



# BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

## *NEWSLETTER – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

### **What's great at Blackthorns?**

- The children participated in some exciting drama workshops provided by Helen O'Grady last Friday. The children in Class 1T particularly enjoyed this.
- Class 4T have been demonstrating some excellent skills of effort and perseverance.
- Class 6J have enjoyed a wonderful 'Make Do and Mend' with Mrs Gale, and have created a wonderful advent calendar.
- Class 3C have been showing increased maturity and attention to detail in their learning.
- Class 4H are really enjoying their science learning and have been particularly captivated by the teeth topic!
- Class 2N enjoyed their 'Whalefest' Day this week.

### **Poetry Competition**

Enormous congratulations to Cecily, Josie, Dan and Henry in 5D for coming second in the recent locality performance poetry competition. They were up against 7 other schools and performed brilliantly. They even gave an impromptu performance during our Celebration Assembly last Friday.

### **Christmas CD**

As you will know, the children have been rehearsing Christmas songs for the last few weeks, although it feels much longer! They all performed really well on Thursday this week when they were recorded for our fabulous Christmas CD. This was a really great experience for the children. A very big thank you to Mrs Moffatt for her enthusiasm and organisation of this event. Information about ordering CDs is contained on the same email as this newsletter.

### **The Day The Lights Went Out**

As you may know, we have had some issues with power this week. This began on Monday when we discovered that the heating and some of the lighting in the school was not working. Our contractors visited the site on Monday morning and identified quickly that it was an external, rather than an internal, problem. We were connected up to a very large generator in the early hours of Tuesday morning, which meant that we were able to operate as normal for the next few days. The fault has now been repaired and we were moved back to mains power on Wednesday night. I would like to thank our children and staff for their fantastic attitude on Monday. They quickly relocated to different parts of the school when required and learning continued as normal.

### **Morning Drop-off**

Just a reminder that Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children should not be left unaccompanied on the playground before school. Also, children should not be dropped off at school before the gate opens at 8.30am.

### **Pupil Premium**

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

- Universal Credit

If a child is entitled to Free School Meals, the school will also get additional funding, known as the Pupil Premium Grant, This funding can be used to support parents in paying for school trips, after school clubs and other support within school.

Please see Mrs Day in the academy office, in confidence, if you would like to find out more about this funding. If your child is in Class RH, 1T or 2N and they already have free school meals, please still come and speak to us if you think you might be entitled to the extra funding to support your child's education.

### **Christmas Service at All Saints Church**

We will again be celebrating Christmas with a service at All Saints Church on the final day of the Autumn Term. The **Carol Service** will take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.20am** to which you are warmly invited. Please drop your child at the Tiger Room by **9.00am but no earlier than 8.45am** where a member of staff will be there to meet you. The children will not require book bags or water bottles and they will **not require lunch** on this occasion as a party lunch is being provided by the FOBs. If anyone is able to walk back following the service please let the class teacher know (each class will need 5/6 helpers). The team at All Saints have requested that we ask parents not to drive to the church if at all possible. Due to the large number of people attending last year's service, we have unfortunately made the decision, for safety reasons, to request that **only two adults per family** attend the Christmas Service this year. We will not be issuing tickets, but will be relying on our families' goodwill and honesty in complying with this request.

### **Key Dates for the next two weeks:**

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Classes 3C, 4H and 4T to Butsers Farm
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Phonics, Facts and Families session for RH parents (9-10am)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	Class RH Nativity (9.30am)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2016	Key Stage 1 Film Friday
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2016	Cross-country tournament at Warden Park Secondary Academy
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Key Stage 1 Nativity (2pm)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Key Stage 1 Nativity (9.30am)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Classes 5D and 6J to Peter Pan in Worthing Classes RH, 1T, 2N, 3C, 4H and 4T to watch Robin Hood in school

Kind regards

*Marianne Brand*