

What's Great?

Classes 6D and 6J are completing assessments this week and have approached the entire week with maturity—well done!

Class 6D have also been writing character profiles linked to their Shackleton work and conducted their very own jobs' fair in school.

Class 6J have been enjoying the book 'The One and Only Ivan' and have completed some writing linked to this.

Class 4H have been writing some lovely Maya creation stories

Class 1S had a wonderful Space Day.

Big success! The costumes were **OUT OF THIS WORLD...** The children made cosmic creations, played spacey party games and made asteroid cakes!

Class 2C are generating some great vocabulary and super sentences for their poetry-writing.

Class RN have been celebrating Chinese New Year.

Class 5T have been learning about parliament and have been conducting their very own debates.

Class 3C have been really concentrating on using paragraphs, headings and sub-headings while writing their non-chronological reports.



BLACKTHORNS WELCOMES JUDITH WEIR—MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S MUSIC

We were honoured to welcome Judith Weir, composer and Master of the Queen's Music to Blackthorns last week. You may be aware that the children have been preparing their very own musical compositions during recent weeks and every child in the academy was able to perform their compositions 'Born Unique' to Judith. She said that she had a wonderful day with us and even wrote a blog about her experiences at Blackthorns (<http://www.judithweir.com/single-post/2019/01/30/Blackthorns-Primary-Academy>)

A huge thank you to Mrs Davies for being so instrumental in arranging for the visit to take place and for supporting the children on the day. Thanks also to Mrs Moffatt for her vision, commitment and dedication to making the day such a wonderful success.



PARKING

As you will have noticed, new lines have been installed on Blackthorns Close and Blackthorns. Unfortunately, the Keep Clear zig-zag lines have been moved and this has caused a number of safety issues. We have requested that the lines are reinstated as a matter of urgency. In the meantime, please do not park on both sides of Blackthorns Close. In addition, the double yellow lines around the corners of Blackthorns Close and Blackthorns have been installed to increase visibility of both pedestrians and drivers using these roads at busy times. Unfortunately, some drivers have started to park on the opposite side of the road, causing even more visibility issues. Please do not park opposite the Blackthorns Close junction—this is very dangerous.

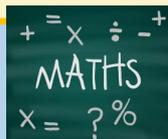
Mr Jordan has been trying to patrol the road to ensure safety at the beginning and end of the school day. Please can I remind you that any members of staff on duty on the roads around the school are simply trying to ensure the safety of our community.

GOLD BOOK

Congratulations to the following children for doing something special enough to get their names in the Gold Book since the last newsletter: Aaron, Tiaran, Florence, Theo, Amara, Josiah, Reuben, Johnny and Charlotte.

IN-CLASS SUPPORT STAFF

You may be aware that we have recently adapted our use of support staff within all classes at Blackthorns. This new model is to enable us to better meet the needs of the children in each class, as well as really using the individual skills and strengths of the Teaching Assistants to have the biggest impact on learning. Whilst each class still has an allocated Teaching Assistant, your child will be working with more than one Teaching Assistant each week, depending on the timetables and where they can have the biggest impact. We will continue to review and adapt this where needed.



CHARITY CAKE SALE

There will be a charity cake sale after school on Wednesday 13th February. Please support our children in Year 5 who are raising money for:



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

KEY DATES

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)