



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 11th November 2016

What's great at Blackthorns?

This morning, we came together as a school community to remember the sacrifice made by many during the First and Second World War and all wars since. Our Year 6 children created this excellent piece of artwork, and will be performing their own piece of poetry at the Lindfield Remembrance service at All Saints Church on Sunday afternoon:



- Year 5 and 6 children have been working with Mrs Moffatt and Mrs Davies to prepare a John Rutter carol for Christmas and they were delighted to receive a video message from John Rutter himself this week. This should be available to view on our website very soon.
- Class RH and 2N have formed reading buddies to share and enjoy books together.
- Class 1T have been practising their contribution to the nativity performance.
- Class 2N have been using the Key Stage 1 shared area for their story time and have enjoyed precious time getting lost in a book.
- Both Class 3C and Class 4T have been demonstrating growing independence and the ability to organise themselves for activities.
- Class 4H have been enjoying a poetry unit, using rich language and word-play.
- Friendships within Class 5D have been strengthened following their recent Sayers Croft residential trip.
- Class 6J are working really hard and are rising to the huge challenge of Year 6.
- We are all enjoying having Mr Harris back in school!

Adverse weather

As temperatures are beginning to drop, I feel it is important that I remind you of the arrangements should the school need to close due to extreme weather. Firstly, I would like to assure you that the decision to close the school, in consultation with governors, is always a last resort. In making this decision, we consider the safety of the school site, as well as the safety of pupils, parents and staff when travelling to and from the school. The majority of class teachers do not live in the Haywards Heath or Lindfield areas. We will always endeavour to make an early decision

and announcement should the academy need to close, but of course the conditions do not always allow this to happen.

Communications to parents regarding a closure will be through ParentMail, our school website, our Twitter and Facebook pages, the West Sussex website and via local radio stations (Heart FM, More Radio and BBC Sussex). In the event of a heavy snowfall during school hours and a decision being made to close the school early, a message will be sent using ParentMail and all those not registered with Parentmail will be telephoned. However, we would like to encourage all parents to register (with two email addresses if possible) with ParentMail if they can.

We will always open the academy if we possibly can, but parking in and use of Blackthorns Close and the normal school gate may not be possible. If this is the case, school staff will be available to inform parents and pupils of any necessary changes to our usual school routines. We occasionally have to delay the start of the school day to ensure that the hill is safe for pedestrians. We will not inform the radio stations of any timing changes, these will be communicated through ParentMail, Twitter, Facebook and the school website.

All children should have their PE kit in school every day including trainers – kits may be taken home at the weekend but must be back in school on Monday morning. In addition, please ensure that your child has tracksuit trousers and a jumper for PE lessons, as many of these are still outside even in the colder weather. Girls should also bring in socks to wear for PE, instead of wearing tights to take part in these lessons. It is essential that children have a different jumper for PE lessons, as it is very unhygienic to wear their school jumper for sporting activities.

Stranger Danger

A parent has made me aware that their child was approached by an unknown man and asked for her address whilst playing in Victoria Park last weekend. Please be extra vigilant when out with your children.

Book Sale

Thank you for supporting the School Council's Book Sale this week. £72.90 was raised for the School Council's projects in school.

CD Recording

We are very excited to be preparing for recording our own Christmas CD. Every class has several songs to learn and the CD will be available to purchase before Christmas. The actual recording will take place on **Thursday 24th November 2016** and there will be no hot meals available on this day as the hall will be used as our recording studio all day. Packed lunches have been ordered for KS1.

Chartwells – Hot Meals Provider

Please see attached job vacancy advert and details regarding Christmas meal on 13th December.

Tempest Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on **Monday 21st November 2016** to take individual and family group portraits. If parents would like pre-school children photographed as a family group (parents may be included) then please just turn up at 8.15am. You are not obliged to purchase any photographs.

Lateness

A reminder that the academy gate is opened at 8.30am and Key Stage 2 children are able to go to their playground from 8.45. The academy day begins at 8.50am and we expect all children to have arrived at school by this time. The gate is closed promptly at 9am and any child arriving after 9.05am will receive a late mark in the register. This affects a child's attendance and is counted in our statistics as an unauthorised absence.

Medicine Reminder

There seem to be a lot of coughs and colds around at the moment. Just to remind you, we cannot administer Calpol or any other non-prescribed medication. Children are not permitted to carry their own medication, such as Calpol capsules or throat sweets in their bags to self-medicate.

Year 1, 2 & 3 Flu Vaccinations

Please may I remind you to return the consent form, if you have not already done so, by **next Wednesday 16th November 2016.**

Key Dates for the next two weeks:

Thursday 17th November

Child Protection Training (2.00 – 3.00pm)

Friday 18th November

Key Stage 2 Film Friday

Monday 21st November

Child Protection Training (11.00am – 12.00pm)

Thursday 24th November

Tempest individual and siblings photographs

CD recording

Year 1, 2 and 3 flu vaccinations

No hot meals

Friday 25th November

No hot meals

Saturday 26th November

FOBs Christmas Fair

Sunday 27th November

Family Portrait photograph sessions in aid of FOBs

Kind regards

Marianne Brand