

### Blackbird Class Newsletter 3- 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026

The children have continued to work incredibly hard with many of the Year 6 children also attending before and after school sessions. A visiting teacher this week commented on how respectful the children are and also noticed their strong work ethic. Every day seems to be productive and I can see great progression in all books.

English	<p><b>Reading-</b> All of the children have the opportunity to read to an adult in school at least once per week. We are still reading 'Trash' as a class and we have a wide range of fiction/non-fiction books in class for independent reading. All of the children have opportunities to read independently daily and we encourage the children to read to an adult at home a few times a week. Last week 92% of the children achieved a 'reading star' so thank you for your support. Year 6 children are also keeping up with their weekly homework, this is great practise for next year. Please do keep referring to the 'Reading Fluency Sheet' sent home when listening to your child read.</p> <p><b>Writing-</b> We have started to complete short daily handwriting tasks and I hope, by Christmas, to see a real improvement in presentation and letter formation. We have started to spend more time editing with a writing partner with a particular focus on spelling and basic punctuation. In addition to weekly spellings, the children each have a spelling CGP book and Mr Taylor leads small group spelling activities for half an hour a day. This ensures that each child has a high-quality spelling session in a small group every week.</p>
Maths	<p>The children continue to practise their tables daily at the start of the maths lesson and some of the children are now receiving extra support from Mr Taylor during morning registration. Most of the children do need to sharpen up on their times tables so any help at home is much appreciated. We currently have an online (TTRS) tables challenge against Ostrich class which I'd love Blackbirds to win!</p> <p>Last week the children sat their first full arithmetic paper and they all coped well. I am especially proud of how well the Year 5 children applied themselves. In our main maths session, we have focussed on fractions and decimals and we have tried to ensure that any extra support is offered rapidly if the children struggle with a concept.</p>
Geography	<p>The children have been 'over learning' some Geographical vocabulary and have spent the last two weeks focussing on the Amazon rainforest.</p>
RE	<p>We have spent time looking at the Creation story and how it conflicts/complements scientific ideas.</p>
Art	<p>The children are developing self-portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo.</p>

The above is only a brief snapshot of all we do in school and we try not to waste a minute of time. Year 6 parents, the deadline for applying for a Secondary School Place is approaching, please do not miss this date as children have been denied a place in recent years when their application was only received a day late.

[Secondary school places | Essex County Council](#)

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Ship