



BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER – 8th June 2018

What's Great at Blackthorns?

- Class RT have been writing mini beast stories
- Class 1C have been enjoying their class frogs! Lots of excitement and vocabulary work.
- Class 2N have been doing some great deadly creatures work
- Class 3C enjoyed their learning about the Ugly Bug Ball
- Class 4H really enjoyed their beetle story writing, inspired by the work of the author M G Leonard
- Class 5T have particularly enjoyed their cricket sessions with our visiting specialist coach and increased their general skill levels
- Class 5D have been enjoying learning all about bees – great homework and learning in class. Class 5T would also like to thank the parents who have helped sort out the garden
- Class 6J have completed some great science writing about living things

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that full school uniform is expected at all times, this includes appropriate footwear. Trainers are not acceptable school uniform, even if a child has grown out of their current school shoes. We ask that parents ensure that children have appropriate black or brown footwear, as stated in our uniform policy (available on the academy website).

Attendance Request

I am sure you are aware that Blackthorns will be breaking up for the summer holidays on Friday 20th July 2018, two days earlier than a majority of schools in West Sussex. When our term dates are planned, we consider many things, but a very large consideration is for our families. By breaking up slightly earlier than other schools, we hope that this will help families to have holidays together during the summer. However, please be aware that term ends at 3.10/3.15pm on Friday 20th July 2018 and not before. Learning will be taking place right up until the end of term and there are also events planned for the children to take part in during that last week. Absences for holidays will not be authorised and may result in families receiving Fixed Penalty Notice fines from the local authority.

Village Day

A big thank you for your support at Lindfield Village Day last weekend. As always, the Blackthorns walking procession was a sight to behold. The effort that went into the children's costumes was brilliant and the number of people that came along to support the school was exceptional. We are delighted to have received our 16th '1st place' rosette in a row. In an unexpected twist, we also received the 'Judge's Special Award' this year. An enormous thank you to our creative genius (Mrs Neller) and all the staff for their hard work to get ready and also for helping to get everything to and from the procession on Village Day.



Performances

I would like to thank the children and staff for their hard work on the two recent performances that have taken place at Blackthorns. Both Class 4H's 'The Romans' and Year 5's 'The Greatest Show' were absolutely wonderful and showcased the amazing talents of our children. Thanks, as always, to our parents for supporting these events.

Open Day – Tuesday 19th June

You are warmly invited to our **Open Morning on Tuesday 19th June between 9.15 and 11.30am**. This is an informal opportunity for all parents, relatives and members of the community to come along and see the school in action! Please report to the hall where you will be asked to sign in and your child(ren) will be collected by a Year 6 child, they will then show you around the school and grounds. Refreshments will be available all morning and there will also be an opportunity to sample hot school meals between 9.45 and 10.45am. Nearly new uniform will be on sale and a representative from Clarks Shoe Shop will also be available to give advice on fitting and styles of school shoes. We hope you will be able to come and look forward to welcoming you to Blackthorns.

Sports Day – Tuesday 3rd July

You are invited to join us for Sports Day which takes place on Tuesday 3rd July. KS1 sports will be during the morning commencing at 9.30am finishing around 11.00am. KS2 will take place in the afternoon starting at 1.30pm and finishing at about 3.00pm. The children will be asked by their teacher to wear a coloured T-shirt according to which team they are in, please do not buy anything especially as we can improvise if necessary. It would be helpful if the children could wear their PE Kit to school in the morning. A decision will be made at 8.00am on Tuesday 3rd July if we need to cancel due to bad weather – a message will be written on the blackboards and also sent out by Parentmail. The reserve date is Wednesday 4th July when arrangements will be the same. **The school staff are responsible for the children during Sports' Day and will ensure that they have everything they need.**

2018/19 Class Allocations

Information regarding class allocations for the 2018/19 academic year will be sent out to parents later on this term. Transition sessions will be arranged and information will be sent about these. There are a huge number of factors to consider when making these important decisions and it is only at a certain stage in the term that we are able to properly put plans in place. I know that children and parents are always very keen to know what the arrangements are, but there are still six weeks of learning in this current year to focus on. As always, information will be sent to all parents at the same time, so academy staff will not be able to provide any information regarding arrangements until these have been sent out officially by the academy.

Drop off and Pick up

A reminder that we are responsible for the children at Blackthorns between 8.50am (8.40am in KS2) and 3.10/3.15pm. We are increasingly concerned by the amount of children being dropped to school particularly early and those not collected until significantly after the end of the school day. Please be aware that we cannot take responsibility for children before 8.40/8.50am and after 3.15pm due to staffing requirements. If you are unable to drop off or pick up at the appropriate times, please ensure some form of childcare for your child.

Key Dates

Tuesday 12 th June	-	Year 5 to the British Museum
Wednesday 13 th June	-	Reception to Brighton Sealife Centre
Thursday 14 th June	-	'Bags of Support' Collection Day
Monday 18 th June	-	Year 4 to Fishbourne
Tuesday 18 th June	-	Open Morning 9.15 – 11.30am
Thursday 21 st June	-	Year 6 'Big Businesses' trade day 1
Friday 22 nd June	-	Year 2 to Tilgate Park (details to follow)

Kind regards

Marianne Brand