



# BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

## *NEWSLETTER – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

### **What's Great at Blackthorns?**

- Speaking and listening skills in Class RT are improving. They have also enjoyed their 2D shape hunts and learning all about Miss Molly
- Class 1C are doing very well with the "daily count" and are also making great progress in phonics
- Class 2N enjoyed a wonderful Explorer Day and have also begun a new approach to spelling, which is going very well
- Class 3C have been creating rhyming couplets with a simile and are also very enthusiastically completing their mymaths homework
- Class 4H have been successfully using fronted adverbials and are also rounding phenomenally in maths lessons
- Class 5T have been completing some wonderful planets science artwork
- Class 5D have been completing some very impressive Hercules artwork
- Class 6J enjoyed their Isle Of Wight maths investigation last week
- Year 5 all thoroughly enjoyed their Greek Day this week. Thank you to the parents and children for the considerable effort with costumes and props

### **Year 6 residential trip**

Class 6J have spent this week at Little Canada in the Isle of Wight. They have had a really wonderful week, working together as a team and learning so many new things. Mrs Jago has been keeping us up-to-date (and very entertained!!!) throughout the week with a blog, which can be found on the academy website homepage. I would like to thank Mrs Jago, Mrs Ripley, Mr Davis and Mrs Hughes for volunteering to go on this residential visit. This type of activity is certainly not in their job descriptions, but they all go willingly because they are so keen for the children to have this wonderful experience. We look forward to the children and staff returning later today and hearing all about their adventures.

### **Harvest Service – reminder**

The service will take place at All Saints Church, Lindfield on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 9.20am, to which you are warmly invited. **Please drop your child at the Tiger Lounge, by 9.00am but no earlier than 8.45am (please do not arrive earlier than this as we cannot take responsibility for children before this time)** which is located along the High Street just before the church, where a member of staff will meet you. **Please note that, on this occasion, Reception Class will not attend the service but will remain in school so please drop off at school at the usual time.** The children will walk back to school following the service – if anyone is able to help walk back please let the class teacher know (each class will require 5/6 helpers). Please ensure the you inform the school office if your child will not be attending the service.

Unfortunately, for safety reasons, we request that **only two adults per family** attend the Harvest Service. We will not be issuing tickets, but will be relying on our families' goodwill and honesty in complying with this request.

This year we will again be supporting Crawley Open House which provides support and guidance to homeless, disadvantaged and socially excluded adults. Last year they provided 2200 free hot meals and food parcels to the homeless and disadvantaged. To help support them we would like to make a collection of the following: coffee, sugar, UHT milk, tinned food (especially tinned meat/curry/soup etc), cooking sauces, pasta sauces/pasta, biscuits, cereal and toilet rolls. We would ask that donations are brought into school from Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – **please do not bring donations to the church.**

### **Online Safety**

We are aware that more and more of our pupils are now getting mobile phones. We have held a number of parental online safety workshops in the last few years, but I would like to remind you that the terms and conditions of all social media engagement require the users to be 13 years old or above. This includes communication apps such as Whatsapp. I would strongly advise parents not to allow their children to use this or other forms of social media at primary school age.

### **Woods Day**

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped with the Woods Day a few weekends ago. They all worked incredibly hard to get the woods cleared as much as possible and we are now considering ways of further developing the woods so that we make even greater use of the wonderful facilities that we have here at Blackthorns. Thanks to Mrs Thomas for co-ordinating this event.

### **Roof Update**

You will have noticed more activity on the roof in the last week or so and the relatively dry weather has really helped the roofers to make up some of the time lost at the start of the project. As far as I am aware, the project is still scheduled to finish the week after half term. We have been really impressed with how sensible the children have been about the whole project, even though there have been some noise issues in some classrooms. The contractors have not needed to be in the school building while the children are in school at all, but the levels of light have been reduced due to the scaffolding and the temporary boarding up of the skylights, until the new ones are installed. We will all be delighted once the project has finished!

### **Year 6 Secondary Transfer**

I have been asked to remind you that the closing date for secondary transfer applications is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. If you have not yet submitted your application I would urge you to do so as soon as possible.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is our most important role when working with young children. This is something that we take very seriously. I am the academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mr Jordan is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Our safeguarding and child protection policy can be found in the policies section of our academy website. Please feel free to come and see me or Mr Jordan if you have any concerns or queries regarding safeguarding.

### **Key Dates for the next two weeks**

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Year 4 visit to Ashdown Forest
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Years 3 & 4 Cross Country Competition
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	-	FOBs AGM at 7.45pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Harvest Service at All Saints Church
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	-	FOBs Sparkling Wine Tasting Evening
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Open Day (Sept 2018 Intake only) 9.30am & 1.45pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Years 5 & 6 Boys Football Tournament
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Years 5 & 6 Girls Football Tournament
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Year 3 visit to Bluebell Railway
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Academy closed for Inset
Week Beginning 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	-	Half Term
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	-	School re-opens

Kind regards

*Marianne Brand*