



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 17th March 2017

What's great at Blackthorns?

- Class RH have been doing some wonderful Jack and the Beanstalk writing
- Class 6J have also completed some excellent writing, linked to our recent Write Inspired training
- The children learning in the Alps have been working incredibly hard and making very good progress
- Class 2N have really enjoyed playing with their board games, which they created as their take-away task during half term, including some impressive instruction writing
- Class 3C have been doing some descriptive writing about a tower and all children have worked hard and made good progress
- Class 4H have been writing water inspired poetry and have made lots of cross-curricular links
- Class 5D are planning a walking tour of London and have been using their geographical skills to map the route, as well as researching the different landmarks, in preparation for their trip on Monday
- Class 1T have been using their geographical skills to make treasure maps
- Class 4T have been enjoying learning from a range of science experiments

Riversong

A big thank you to Classes 4H and 4T for their amazing performances of Riversong last week. It was wonderful to see so many talents being celebrated and showcased. Thanks also to Mrs Highton, Mr Tugwell, Mrs Moffatt and all of the other staff for their hard work. Thank you to all of the parents for supporting their children.

Maths Workshops and Times Tables Rock Stars

We were really pleased that so many parents were able to attend our Maths workshops last week, delivered by Mrs Neller and Mrs Smith (from the Sussex Maths Hub). The attendees found out all about the mastery approach to maths and the feedback was very positive.

Mrs Neller also introduced 'Times Tables Rock Stars', which has now been launched with children in Years 2-6. You should have received login details and we hope that your children are enjoying improving their recall skills with this online resource.

Staffing news

We are very pleased to have welcomed Mrs Claire Bellamy as our new Finance and HR Assistant. She has already met lots of parents and children and is settling quickly into life at Blackthorns. We have also recently welcomed Luke Skinner-Tucknott as a new after-school cleaner.

Billy Elliot

Class 5D attended a schools' performance of Billy Elliot this week, which was performed by the students at St Paul's Catholic College in Burgess Hill. The staff and children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we were very happy to have been invited.

Forest School Club

Outdoor learning is something that we promote at Blackthorns and I am pleased to say that good use is made of our lovely outside spaces. From the Summer Term 2017 we are excited to be offering a Forest School Club after school each Thursday for Years 1-5. More details will be sent out in the next week or so.

Before and after school

Please remember that parents are responsible on the lower playground for their children before 8.50am (8.45am in Key Stage 2) and after 3.15pm. The expectations of behaviour on the playground during the times before and after school are exactly the same as during the school day. There have recently been reports of children climbing up and down the bank by the steps, climbing in and out of the small hut by the line of trees by the windows, as well as swinging from the trees. We would very much appreciate it if you could ensure that you know where your children are and that you remind them of the playground rules.

Writing Displays

You will know that we have been focusing on the quality of writing at Blackthorns, especially since the start of this half term. The new corridor displays have been going up this week and I would encourage you to come and look at the excellent quality of writing that is displayed. The children and staff are, quite rightly, very proud of their efforts.

Parent Helpers

A reminder that volunteers must have attended Child Protection training in school and have received a DBS check before they are able to volunteer in school. If you would like to attend the Child Protection training, please speak to Mrs Day in the office and when we have enough people I will arrange some more dates and times for these.

If you have completed the training, have a DBS check and are keen to volunteer on a regular or ad-hoc basis, please also speak to Mrs Day, who will make the necessary arrangements with Mrs Neller (for EYFS and Key Stage 1) and Mrs Dodd (for Key Stage 2).

Swimming

The pool have advised us that if children have a verruca(s) they must wear a verruca sock or apply barrier gel – please ask your pharmacist for advice.

Key Dates for the next two weeks:

Monday 20 th March	Class 5D walking tour in London
Wednesday 22 nd March	Year 5/6 girls' football tournament
Friday 24 th March	The Great Blackthorns Bake-Off (information sent separately)
	FOBs Quiz Night
Monday 27 th March	Classes 4H and 4T to Cuckmere Haven
Tuesday 28 th March	Class 2N to Chessington Zoo
	Tag Rugby tournament
	Year 3 Hockey Festival

Kind regards

Marianne Brand