play a significant part in helping your child to continue to catch up. **Reading with your child each night, finding 5 minutes every day to practise their times table recall and any targets sent home will really support your child.**



*Forest School for children in Blue Class will take place on Monday for Group 4 and Friday for Group 5 and 6. They can come to school wearing jogging bottoms on the day they go.

*We have a rich and varied curriculum each day in school which often involves physical and messy activities. We often note that children with long hair, which is not tied up, can find it challenging to complete these activities and can get frustrated because it gets in their way. To avoid this (and painful tangles and unwanted visitors!), it would be helpful if children with long hair could have their hair tied up for school each day. Many thanks.