



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 26th January 2018

What's great at Blackthorns?

- Class 3C have been working hard to test and improve their wind turbine designs
- Both Year 5 classes have been enjoying extending some of their STEM Week learning using 'Sketch Up' and making real-life links
- Class 2N had a wonderful 'Polar Bear Explorers' Club' book immersion week to start their new learning topic
- Class 1C are gaining in independence and maturity every day
- Class R have been really enjoying their firefighters topic and have amazed Miss Thomas, Mrs Manning and Mrs Colbourne with their brilliant facts and knowledge
- Class 6J have been working very hard on their Matchbox Adventures

STEM Week Open Session

Thanks very much to the many parents and other family members who attended our open session after school last Monday. We have received lots of very positive feedback from our visitors regarding the STEM Week learning and also the opportunity to look in the children's books.

Wet Mornings

We have been experiencing a lot of wet weather at drop-off time over the last few weeks, so I thought it might help to give a reminder regarding arrangements for wet mornings. The school gate opens at 8.30am and when it is raining children can go into school from **8.40am**. Please do not go into school before this time as we will not have sufficient staff to supervise the children. **Please can parents of children in Years 1 and 2 say goodbye to their children at the bottom of the steps in the Key Stage 1 playground as they would on any other day.** Having a lot of extra adults in the Key Stage 1 area in the morning is disruptive to the start of the school day.

Author Visit

If you visited the Key Stage 2 shared area during the Autumn Term, you will have seen the fantastic door display on the Year 5 classroom doors, which were transformed into the front cover of the Year 5 key text 'Who Let The Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. Mrs Dodd sent Maz Evans a photograph of the display and we were very pleased when she tweeted the photograph in order to share it with all of her 4700 Twitter followers:



The photograph was much admired by Maz's fans and many other teachers. Maz Evans is a very popular author, particularly amongst our older children and I am delighted to announce that Mrs Dodd has arranged for her to visit Blackthorns during the summer term and work with all of our year groups. We will be sending more details about this nearer the time.

Class RT – Phonics, Facts and Families

Parents of children in Class RT are invited to join us for 'Phonics, Facts and Families' on Monday 5th February from 9.00am to 10.15am in the academy hall. During this meeting, we will give you more information on the different people involved in your children's education and Miss Thomas will give some information on the teaching of phonics through the Sounds~Write programme.

School Funding

You may be aware of the campaign which is known as 'Worth Less? West Sussex Schools Campaign for Fairer Funding'. Its campaign for fairer funding for all schools and academies in West Sussex has recently been featured in the media. The group has been organising a range of co-ordinated activities, many of which are detailed on its Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WorthLessWestSussex/>, which is the best place to find out more about the campaign and how parents can support it.

Kind regards

Marianne Brand