

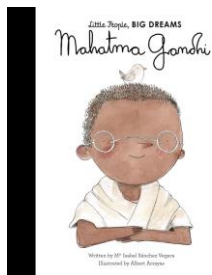
Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Blackman Class! I hope that you have all had a lovely Summer break, and are as excited as I am at starting a new academic year. I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the children and parents/carers as I start teaching at your school this term, and getting started on what will be an excellent year.

Our first class text this year will be Thief! by Malorie Blackman. This is an interesting and engaging narrative that explores challenging ideas about new beginnings and friendship. We will enjoy this text during our daily reading for pleasure sessions, as well as during our Guided Reading sessions, where we will focus on further developing our reading skills of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising.

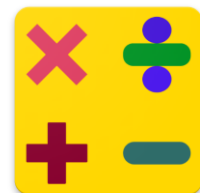


Our first writing genre will be biography writing, based on a famous figure of the children's choice. The children will begin this research during our English lessons, but will also be encouraged to continue this at home which will support them to boost their knowledge of their chosen biography subject, as well as fuel their enthusiasm for the writing project. To help us to understand the structural and grammar features of the text type, we will use biographies written about Mahatma Gandhi linked to our Connections topic; in particular, the Little People, Big Dreams text written about him. We will also explore writing complex noun phrases and fronted adverbials before planning, drafting, editing and publishing their work. In our second writing unit of the term, the children will predict and write the next chapter from our book, Thief!, in the style of Malorie Blackman. We will focus on using a wide range of conjunctions, figurative language and varying sentence length.

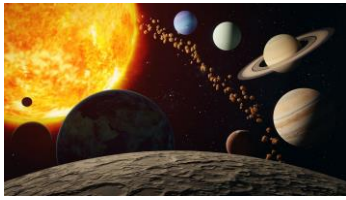


The children will also continue working hard to develop their handwriting and spelling skills through focused sessions throughout the week.

Our first Maths topic this year is going to be Place Value. Here, the children will be starting off working practically, where they will be representing numbers up to a million/ten million. Also, the children will be identifying and recognising roman numerals up to 1, 000. The children will be partitioning digits in different ways and comparing and ordering numbers. Within this unit, the children will develop their rounding skills, where they will be rounding any number. Throughout this topic, the children will be counting up and down in 10's, 100's, 1,000's and 10,000's. Moving on from place value, the children will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Within the four operations unit, they will be practically calculating to begin with, applying their place value knowledge. Then, the children will be using formal written methods, before using the most efficient method for a given calculation. Throughout their learning in maths this term, the children will be exposed to a variety of different word problems and reasoning style questions, prompting them to draw from their knowledge and use their skills to answer



them with increasing efficiency and accuracy. Our regular recapping of core arithmetic knowledge will enable them to feel more confident with this also.



Our first Science topic of the year is Earth and Space, during which we will work hard find out what is moving in our Solar System, and how we know. We will research our key scientist for the term, Tim Peake, and will find out about his significance in the field as a British astronaut. We will learn about the movement of the Earth and other planets in relation to the Sun and how this creates seasons for different parts of the planet. We will also learn about the moon's orbit of the Earth and how this contributes to night and day, as well as the different phases of the moon. We will conclude this topic by conducting an investigation using the lengths of our shadows at different times of the day to explain the Earth's rotation and orbit, and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

In RE this term we will be exploring the question: What does it mean if God is loving and holy? The children will learn that God is all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful and eternal and why this means that God is worth worshipping. They will explore a loving and holy God balanced with ideas that God is angered by sin and injustice, but also forgiving and full of grace. We will also discuss the life of Jesus and how his birth was a symbol of God's love. Finally, we will investigate differing beliefs about God to help us to understand that Christians do not all agree about what God is like, but try to follow his path as they see in the Bible.

During our first Connections topic we will be learning about India, in order to form opinions on the question: Did Mahatma Gandhi change the world forever? During our Geography lessons, the children will learn about the location of India and the significance of this on the weather, culture and trade. They will also learn about how India is split into different states and territories. In History, we will learn about India under British colonial rule, the caste system that used to be in place, and the significant events that happened in Mahatma Gandhi's life that led to him starting the political movement, the Natal Indian Congress and his use of non-violent protests such as the Salt March. Within Art...



In PE this term, we will be learning how to run, jump, throw and catch in isolation and in combination within the sport of Netball. We will also explore basic principles in attacking and defending..

Our first Jigsaw (PSHE) topic is will be 'Being me in my world', where we will learn about goal setting and what helps us to learn, as well as being a global citizen.

In Computing, we will learn about communication and collaboration within computer networks. In this unit the children will explore how data is transferred over the internet, initially focusing on addressing, before they move on to the makeup and structure of data packets.

Homework

The children have a Homework Menu that includes tasks that will support them with their learning that can be completed throughout the term. They will continue to have additional homework set on Reading Eggs and Mathletics on a rotational basis each week. These will be set on a Friday commencing on Friday 13th September, and should be completed by the following Thursday.

As we know, the time that children spend reading has a huge impact on their education. It would be amazing if children can explore books on a daily basis, when they get home from school, before they go to bed or at another time that suits you family best. This does not have to be the same narrative text everyday; shorter stories and non-fiction texts provide excellent practise and a source of knowledge too. At this age, your children will be reading to themselves more often, but do check in and ask them questions about what they have read or found out as much as you can.

Regular practise of times tables will also have a huge impact on the progress that we make in maths this year – very quick but very often being the most effective approach at keeping tricky facts within their working memory. The children will be becoming more and more confident with their times tables by now, so focusing on the corresponding division facts will provide them with that extra challenge. The app, 'White Rose 1-Minute Maths' is really simple to use and provides quick practise of a wide range of maths skills.

PE and Outdoor Education

PE lessons will be on a **Friday** this term, where the children will need to come to school in their PE kits.

Outdoor Education will be on a **Monday**, where the children need to come to school dressed appropriately, with waterproof clothing and wellies, just in case!

Thank you in advance for all of your support this year,

Mr Liddle