



# BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

## *NEWSLETTER – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017*

Unbelievably, we are at the end of another year at Blackthorns! The years seem to fly by this one has, as ever, been filled with wonderful learning, trips, activities, events, themed weeks, performances, concerts, services and much, much more.

I am so fortunate to work with an incredible group of staff and children, who make life at Blackthorns so enjoyable and rewarding. Thank you to the staff, governors, parents and children for their dedication and enthusiasm.

We wish our fabulous Year 6 children the very best for the future as they leave Blackthorns today.

### **STAFF CHANGES**

I would like to thank Mrs Collins for her wonderful work with Modern Foreign Languages during her two years at Blackthorns. She has great enthusiasm and the children have made great progress with her. We thank her and will miss her very much.

Good luck and best wishes to Mrs Hill, who is leaving after three years at Blackthorns, teaching the youngest children in our academy.

Farewell and best wishes to Mrs Dawborn, who is leaving after twelve years here at Blackthorns. Mrs Dawborn will be missed very much and we wish her good luck in her new role.

In September, we welcome Mrs Emma Cheeseman (Year 1 teacher), Miss Charley Thomas (Reception teacher) and Mrs Colbourne (Teaching Assistant) to Blackthorns and we look forward to working with them.

We are delighted to have just appointed Mrs Emilie Robinson as our new Modern Foreign Languages teacher and we look forward to working with her next year.

### **THANKS**

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank Mr Dean Geale, Mrs Sue Hughes and Mrs Claire Allen for taking on the teaching of Class 1T following the unexpected absence of Mrs Type. The team working with the children has been excellent and we thank them for the stability that they have provided for our children during this very difficult time. Particular thanks also to Mrs Neller, who has co-ordinated and planned the teaching and assessment in Year 1, and to Mrs Manning for her amazing dedication and care for the children in the class.

### **PROPERTY WORK**

There will be a number of projects taking place over the summer holidays. There will be some additional fencing put up around the academy. The biggest project will be the replacement of the school roof, which begins on 7<sup>th</sup> August. Our current roof is 45 years old and the expected life of it when it was installed was 20 years, so we have been requesting funding for this project since before I started at the school 5 years ago. When the children return to school in September, there will be scaffolding around the academy. I have been very encouraged by our meetings with the contractors and, whilst there will inevitably be some disruption, they have reassured me that noise will be kept to a minimum and they will do everything they can to ensure that we can be 'business as usual'. The project will last until at least half term.

## **START THE YEAR**

You should already have received information about this event. In response to the feedback we received last year, the Start the Year meeting will take place earlier in the Autumn Term, on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017** at **7pm**.

## **YEAR 2 PARENTS – UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Just a reminder that children in current Year 2 will no longer be entitled for free school meals from September when they are in Year 3. Should you wish to order hot meals, please go to the West Sussex Meal Selector website. Could I also remind you to ensure that you update your child's class when ordering hot meals for September.

## **SWIMMING**

Swimming will commence on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September for Years 1, 2 and 3. More information at the beginning of term.

## **PARKING AND DRIVING IN THE ROADS AROUND THE ACADEMY**

As in most of my newsletters, I must again mention the importance of driving and parking safely and considerately in the roads around the academy, particularly Blackthorns and Blackthorns Close. This is important to ensure the safety of our children and families. We are aware that there has been a consultation for the implementation of further parking restrictions on Blackthorns Close and these may be in place in September. The patience and goodwill of local residents is certainly running out and there have been communications with West Sussex County Council regarding any further action that could be taken.

Specifically, I have been shown photographs from two separate local residents of the same silver Volkswagen Golf (Y438 MCD) blocking their driveways, so that they have been unable to access their property.

Thank you for your support this year and for the lovely positive feedback that I often receive from parents. I wish you all a very restful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017** for the new academic year.

Kind regards

*Marianne Brand*