



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 8th September 2017

Welcome back to the new academic year at Blackthorns. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer. We have enjoyed hearing all about the holidays from the children this week. It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday morning and all classes have made a good start to the year, with some excellent learning already.

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you all very much for the lovely gifts, cards and letters that we all received at the end of last year. These are always greatly appreciated.

Building Projects

You will, of course, have noticed the scaffolding surrounding the academy. The work to replace the academy roof started at the beginning of August and is expected to run up until October half term. This may be extended if the weather is particularly wet during this half term.

During the summer, one of our oldest oak trees was also removed, as it was judged to be rotten and a danger to users of our site. We have also had our perimeter fencing upgraded in order to meet safeguarding requirements.

The second phase of the Key Stage 2 playground equipment was also completed, thanks to funding from FOBs. There is a new gazebo and target boards on the playground which will be used during PE lessons as well as break and lunch times.

Key Stage 2 morning arrangements

At our Start the Year Meeting on Wednesday I announced that mornings will be working slightly differently in Key Stage 2 from this term. Children are now invited to come into school from 8.40am, but are still expected to arrive by 8.50am. Staff will be on duty in the Key Stage 2 areas and classrooms, but there will no longer be a member of staff on duty in the Key Stage 2 playground in the morning. It is hoped that these arrangements, as opposed to all of the children coming in to school and trying to access the cloakrooms at the same time, will lead to a more efficient and calmer start to the day.

Parking and driving in the roads around the academy

Just a reminder to park and drive safely and considerately in the roads around the academy. As always, we would encourage those that can to walk to school each day.

Child Protection Training for volunteers

We welcome parent and grandparent helpers at Blackthorns. Anybody wanting to volunteer is asked to complete a form (attached) and return this to Mrs Neller (EYFS/KS1) or Mrs Dodd (KS2). All volunteers are required to undergo an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance and must also attend Child Protection training for volunteers.

Child Protection training has been arranged for **Thursday 14th September at 2pm, Monday 18th September at 9.30am and Friday 22nd September at 11am.** Please book a space with Mrs Day in the academy office.

Secondary Schools Open events

Year 6 parents are reminded that they will be required to apply for a secondary school place this term. All local secondary schools have information on their websites regarding open evenings. We will send any information that we receive from the secondary schools home to Year 6 families.

Hot Meals

Please could I remind you to ensure that you put your child's current class when ordering hot meals as this helps with our administration of hot meals.

Inhalers

If your child uses an inhaler and needs to have one in school please send this into the school office as soon as possible.

Dates for this term

Dates for the term are being confirmed currently and will be sent out as soon as possible. However, just as an advance notice, Parents' Consultation Meetings will be held on Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th November 2017 from 3.30pm to 6.30pm.

Key Dates for the next two weeks

Thursday 14th September - Safeguarding Training 2.00pm

Saturday 16th September - Woods Day 10.00am – 1.30pm

Monday 18th September - Safeguarding Training 9.30am

Friday 22nd September – Safeguarding Training 1.00am

Kind regards

Marianne Brand