



Blackthorn Class Newsletter

Summer 2024

Welcome

Hello and Welcome back to Summer term,

We hope you had a lovely Easter break, Its lovely to see our pupils back in school. Our topic last term was "A day in the life of... an inventor and shop assistant". The pupils were very engaged in different inventions that we explored and re created. We particularly enjoyed exploring telephones past and present and communicating with our friends using these. We role played running our own tea shop which was a big hit!

We have lots to look forward to this Summer term, Sports day, Rainbow day and Queen's day! We hope to see you there

We have lots of exciting learning opportunities in store over the coming weeks, keep a look out on EFL for photos of your children taking part in activities throughout the school day.

If you are struggling to access Efl and need a friendly reminder please reach out to your team for support and someone will get back to you with guidance.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office, home school diaries or by email - joy.ward@saxon.set.org.uk

Your class team,

Topic

This term our topic is "Wish you were here... Lichfield and then Far Away." We will be exploring the key features of our school grounds, We will be creating and using tactile maps to explore key aspects of our school, working on using our sense's to support our vision linking it to our maths session positional language and directions. We will investigate wider by finding out about Lichfield—we would like to do a visit some of the key landmarks of Lichfield , but we will need some volunteers to come and help us—if you would be available, please let me know.

After May half term, we will be learning about countries far away—. We will explore what we need to go on journeys, what it is like in those countries and also about their history, through sensory experiences.

We follow the play based learning approach. This topic will be covered through role play, interactive stories, art, music, messy play etc. Following our engagement scale and children's interests throughout.

Our team

Blackthorn Class team



Joy— Teacher



Claire Green—TA



Isobel MacDonald—TA

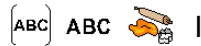


Nancy —TA

Sensory intergration

We will continue to follow our sensory diets throughout the school day through the use of our sensory integration room and our own regulation area within class. This will help to keep our children regulated and focused throughout the school day. Our suite consists of an Indoor swing, roller slide, ball pool and dark den, gym balls and soft cushioned areas for deep pressure massage.

My communication- English/ Cognition



We have a wide variety of methods of communicating in class and this is modelled by staff throughout the day. This includes Intensive Interaction, PODD, Makaton, switches and tactile signing.

We continue to push our love of reading in class during our daily tactile/sensory story sessions.

Our sensory story for this half term is "Alfie and the lost words of Lichfield"

Phonics

Each morning we take part in our pre-phonics session. This term we will be working on General sound discrimination-Instrumental sounds.

This includes listening and responding, Intensive Interaction, using switches and mark making activities we then apply our learning through play sessions at the end of the week to recap on our learning.

Hydro & Rebound

Our Hydro sessions are a Wednesday morning, please send in your child's swimming kit on the day. We will work on a rota to ensure all pupils get a session,

Our rebound sessions are on a Friday morning for pupils who have permission to attend.



Snack time

If you wish to send in a snack and juice for your child please do so, you can do this daily or send enough for the week which we will store in their box or fridge.



Weather

Please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing for the weather, especially as the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year.



Reading

Blackthorn have daily group story times - this is often a sensory or tactile story, One of our topic stories this half term is 'Alfie and the lost words of Lichfield'

Our sensory story is Towns and Country.

Please use the home school reading log books to let us know when you have read a story at home and how they engaged, i.e. helps turn the page, shows engagement, or simply just enjoying a story together. We will be checking these weekly and awarding stickers, those who get three stickers will be put into a raffle and will have the opportunity to win a prize at the end of each term.



Thinking and problem solving

During cognition sessions we are developing our thinking and problem solving skills. We follow a play based learning approach, We explore continuous provision through tuff trays linked to learning objectives.

We are focussing on early number activities and explore position and direction through stories and exploring our environment.

PSHE

This term our topics will be being safe and then online relationships.