



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 27th April 2018

What's Great at Blackthorns?

- Class 1C have written some fantastic story predictions of what they think will be in the Secret Garden, using great imagination and description. They also enjoyed the reptile visit and remembered lots of facts.
- Class 3C have been very successful at ordering fractions.
- Class 4H are enjoying their new topic. There has been lots of learning about the Roman Empire, the invasion of Britain and Boudicca, including great vocabulary work.
- Class 6J created a wonderful Write Inspired sound story which then prompted some outstanding writing. They also did some excellent fitness routines with Mrs Hughes.
- Class RT have been designing and building a bug hotel as part of their minibeast topic.
- Class 5T have carried out some fantastic science investigations around plants. Who knew there were so many parts to a plant?
- Class 2N really enjoyed their visit from Reptylers, especially meeting the enormous Burmese python! They have also completed some lovely rainforest writing, inspired by Write Inspired, using soundscape and picture prompts.
- Enthusiastic rehearsals have started for the Y5 performance: 'The Greatest Show'. The children (and adults!) are enjoying learning the songs as well as learning to play the accompanying music too (piano, guitar, drums, violin, clarinet and hornet) and the children have taken real autonomy and responsibility for its success.

Sporting News

A huge well done to all the Year 5 and 6 children who represented the school at the regional tag-rugby competition. We took 3 squads of children and everyone did superbly well. Our Year 6 team came 3rd having won 4 games and lost 2. The weather was appalling; however the children showed a great deal of determination and kept smiling throughout.



BBC Young Musician of the Year

Mrs Moffatt is currently basing some of the music lessons within school on the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition and she would like to encourage the children to watch this on the television or catch-up, particularly the percussion contestants.

Blackthorns at the Royal Wedding!

We were all incredibly excited to hear that our very own Mrs Davies (AKA Elin Manahan Thomas), who is mum to Joseph in Year 3 and also runs our weekly Singing Club with Mrs Moffatt, is going to be singing at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle! We are hoping that she will come and tell us all about it and we'll be watching for her on our TV screens on 19th May. Good luck, Mrs Davies!

INSET Day

On the INSET Day at the end of the Spring Term, the staff were again given the fantastic opportunity to work with Philip Davis from Write Inspired, who we worked with during the last academic year. You will see from the 'What's Great?' section that this training has already had a very positive impact in inspiring the teaching of writing across the academy. Philip visited us for three days last year and spent a day training the teachers and then two days demonstrating this multi-sensory approach to writing with the children in the academy. This, alongside other initiatives, played a huge role in the improvement of writing across the academy last year and we were delighted to welcome Philip back and to build on the excellent work that he did here previously. A big thank you to FOBs, who have agreed to fund this training, after funding the initial training last year. We are very lucky to be so brilliantly supported by the fundraising efforts of FOBs.

Local Board news and thanks

At the end of last term there were some changes on our Local Board of governors, as it is now three years since we became an academy. Andy Bartlett has now stepped down from the Local Board after being involved for several years. Andy has offered a huge amount of support for the academy during his time on the Local Board, from coaching the hockey team, to supporting with curriculum matters, and many different things in between. I would personally like to thank Andy for his excellent support and encouragement, particularly when representing the academy during our two recent visits from Ofsted, for our own inspection and when we were visited as part of the West Sussex SEN inspection. We have been very lucky to have such an advocate for the academy, as well as someone with a good understanding of education and how children learn best and we will miss him.

I am delighted to report that, following our recent election, Mrs Julie Keylock has now become a new member of the Local Board, representing parents. We are all looking forward to working with Julie and thank her for her commitment to the academy moving forwards.

Year 5 – walking to and from school

As we are now into the Summer Term, many of our Year 5 children have begun to walk to and from school independently. A reminder for parents please that we must have your consent in writing for your child to walk to and from school on their own or with friends. The form to be completed has been sent out, but please see Mrs Day for another copy if needed.

Forthcoming Diary Dates

Sports Day (KS1 am KS2 pm) – Tuesday 3rd July (Reserve date Wednesday 4th July)

Year 4H Performance – Wednesday 16th May at 6.00pm

Year 5D/5T Performance - Wednesday 23rd May at 7.00pm

Further details to follow in due course.

INSET Days 2018/19

INSET dates have now been set for the 2018/19 academic year and are as follows:

3rd September 2018

19th October 2018

25th February 2019

24th May 2019

22nd July 2019

23rd July 2019

We have set the INSET days with the main focus of meeting the staff's professional development needs throughout the year, but have also considered the views of families with regards to booking family holidays, etc. As you know, we always try to set the same INSET days as Lindfield Primary Academy as we share a good number of families. Largely this has been possible, with some dates slightly different due to the fact that the two academies have different needs and priorities.

Moonwalk 2018

On Saturday 12th May 2018, I will be doing the breast cancer Moonwalk – a 26.2 mile walk through the streets of London in the middle of the night to raise money for breast cancer charities, which support research and treatment for breast cancer in both men and women, which has affected and is still affecting my friends and family. I have seen many children and families from school over the last few months as I have been pounding the pavements of Haywards Heath, Lindfield and Cuckfield in preparation for the big night. If you would like to sponsor me, the link is below. Thank you very much.

<http://wtwalk.org/moonwalklondon2018/marianne-10>

Key Dates

Monday 7 th May	-	Academy Closed (Bank Holiday)
Wednesday 9 th May	-	FOBs Meeting at 7.45pm
Saturday 12 th May	-	FOBs 90's Disco

Kind regards

Marianne Brand