



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 27th January 2017



We had a truly magical assembly yesterday morning to celebrate Mrs Day's 25 years at Blackthorns. Each class contributed to the occasion, with poems, presentations and films. The assembly ended with the whole school singing a song written by Mrs Moffatt and Class 6J especially for the occasion. We were delighted that a very emotional Mrs Day was joined for the occasion by her two children, Christopher and Nicola. We also presented Mrs Day with flowers and a gift from the generous donations from our staff and families. Over £400 was collected and we were able to buy a long weekend away for Mr and Mrs Day, as well as a voucher for her to buy something to remember the celebrations with. I was absolutely amazed by the generosity of you all and it shows just how much Mrs Day is loved and valued here by everybody. Thank you very much. Here's to the next 25 years!

What's great at Blackthorns?

- Year 4's Riversong rehearsals are going very well
- Class 3J have been enjoying learning about forces and magnets and have been sharing in some excellent scientific discussions
- Class 2N have been doing very well with their money learning in maths
- Class 6J have been displaying a very positive attitude to writing and some wonderful support for each other
- Class 1T have been enjoying their DERIC (Decode, Explore, Retrieve, Interpret, Choice) sessions learning about 'Avocado Baby'
- Class 5D completed some wonderful independent learning linked to President Trump's inauguration and the international women's marches, linked closely to their 'Kingdoms and Politics' topic
- Class RH have really enjoyed their Zoolympics activities and have been very supportive of each other

Visitors to our academy

We have been fortunate to welcome several sets of visitors to Blackthorns in the last week. Last Friday we were visited by six directors of the University of Brighton Academies Trust. They were taken on a tour of the academy by some of our Year 5 pupils and were incredibly impressed by what they saw and how knowledgeable the children were about Blackthorns. This week I received a letter from one of the directors, who said "I was inspired by the energy and enthusiasm alongside the clear focus".

This Tuesday we welcomed a visit from Mrs Lesley Corbett OBE, who is an independent education consultant and lead Ofsted Inspector and Mr John Smith, Executive Principal of Hollington and The Baird academies in Hastings. They had been asked to visit by the University of Brighton Academies Trust to review the quality of education and our progress towards our identified priorities. We were very pleased that the visit went very well and much of our hard work was recognised as having a very positive impact on learning, with some of the teaching described by one of our visitors as 'phenomenally good'. As always, we have areas to tweak moving forwards, but it is very helpful for us to receive validation of the good work being done here.

Driving and Parking in the surrounding roads

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are parking in Woodpecker Chase at the top of Blackthorns Close. Please note that this is a private road and is only for the use of residents and visitors to the houses within this development. Parking here when dropping off or collecting from Blackthorns is not permitted. I would also like to remind you to be considerate of other drivers and local residents when driving and parking in the roads around the academy.

Spring Term Assembly Themes:

WK/BEG	THEME
9.1.17	New year – new start
16.1.17	Keeping fit and healthy
23.1.17	The importance of family
30.1.17	The extended family
6.2.17	Working together
13.2.17	Rules for friends
20.2.17	HALF TERM
27.2.17	E-safety
6.3.17	Bullying and friendship
13.3.17	Being left out
20.3.17	Helping our friends
27.3.17	Peer Pressure
3.4.17	Managing conflicts

Church assemblies this term will be focused on Jacob's Life.

Key Dates for the next two weeks:

Friday 3rd February FOBs doughnut sale

Friday 10th February FOBs discos

Kind regards

Marianne Brand