



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 22nd September 2017

What's Great at Blackthorns?

- Class RT have settled in to school life very well
- Class 1C have been doing some great handwriting and sentence work
- Class 2N have been doing a daily counting activity, which has been reinforcing maths knowledge and vocabulary
- Class 3C have been designing machines and some lovely art work around this
- Class 4H have been outstanding! New maths resources are being used independently and the children are having lovely conversations about maths
- Class 5D have also been securing their maths knowledge using the new maths resources
- Class 5T's whole class reading have been great, with rich discussions and detailed responses
- Class 6J have been doing some fantastic independent writing
- The children in the Alps have been completing some excellent writing about Conflict

Write Inspired

You may remember that Philip Davies visited Blackthorns earlier this year and completed some inspirational training with the staff, as well as delivering some wonderful writing sessions to the children. The Write Inspired approach was at the centre of the Class 6J's first writing unit and we were very proud to see that, following an email from Mrs Jago, Philip Davies tweeted a photograph of a display of the children's writing.

Driving and parking near the academy

As usual, I need to remind parents and carers to have consideration for local residents and for safety when driving and parking in the roads around the academy. We are very hopeful that parking restrictions will soon be in place on Blackthorns Close to ensure the safety of pedestrians. Until this is the case, please can I ask you not to park on both sides of Blackthorns Close. As we discovered earlier this year, when cars park on both sides it is impossible for the emergency services to access the academy.

In addition, there appear to be more and more incidents of motorists parking across driveways, preventing local residents from accessing their properties. This photograph (car registration Y798TCR) is just one of many that have been sent to me by local residents:



In many cases, there is enough space between driveways for two cars to park without blocking driveways. I am also alarmed to hear that, when some motorists have been challenged by residents, they have responded in a rude and disrespectful way. I have asked Mr Still at Lindfield Primary Academy to mention this in his academy's newsletter too, as I am aware that there are some Lindfield parents that park in the roads around Blackthorns.

Academy Development Planning

At this time in the year, we are working on our Academy Development Plan for the academic year. We use a wide range of sources of information to identify our priorities for improvement during the year. We are also looking at our aims, values and vision for our academy. In order to support us in this, there is a board on the playground after school today and Monday and we are asking parents to describe Blackthorns in one word. This activity is largely for the parents as we will be asking the children to complete a different activity in the next week or so.

Term Dates

Are attached to this newsletter. As ever, they are subject to change, but we hope you will find them helpful. All dates are also added to the diary on our website.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is our number one priority at Blackthorns. For your information, the UoBAT Safeguarding and Child Protection policy can be found on our academy website. There is a link from our Policies page to the University of Brighton Academies Trust policies, where the policy can be found. If you have any queries regarding safeguarding procedures or anything else to do with safeguarding, please direct your queries to me as the academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or Mr Jordan, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Show Racism the Red Card

We have been selected to take a small group of pupils to attend a special Show Racism the Red Card conference at the American Express Community Stadium. This will complement the work we do in school regarding Fundamental British Values and Equality. Mr Tugwell and I will be choosing some children from Years 5 and 6 to attend this conference over the next few weeks.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will take place on Wednesday 29th November during the afternoon. Consent forms have already been sent home, please could you ensure that these are returned as soon as possible.

Spare Clothes

If you have pants or socks that your children no longer require (age 5 to 8 years, boys or girls) we would be grateful to receive them.

Eco Committee

The Eco Committee would like to receive any unwanted garden canes and pine cones – thank you.

Key Dates for the next two weeks

Friday 29th September – Y3/4 Football Tournament (details to follow)

Friday 29th September – Year 6 to Clair Hall WWII Workshop

Monday 2nd October – Year 6 to IOW

Tuesday 3rd October – Year 5 Greek Workshop

Wednesday 4th October – Y3/4 Netball Tournament (details to follow)

Kind regards

Marianne Brand