



AN OUTSTANDING YEAR

As we reach the end of another year at Blackthorns, I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody that makes this such a special place to work and learn. It goes without saying that we were delighted that Ofsted recognised the many strengths of our academy by judging us as Outstanding in every area at the beginning of this year. However, more important for us is the development of the children and the many different opportunities that they are given to progress academically and personally. We are so proud of each and every child in our community and always enjoy celebrating their many strengths and talents. Thank you to all of the parents and carers, for the support that you give to the children, and to us. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the new year in September.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK FROM EVERYONE AT BLACKTHORNS!

As always at the end of the year, we have some goodbyes to say. Firstly, goodbye and good luck to our brilliant Year 6 children. This year group leaving is particularly poignant for me, as they joined Blackthorns at the same time as me, so it has been wonderful to see their full primary school journey and all of the great things they have achieved. We are incredibly proud of you all, and look forward to hearing about all the new things you achieve at secondary school.

A big thank you to Mr Neller, who leaves his role as a Teaching Assistant to embark on his next chapter at university from September. As a previous pupil at Blackthorns, it has been lovely to welcome him back. He has developed excellent relationships with the children he has supported and we have really benefited from his technical skills during his year here. Thank you, and good luck, Mr Neller.

Thank you and good luck to Miss Farmer, who leaves us to take up her first post as a qualified teacher. It has been a privilege to be part of Miss Farmer's journey from Teaching Assistant to qualified teacher. She has worked with many children at Blackthorns during her time here and we are all confident that she will be a great success at her new school.

I would also like to thank Mrs Major, who has been the class teacher in Year 3 since January. This has been a difficult year for these children and we feel so very lucky to have found Mrs Major, who has been able to provide the children with the consistency and stability that has been essential for them. Mrs Major has travelled from Worthing each day and very quickly became a very important part of our team. I am hopeful that we will keep in touch with Mrs Major and the children will see her here from time to time. Thank you very much, Mrs Major.

We are all very sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Tugwell after three excellent years at Blackthorns. It was an honour to be able to speak at the UoBAT celebration event earlier this week, when Mr Tugwell was awarded 'Staff Member of the Year'. There are so many ways that Mr Tugwell has had a positive impact on Blackthorns, the staff and the children, and he will be hugely missed. He leaves a legacy of high quality sport and high quality teaching and we thank him very much for that. I am sure that Mr Tugwell will be staying in touch and am reliably informed that he will be involved in next year's PTA quiz night, should the technology allow!

After many years at Blackthorns, Mrs Dodd is also leaving to take up an Assistant Head Teacher role. Mrs Dodd is not only an excellent teacher, but she also cares deeply for every child that she works with and is a very hard-working member of staff. I have learnt a huge amount from Mrs Dodd and her innovative practice. She has played a very important role in achieving the success that Blackthorns has found over the past few years. One Ofsted inspector memorably described her as 'the whole kit and caboodle', and I think that perfectly describes her. We will miss you, Mrs Dodd, good luck in your new role.



Congratulations to the following children, who have been to see me for a Head Teacher's Award and had their names recorded in the Gold Book: Noah (1S), Sam (1S), Flo (1S), Kit (2C), Felix (RN), Margot (1S), Annie S (1S), Amane (1S) and Arthur (1S).



GOING FOR GOLD

Congratulations to this term's Going For Gold winners, for aiming to be the very best they can be throughout the term. Well done Luisa, Lewis, Johnny, Edward, Will, Isabella, Oscar and Poppy.

MATILDA!

Huge congratulations to the whole of Year 6 for their absolutely wonderful production of Matilda. The children and staff all worked really hard and their hard work was so worthwhile. In addition to the outstanding individual performances, the children worked as a team to create a really stunning performance.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

We were very pleased to be able to celebrate some excellent attendance. 27 children were awarded 100% attendance certificates for attending school every day in this academic year. Congratulations to Class 6J, who collectively had the best attendance for the Summer Term 2019 and to Class 2C who had the best attendance for the entire academic year. Both classes received a treat for their collective achievement. Well done.

SUMMER PROJECTS

As always, the summer holidays will be a very busy time at Blackthorns, with a number of projects planned. Firstly, our newer modular building will become the new home for Treetops, our breakfast and after school wrap-around care. The Treetops team will be working on turning the classroom into their new base over the holidays.

In addition, we are having a new security system installed. This will involve new equipment that will ensure the safety of the children in the academy, from the start of the Breakfast Club until the end of After School Club each day. We will update you on this at the start of the new year, but this will involve new arrangements for collecting from extra-curricular activities on the school site. On behalf of the academy, I would like to thank Mr Gareth O'Hara (dad to Ethan and Jackson), who has donated much of the new security system free of charge, through his company. This generosity has enabled us to install excellent equipment to our site.

Mr Davis will be working tirelessly throughout the summer to clean, tidy and maintain different aspects of the academy site and we thank him very much for his continuing hard work.

KEY DATES

Mon 2nd Sept: INSET Day—academy closed

Tue 3rd Sept: Academy re-opens for the new academic year

Please remember to use the extra bins provided in the Backwoods Lane car park if you are attending the end-of-term celebration on the common.