



Number 15: 17th May 2019

STAFFING NEWS

Following the news several weeks ago that Mrs Dodd and Mr Tugwell will both be off to pastures new at the end of this academic year, I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mr Matthew King as our new Key Stage 2 Leader. We were very pleased to have a lot of interest in this post and we conducted a very robust recruitment process, which included an observed lesson, delivery of a presentation and data analysis task in addition to the formal interview. Mr King performed consistently well in all tasks and we feel very fortunate to have appointed such a strong practitioner. Mr King is currently teaching in a school in Horsham and we hope that he will be visiting for several days prior to him taking up his new post in September.

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a new Sport Leader and will update you on the progress of this as soon as we are able.

What's Great?

Class RN thoroughly enjoyed their visit from Mr Pineapple Head, and also performed a wonderful circus to the parents earlier this week.

Class 3C had a brilliant trip to Wakehurst and their outstanding behaviour was commented on by members of staff as well as members of the public. Thank you, 3C, for representing Blackthorns so well.

All of Year 6 have demonstrated a fabulous attitude to their SATs during the last few weeks, and have also created amazing self-portraits.

Class 4H have been creating algorithms in Computing lessons, using Scratch.

Following a visit from a real garden designer, Class 1S have been designing, building and making their very own miniature dream gardens.

Class 5T have been enjoying some learning about Planet Earth, including some great work on volcanoes.



WRAPAROUND CARE AT BLACKTHORNS—COMING VERY SOON!!!

You may recall that we distributed a survey before Christmas in order to understand the feasibility of hosting our own Breakfast and After School childcare clubs at Blackthorns. Following a very positive response to this proposition, I have been working with the academy's Local Board for the last few months to investigate this further and to understand our different options. **I am very excited to inform you that there will be wrap-around care from 7am to 6 (or 6.30pm) on-site from September 2019.** We have been working very hard to include many of the different features that were requested in the survey responses, including the option for children to attend extra-curricular clubs after school before joining the childcare provision. Central to our investigations have been the desire to put childcare in place that mirrors the academy's nurturing approach, and providing our parents with choice. More information will be sent out shortly.

School Council news



After the spring half-term School Council will be running a healthy tuck-shop for Key Stage 2 pupils at Thursday morning break. No item will be more than 50p. Any profit will go to the charity that School Council have decided to raise funds for.

School council would like to support the charity National Children's Deaf Society. As well as profit from their tuck-shop they will be arranging a sponsored event on the afternoon of 27th June. More details to follow. To introduce this charity to the children a representative will be coming into school for assembly on Monday 20th May.



Congratulations to the following children who have been awarded a Head Teacher's Award and have had their names recorded in the Gold Book since the last newsletter: Erin (6D), Alfie (6J), Max (4H), Saskia (RN), Jasmine (6J), Aydan (6J), Lewis (1S), Henry (1S) and Jack (1S).



WELL DONE TO YEAR 6!

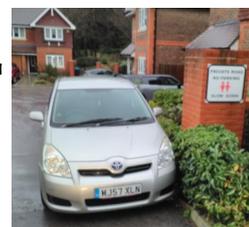
As you may know, this week has been the Key Stage 2 SATs week. Our 60 Year 6 pupils have taken papers in Reading, Maths Arithmetic, Maths Reasoning and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling during the week.

They have worked so hard and we are all incredibly proud of their fabulous approach. Well done, Year 6.

**QUIET PLEASE
EXAMS IN
PROGRESS**

PARKING COMPLAINTS

Once again, I find myself having to ask you to drive and park considerately in the roads around our academy. I continue to receive a number of complaints for local residents regarding inconsiderate and illegal driving and parking. In particular, residents of Woodpecker Chase have politely asked me to remind parents/carers that it is a private road but, despite signs, some vehicles are still being parked in this road.



KEY DATES

20th May: Year 2 SATs Week
23rd May: Village Day dress-up day
24th May: INSET Day
1st Jun: Village Day
3rd Jun: Location, Location, Location Week
7th Jun: No swimming
10th Jun: Year 1 phonics screening week
12th Jun: Year 5 performance
14th Jun: FOBs Talent Show
21st Jun: Year 3/4/5 Area Sports

25th Jun: Open Morning
26th Jun: Class 4H to Seven Sisters
27th Jun: Year 3 and 4 performance
1st Jul: Sports' Day
2nd Jul: Reserve Sports' Day
5th Jul: FOBs Summer Festival
10th Jul: Year 6 Area Sports
12th Jul: FOBs discos
15th Jul: Year 6 production
16th Jul: Year 6 production
19th Jul: End of the academic year