



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 13th January 2017

A Happy New Year to all of our families. On behalf of all of the staff, I would like to thank you for the very generous gifts that we received before the Christmas break. These are always hugely appreciated.

What's great at Blackthorns?

- Class 3C have been enjoying creating gymnastics sequences with Mr Harris.
- Class 6J have been working very hard on maths, particularly percentages.
- Both Year 4 classes have been enjoying the 'imitation' stage of the Talk 4 Writing approach, which involves them following a story plan to retell a story with actions. It has caused a lot of excitement!!
- Class 1T have been very successful with learning to tell the time. Many have been demonstrating their new skills at home too.
- Class RH have been learning about rhyming words and have had lots of fun recognising the rhyming words.

Goodle Expeditions

We were delighted to welcome Conor from Google Expeditions this week. The children in Years 1-6 had the opportunity to experience virtual reality linked to their class learning. Many journeyed through the Solar System, digestive system, circulatory system and the rainforest. For children in Years 3 -6, this was through virtual reality headsets and (due to the development of the eye) using an app on a tablet for the children in Years 1 and 2. There was so much enthusiasm and excitement in the classes and we are so pleased that the children were able to access these wonderful resources. Some of our teachers even decided to change the learning they had planned for the rest of the day or week to really harness the children's enthusiasm with this wonderful experience. Our Science Co-ordinator, Mrs Carr, organised this event, so a very big thank you to her.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March 2017. On this day we will be promoting shared reading, particularly bedtime reading. Therefore, we would like the children to come to school in their pyjamas or onesies. We will be inviting parents/ grandparents or other family members or carers to join us in school between 9-9.30am or 2.30-3pm to share a book with their child. If you or any other member of your family are unable to attend, we will of course ensure that your children have somebody to share a book with during these times.

Early drop-off

This is a polite reminder that children should not arrive at school or be dropped off before 8.30am, when the gate is opened. Increasingly, children are waiting outside the school unaccompanied by an adult each day. Without an adult responsible for them, some of these children are climbing on the walls outside the school and one fell and hurt themselves last week. It is essential that children are accompanied by an adult to school until 8.45am for Key Stage 2 children and 8.50am for Key Stage 1 children. There are some children in Year 6 that we know have permission to walk or cycle to school on their own, but all other children should be with an adult until there is a member of school staff on duty.

Absences

A reminder that if you child is unwell and unable to attend school you should contact the academy on the first day of your child's absence as early as possible. Also if your child is suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting the Health Protection Agency recommend that they are kept away from school for 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea/vomiting,

Fundraising

Well done to Laurie and Romilly Searle who raised £99.67 in aid of Save the Children by holding a mince pie and mulled wine morning outside their house on Saturday 17th December. They played the Blackthorns CD and everyone who went past received a chocolate. A great effort on a cold day!!

Swimming

Can anyone help by going into the pool to promote confidence and independence in the water? We particularly need someone for Year 2 (9.30 – 10.00am session). If you are available and have been DBS checked and completed the Child Protection training please let Mr Day know – thank you.

Key Dates for the next two weeks:

Friday 13 th January	Cake Sale in aid of WWF
Tuesday 17 th January	Class RH to Drusillas

Kind regards

Marianne Brand