



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 3rd March 2017

Write Inspired

We have been very fortunate to welcome Philip Davies from 'Write Inspired' to Blackthorns this week. Writing is a big focus for us this year and, thanks to very generous funding from FOBs, we have been able to fund a day's training from Philip on Monday, which was attended by teachers and TAs. The day was incredibly inspirational and motivated the staff to consider new, multi-sensory, engaging routes into writing. Philip then spent two days in school, delivering the approach to writing to different classes in our academy, so that children could benefit from his wonderful teaching and staff could observe and understand the approach in practice. The feedback from the staff and children has been very positive and we are now ideally placed to integrate this approach into our teaching of writing.

ACRO Ambassadors

You will know that we have been working on our learning skills for the last few years. The children use the skills from the different families of Attitudes, Creativity, Relationships and Organisation and understand the Solar School characters that accompany each learning skill within these families. ACRO Ambassadors will be launched this term. This will see the restructure of children's existing roles of responsibility and the introduction of new roles around the academy that will all be closely linked to the ACRO principles and Solar School. No current role and responsibility will be lost during this change. Children who will become an Ambassador will be given a badge to wear for the duration of their responsibility and then will be requested to hand back the badge ready for the next Ambassador. All the children have had an assembly with Mr Jordan, explaining the restructure. The older children were also given the opportunity to apply to be part of the new Pupil Curriculum Committee, which has now been formed of enthusiastic members of our academy.

Sporting Success

Once again, our children have been representing Blackthorns in a range of sporting events. Congratulations to Sam (Year 6), Will (Year 6), Ben (Year 5) and Booh (Year 4), who all represented Blackthorns in the next stage of the cross-country competition. All performed very well and did us all proud. Congratulations also to our hockey team, who have taken part in a tournament this week and have qualified for the area finals. A big thank you to Mr Tugwell, Mr Higgs and Mr Bartlett for organising and coaching our children in preparation for these competitions.

Goodbye to Mr Harris

As you know, Mr Harris retired before half term. Our children and staff gave him a great send-off and he was presented with tickets to see Wasps play rugby as a gift. We wish Mr Harris a wonderful, long and healthy retirement and thank him again for everything he has done to raise the profile of PE and sport at Blackthorns.

Singing Club Spring Concert

I am delighted to report that our Singing Club, led by Mrs Moffatt and Mrs Davies, will be performing a spring concert to parents on **Wednesday 5th April at 5-5.30pm**. More details will follow.

World Book Day

Thank you for your support for our World Book Day activities this week. Our children and staff came to school in pyjamas and onesies to promote bedtime reading and sharing books and we were very pleased to welcome parents and grandparents to school to share a book with their children during a couple of sessions during the day.

Maths Workshops

Mrs Neller will be running some parent workshops on our approach to teaching maths on **Monday 6th March 2017** at **9.30am** and **2.00pm**. Places are limited, so please book with Mrs Day as soon as possible if you are intending to come along.

Key Dates:

Mon 6 th March	Parental maths workshops (9.30am and 2pm)
Wed 8 th March	Class RH parent workshop (8.55 – 9.35am)
	FOBs committee meeting (7.30pm)
Thu 9 th March	Year 4 Riversong production (1.45pm and 5pm)
Fri 10 th March	Interim Reports to be sent home to parents
Mon 13 th March	Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
Wed 15 th March	Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
Fri 17 th March	Key Stage 2 Film Friday

Kind regards

Marianne Brand