

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. On behalf of myself and the academy staff, thank you very much for the many gifts and cards that we all received before Christmas. At such a busy time of year, we all really appreciate these lovely gestures of thanks.

Thank you also for your support with the various different events at the end of last term. Nativity plays, carol concerts, Christmas Fairs, panto trips and the many other things would be impossible without your support and we thank you for this.

## What's Great?

**Class RN** have been doing some great work on 'There's a Dragon in my Book' with some very special Blackthorns dinosaur eggs hatching in the Reception classroom

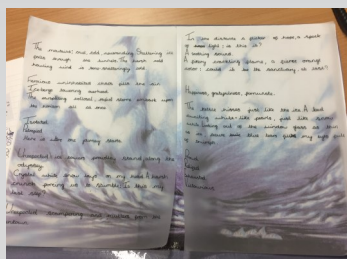
**Class 1S** have been learning about coding with the help of their Year 6 buddies



The children in **Class 2C** have worked very hard on their Christmas take-away tasks and have started their new topic with lots of enthusiasm  
**Class 3C** are enjoying their new topic of **The Vikings** and are working hard, especially with their writing  
**Class 4H** have made a brilliant start to their **Mayan** topic—'Ministry of Chocolate'

**Class 5T** are producing some excellent learning linked to their text 'The Arrival'.

Both **Year 6** classes are enjoying their 'Journeys' topic and have been completing a Write Inspired unit of writing linked to 'Shackleton's Journey'.



## DIARY DATES

At the foot of this newsletter are key dates for the Spring Term. As always, these are subject to change. Many of the teachers are busily planning trips and experiences for the children and, as and when these are confirmed, these will be added to the dates and sent with the fortnightly newsletter. Please always check the key dates for any changes, and additional information regarding events will be sent to parents separately.

*A reminder that outdoor P.E. lessons still take place at this time of year. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing, including an extra jumper for P.E.*

## FEASIBILITY STUDY—WRPARAOUND CARE

As you know, we sent out a survey to help us assess the need for wraparound care (breakfast and after-school clubs) at Blackthorns. Thank you very much for the many responses we received. We will now be looking closely at the results and will decide our next steps based on this information.

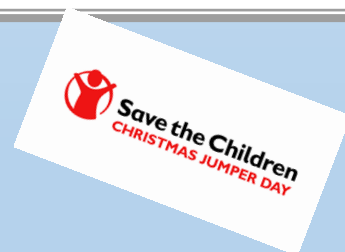
## STAFFING NEWS

We have welcomed Mrs Jane Major this term, who is teaching Year 3 in Mrs Carr's absence. Mrs Cheeseman is leaving us to go on maternity leave at the end of this month and Class 2C will be taught by Miss Jane Chapman in her absence. Miss Chapman has already spent several days in school getting to know the children and the different procedures and expectations at Blackthorns.

We have also recently said goodbye to Mr Sorrell, who has worked at Blackthorns for several years. Mr Sorrell was also a member of the governing body for several years and we thank him for his commitment and hard work during his years associated with the academy. This term we also welcome Miss Katie Clayton, who is a graduate teacher in Class RN until February half term.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN COLLECTION

Collections last term enabled us to donate £402.98 to Save The Children's Christmas Jumper appeal. Thank you for your support of this great cause.



## KEY DATES

- 15th Jan: Phonics, Facts and Families session for RN parents (9am)
- 21st Jan: West Sussex Fire Service to visit RN, 2C and 5T
- 30th Jan: Judith Weir (Royal Composer) to visit Blackthorns
- 1st Feb: Class RN to visit Lewes Castle (TBC)
- 6th Feb: Singing Club concert at All Saints
- 8th Feb: FOBs discos
- 15th Feb: Academy closes for half term

- 25th Feb: INSET Day (academy closed)
- 26th Feb: Academy re-opens at 8.50am
- 7th Mar: World Book Day (further information to follow)
- Week Beginning 11th Mar: STEM Week
- 15th Mar: Interim Reports sent out to parents
- 18th Mar: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
- 20th Mar: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
- 5th Apr: Easter Service at All Saints Church (details TBC)
- 5th Apr: Academy closes for end of the Spring Term