

# NEWS FROM BLACKTHORNS



BLACKTHORNS  
COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Number 7: 14th December 2018

## PARKING PROBLEMS... AGAIN!!!!

I am aware that the cold weather can have an impact on people choosing to walk to and from school, but the parking situation in the roads around the academy has continued to deteriorate. Cars are regularly being abandoned on double yellow lines, zig-zag lines or parked on the pavement. All of these are very dangerous for pedestrians. In addition, residents of Woodpecker Chase have reported that vehicles are being parked in the road at drop-off and pick-up times. This is a private road and parking is not permitted. Please ensure that you do not leave your car here. We have also been asking parents from Blackthorns and Lindfield to refrain from parking on both sides of Blackthorns Close. With cars parked on both sides, emergency vehicles are not able to access the academy and it makes visibility coming up and down the road highly reduced. **Please help us to keep your children safe**, as the current driving and parking situation could result in a serious accident. Below are a selection of some of the recent parking situations that we have been made aware of. In addition, parents are not permitted to park on the Lindfield Primary Academy site and walk across the field.



## What's Great?

- Class RN have written some lovely letters to Father Christmas
- Class 3C have been creating their own codes
- Class 1S have been working hard to prepare for the nativity, learning the songs and actions
- Class 2C have also been working hard to learn their lines for the nativity
- Both Year 6 classes have been carrying out some very high quality topic work linked to their Conflict topic, as well as completing their Bikeability courses
- Class 5T have shown great maturity when working together in both English and Maths activities
- Class 4H have been very kind to each other and others in observing 'Do Good December', with a different act of kindness each day

A reminder that children are expected to be in school by 8.50am as learning begins immediately. The school register is closed promptly at 9am, so any children not in the classrooms by then will be marked as late (this is counted as an unauthorised absence). From January 2019, the school gate will be closed promptly at 8.55am.

### KEY DATES

- 18th Dec:** Panto day. Years 5 and 6 to 'Sleeping Beauty' in Horsham, EYFS-Year 4 'Peter Pan' in school
- 19th Dec:** Last day of Autumn Term/ FOBs party lunch/ Grand Raffle and mince pies
- 3rd Jan:** First day of the Spring Term. The academy re-opens at 8.50am

## NEW ROLES DECIDED

During the summer term 2018 we decided to choose a Head Boy, Head Girl and deputies for this academic year. As a result, the staff have been watching the children for those exemplary role models and nominations were made in November. Five boys and five girls were nominated and then a ballot box was placed in the staff room and all staff members were invited to vote. I am delighted to announce that the following children have been 'crowned':



**Head Boy:** Louis Weir

**Head Girl:** Ella Ramsbottom

**Deputy Head Boy:** Finley Savage

**Deputy Head Girl:** Daisy Clark

The children have already been busy in their new roles, and they met with some visitors from The Burgess Hill Academy this week to talk about safety at Blackthorns. I suspect they will be kept very busy in their roles as ambassadors at Blackthorns.

WE WISH YOU ALL A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR. AND  
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

A big thank you for supporting our Christmas performances this week. The children and staff all worked incredibly hard and I am sure you will agree that they all performed brilliantly! We will miss our normal service at All Saints on the last day of term this year, but are very hopeful that we will be able to have a service in the church at Easter, when it has reopened.



## ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

Given the current sub-zero temperatures, I feel it is important that I remind you of the arrangements should the academy need to close due to extreme weather. Firstly, I would like to assure you that the decision to close the academy, in consultation with the Local Board is always a last resort. In making this decision, we consider the safety of the school site, as well as the safety of pupils, parents and staff when travelling to and from the Academy. The majority of class teachers do not live in the Haywards Heath or Lindfield areas. We will always endeavour to make an early decision and announcement should the academy need to close, but of course the conditions do not always allow this to happen. Communications to parents regarding a closure will be through ParentMail, our school website, our Twitter and Facebook pages, the West Sussex website and via local radio stations (Heart FM, More Radio and BBC Sussex). In the event of a heavy snowfall during school hours and a decision being made to close the academy early, a message will be sent using ParentMail and all those not registered with ParentMail will be telephoned. However, we would like to encourage all parents to register (with two email addresses if possible) with ParentMail if they can. We will always open the academy if we possibly can, but parking in and use of Blackthorns Close and the normal school gate may not be possible. If this is the case, school staff will be available to inform parents and pupils of any necessary changes to our usual school routines. We have occasionally had to delay the start of the school day to ensure that the hill is safe for pedestrians. We will not inform the radio stations of any timing changes, these will be communicated through ParentMail, Twitter, Facebook and the school website.

- 4th Jan:** No swimming lessons (start 11th January 2019)
- 15th Feb:** Academy closes for half term
- 25th Feb:** Academy closed (INSET Day)
- 26th Feb:** Academy re-opens