



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 17th November 2017

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION WEEK

This week Blackthorns has been going Geography crazy! The whole academy has taken part in a theme week based around finding out more about our local area and learning all the skills we would need to know in order to become better map readers, map makers and map followers.

The week began with many classes choosing to get out of the classroom and observe their environment. Year 6 combined a World War 2 historical walk into Lindfield, with an opportunity to count vehicles and consider the traffic problems in the village; Year 5 became compass geniuses: designing routes and taking bearings; Year 4 were out on the playing fields measuring distances; Year 3 walked to Haywards Heath Station to consider the local transport links, Year 2 and Year 1 have been drawing buildings they saw in the village; and Reception have written sentences about where they live.

Back in the classroom the school became a hive of activity. Giant maps were built: on walls and tables. Children were busy conducting surveys, measuring angles, designing map symbols and writing about their findings.

On Wednesday afternoon we had a fabulous surprise when a drone, owned by ex-pupil and local photography expert Jacob Neller, visited us. The whole academy gathered on the playing fields to count down the take off. Up it went, filming us all waving, and proceeded to fly over the academy and surrounding area recording the landscape, before landing to another cheer! We gathered in the school hall to watch the footage, which was spectacular: We were able to clearly see examples of the human and physical geography of the area: the village, the allotments, the school etc. Children were invited to ask Jacob questions before returning to their classrooms, bursting to write about the experience.



TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHER

A reminder that the school photographer will be in school on **Monday 20th November 2017** to take individual and family group portraits. If parents would like pre-school children photographed as a family group (parents may be included) then please just turn up at 8.15am. You are not obliged to purchase any photographs.

DRIVING AND PARKING AROUND THE ACADEMY

Thank you very much to the many parents and carers who drive and park carefully, considerately and safely in the roads around the academy. There is still a minority of road-users who do not consider safety or the local residents. Please do not park on both sides of Blackthorns Close as this prevents emergency vehicles accessing the academy. Please do not drive or park on pavements or block driveways.

ROOF UPDATE

As you will have noticed, the roof project was not completed by half-term, as we had originally been promised! I am led to believe that the project will be complete imminently, with the solar panels being restored and the scaffolding removed before the end of the autumn term.

PARENT COUNCIL

I am keen to develop a 'Parent Council' which, much like our School Council, is a group of parents who come together termly to discuss different aspects of the academy in order to have a positive impact on provision. Please see Mrs Day if you would like to join this group and also give her an idea of suitable days and times for the meetings, so that I can identify a time that is convenient for a majority of volunteers.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Some of our Year 6 children represented our academy last Sunday at the Lindfield Remembrance service at All Saints Church. A big thank you to Anna, Henry and Johnny for laying the poppy wreath on behalf of Blackthorns and for reading their poem to the congregation.

JAPANESE CLUB

We are very excited to be offering a new Japanese Club on Tuesday lunchtimes for Key Stage 2 pupils. I would like to thank our new Modern Foreign Languages teacher, Mrs Robinson, for her hard work in securing funding for this wonderful addition to our extra-curricular offering. You may not be surprised to hear that the clubs have been heavily over-subscribed, so we are thinking about how we can include as many children as possible.

SWIMMING

Please note that there will be no swimming on Friday 15th December. A credit will be given in the Spring Term for this session.

Key Dates for the next two weeks

Monday 20 th November	-	Individual/family group photographs
Friday 24 th November	-	No hot meals (packed lunch provided for Rec/Yr1 & Yr2)
Saturday 25 th November	-	FOBs Christmas Fair 11.00am – 1.30pm
Wednesday 29 th November	-	Open Morning (Sept 2018 intake)
Sunday 3 rd December	-	Kim John Family Portrait Session (1 slot left)

Key Dates for Christmas

Tuesday 12 th December	-	Pantomime – Aladdin (in school)
Wednesday 13 th December	-	Chartwells hot Christmas lunch (order by 3 rd December)
Friday 15 th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children) 2.00pm Christmas Service at All Saints Church
Monday 18 th December	-	Nativity (Rec, Yr1 & Yr2) at 2.00pm
Tuesday 19 th December	-	Nativity (Rec, Yr1 & Yr2) at 9.30am
Wednesday 20 th December	-	FOBs Party Lunch for children FOBs Mulled Wine/Raffle at 2.30pm

Further details to follow in due course for all of these events

Kind regards

Marianne Brand