

WRITE-INSPIRED WORKSHOPS

We have been delighted to welcome back Philip Davis from Write Inspired this week. This is Phil's third visit to Blackthorns, where he has trained staff and demonstrated his multi-sensory approach to writing. This approach has had a wonderful impact on our children and their quality of writing over the last few years. During his visit this week, he has delivered writing sessions to each class, which have been observed by the teachers as part of their training. He has also delivered a twilight training session for staff. As always, we have found the approach to be inspirational and we thank our amazing FOBs for funding this visit



What's Great?

Class 1S have been learning about building their resilience to make themselves even better learners.

Class 6J had a great session with Phil from Write Inspired and used birdsong to write some amazing poems. Well done to Maisy, Jasmine and Lily for performing their writing!

Class 4H enjoyed a fabulous Maya Day involving some cooking before half term.

Class 6D have excelled in their performance poetry tasks

Class RT have enjoyed learning about 'What The Ladybird Heard' and have done lots of mini-beast activities

Class 5T have shown great perseverance within their gymnastics lessons and have all made great progress.

Class 2C enjoyed their Write Inspired session and were inspired using sound.

Class 3C have made some absolutely brilliant Viking Ships as their take-away task. These are on display by their classroom.

WRAPAROUND CARE FEASIBILITY STUDY

As you know, we issued a survey regarding wraparound care at Blackthorns before Christmas to gauge interest for us setting up a breakfast and/or after school club to provide childcare. We were very pleased that we received a high number of responses, with 90% stating that they would be interested in using childcare provided at the school. The Local Board have recently looked closely at the results of the survey and have agreed that this is a project that we should continue to pursue, with a view to setting something up from September 2019. Obviously, there is no guarantee that this will be in place, but is a target we are working towards. We are currently exploring a range of different options to take back to the Local Board. I am keen to continue to involve parents in this process and would welcome a small group of parents to meet with myself and Andrea Evans (Local Board Member). Please speak to Mrs Day if you would like to be involved.



Congratulations to Rosena (5T), Zoe (6D), Aaron (4H) and Max (5T) for having their names put in the Gold Book for something brilliant since the last newsletter.

KEY DATES

4th Mar: Eco-committee sale after school

7th Mar: World Book Day—dress up day

8th Mar: KS1 Film Friday

9th Mar: FOBs Indie night

Week Beginning 11th Mar: STEM Week

15th Mar: Interim Reports sent out to parents

VIOLET'S SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS

As you already know, we have had a very strong relationship with Crawley Open House for the last few years and have often raised money for the charity, as well as donating items as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations. Following a series of visits to Brighton where she saw the number of homeless people, Violet in Class 3C decided that she wanted to do more to support the homeless. Violet made contact with Crawley Open House and volunteered to help with their various projects. Unfortunately, Violet's age has prevented her from volunteering in a practical way, but she was invited to



Crawley Open House during half term and she took some items to donate and was given a tour around the project to see the valuable work that they do to support the homeless. Well done, Violet!

INSET DAY

While the children were all enjoying an extra day off, the teachers joined together with teachers from other local schools for a training session with Dr Andy Cope, author of the Spy Dog books and The Art of Brilliance, who was inspirational.

Internet Safety

As you will be aware, I sent out information regarding internet safety earlier this week. There have been reports in the media that the 'Momo Challenge' is a hoax. Whether this is the case or not, the important point is that the advice that was given in this communication is entirely relevant and appropriate for all parents in terms of supporting their children to stay safe online. The NSPCC website contains a large amount of information to help you keep your children safe online and I would urge you to familiarise yourself with this and other useful websites. We will continue to support and educate the children about online safety in school.



PARKING

The reason that we now have double yellow lines around the junction of Blackthorns and Blackthorns Close is to increase visibility and make the junction less dangerous. Please do not park on the road opposite the junction as this makes the whole situation even more dangerous than it was before.



18th Mar: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)

20th Mar: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)

25th Mar: Class 2C visit to British Wildlife Centre

28th Mar: Class 4H chocolate workshop

29th Mar: Tennis taster sessions

29th Mar: KS2 Film Friday

5th Apr: Easter Service at All Saints Church (details TBC)