



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 5th February 2018

What's great at Blackthorns?

- Class 5T have been doing some great work around the theme of Respect, which included them interviewing each other.
- Class 4H have been enjoying a great unit of learning on tag rugby.
- Class 1C had a brilliant Space Day and have also been using the hall apparatus in gymnastics lessons.
- Class 3C completed some excellent non-chronological reports as a homework task.
- There have been lots of great things going on in Class 6J! They have been doing some great science investigations with light and have also been doing some writing in French. Mrs Jago would like to thank the parents for contributing to the children's homework task by writing (in their very best handwriting) about how they use Maths and English skills within their jobs. Particular congratulations to Mrs Deeble for her excellent use of punctuation!
- Mrs Neller is absolutely delighted with everything that Class 2N are doing!
- Class 5D have been demonstrating great grit and determination with their maths fact fluency.
- Class RT have been using the apparatus in gymnastics and have been very sensible during these lessons.

Netball Match

Congratulations to the Key Stage 2 netballers who took part in two matches against Harlands last week. Mrs Cheeseman was so proud of the children and how hard they worked throughout, losing one and winning one match. It was a great experience for the children. Thanks to Mr Tugwell, Mrs Cheeseman and the parents who helped with transport.

Attendance

Schools have a legal obligation to monitor attendance and to challenge in cases where attendance is below a particular level. Children with attendance below 90% (equivalent to half a day off every week) are classified as 'Persistent Absentees' and the school is expected to take steps to ensure that the child's attendance improves. As a result, we monitor attendance each half term. We obviously recognise that there are often very genuine reasons for children to be away from school.

In addition, family holidays during term-time will not be authorised, in line with government guidelines and the University of Brighton Academies Trust Attendance Policy, which is available on our website. Absence during term-time is only authorised in exceptional circumstances.

International Mother Language Day

We are delighted to be celebrating International Mother Language Day on Wednesday 22nd February 2018. We have already had several volunteers to come into school and share their mother language with some of our children. If anyone else is able to volunteer on this day from 9-9.30am, please contact Mrs Day in the academy office. Many thanks to Mrs Robinson for organising this exciting event, which will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the wide range of languages and cultures that are part of our academy community.

Parent Council

If you would like to volunteer to join our Parent Council group, please contact Mrs Day in the academy office.

Parking and Driving locally

Please drive and park with consideration and safety in mind when using the roads around the academy.

Safer Internet Day

This week we worked with the children on ensuring they are safe online. We talked about the importance of showing each other respect when communicating online and we considered several different scenarios and talked about the appropriate ways to respond and the importance of asking for help from an adult. We have sent home some information to help parents keep their children safe online, which I hope you have found useful.

Key Dates

Monday 19 th Feb	INSET Day – academy closed
Tuesday 20 th Feb	Academy re-opens at 8.50am
Friday 23 rd Feb	Interim Reports to be sent home to parents FOBs Hot Chocolate Friday
Monday 26 th Feb	Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm) No art club
Wednesday 28 th Feb	Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm) No art club
Friday 2 nd Mar	FOBs disco

Kind regards

Marianne Brand