



# BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

## *NEWSLETTER – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

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

- In maths lessons, Class 5D have been applying their reasoning and problem solving skills in their work
- Class 6J have been working on the book 'Rose Blanche' and conducted a press conference on Rose Blanche, discussing her disappearance
- Classes 3C, 4H and 4T had a very successful trip to Butser Farm and took part in workshops linked to their topics
- Classes RH, 1T, 2N, 3C, 4H and 4T enjoyed the visiting theatre pantomime this week
- Classes 5D and 6J also enjoyed their trip to the theatre in Worthing to see Peter Pan
- Class RH performed a wonderful 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' nativity last week – very well done!
- Classes 1T and 2N performed a brilliant 'Born in a Barn' nativity this week – a very impressive show!

### **Staffing news**

Mrs Lancaster will be leaving Blackthorns at the end of this term, as she is moving back to Scotland. We are all very sorry to see her go and wish her all the very best with her move and her new job in Scotland from January.

Our School Business Manager, Sarah Fisher, is also leaving at Christmas as she is pursuing a new project. Sarah's wealth of knowledge and experience of school finances and HR have been invaluable to us as an academy and I would like to thank her very much for everything and wish her lots of luck in her new venture.

We are also very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Alete, who has been a Teaching Assistant at Blackthorns for just over two years. We would like to thank her very much for her hard work for the children of Blackthorns and wish her lots of luck for the future.

From January we welcome Mrs Dawn Smith, who will be teaching Class 5D each Friday. Mrs Smith was a teacher at Lindfield Primary Academy for several years and we are delighted that she will be joining our team.

We have appointed Mrs Karen Ramsbottom as our new School Business Manager from January. Karen is our current Finance/HR Assistant and we are really pleased that she will be taking the step up to Business Manager in the academy.

We are currently recruiting to replace Mrs Alete and will keep you updated with this process. We are also desperate for two new cleaners. We have advertised for these posts several times. Details can be found on our website and in the Mid-Sussex Times – please pass this information on to anybody that may be interested.

### **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 Charity Collections**

After all of our Christmas productions we have been having collections for Save the Children. As in previous years we will be supporting the **Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. All children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day and, rather than asking for a contribution from families, we will be donating the proceeds of our collections to Save the Children. Children can also wear their own trousers/skirts on this day, rather than school uniform. There will also be a collection at the end of our Christmas service on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### **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 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 years' 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.

### **Christmas Raffle**

The **Christmas Raffle** will take place in the hall on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm**. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. It is a lovely end to the term; please do come along if you can.

### **Christmas Trees**

The Christmas trees have arrived and the school is now looking very festive!! The trees have very kindly been donated by Sussex Trees, Goddenwick Farm, Ardingly Road, Lindfield.

### **Academy Newspaper**

The children from our Newspaper Club have been working very hard on the first issue and we are very pleased to announce that it will be on sale on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 on the Key Stage 1 playground before and after school. The cost will be 50p. Thank you to Miss Farmer for running the club and working with the very enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 children.

### **Safeguarding Reminder**

I am aware that some parents attend the children's weekly swimming lessons. Please be reminded that the Dolphin has a policy of no photographs or filming during the lessons. This is good safeguarding practice and is a rule that should be respected at all times.

### **Diarrhoea and Vomiting**

Please may I remind you that we follow the National Health Protection Agency's guidelines which recommend that children should be kept away from school for 48 hours following the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting.

**Key Dates:**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Non-uniform Day (hamper Donations please)

Final day of term

Christmas Service at All Saints

Children's Christmas party lunch (no packed lunches needed)

Mulled Wine and Raffle (2.15pm)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017

INSET Day – school closed

School re-opens at 8.50am

This will be my last newsletter of the autumn term and I would like to wish you all a peaceful, happy Christmas and look forward to working with you all again in the New Year.

Kind regards

*Marianne Brand*