



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to Blackthorns. We hope you all had a good summer break. A particular welcome to our new Reception 'Thinkers' Class and their families to our community. On behalf of all of the staff I would like to thank you all for the very generous gifts and wishes that we all received at the end of last year. These are always hugely appreciated.

Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to Mrs Kate Manning, who is leaving Blackthorns today. Kate has been a wonderful colleague for several years at Blackthorns and we are very sorry to see her go. We wish her all the very best of luck for the future.

We will be collecting stickers from Aldi to put towards sporting equipment. Please send in any stickers you receive for shopping at Aldi to Mr Luckhurst (Globetrotters Class).

We would like to welcome both Mr King and Mr Luckhurst to our team. Both have settled in brilliantly and are already a very important part of our team. In addition, our congratulations to Mr Luckhurst and his partner, Hannah, who became engaged during the summer holidays!



MR MATT KING



MR KARL LUCKHURST



Congratulations to the following children, who have been to see me for a Head Teacher's Award and had their names recorded in the Gold Book: Leo (Trailblazers), William B (Warriors) and Scott (Warriors).



TREETOPS OPENS

We are absolutely delighted that our new wrap-around childcare provision is in place and is gaining in popularity all the time. We have received incredibly positive feedback from the parents with children using the club. In fact one parent commented that 'Tree Tops has changed our lives!' which was very pleasing to hear! The Treetops staff have been working very hard to get to know the children and then planning activities that will interest them. The photos here show some of the exciting things that the children have been up to. The children at the club have particularly been enjoying spending time in the woodland and on Tuesday next week will be cooking their own snack and supper on a camp-fire in the woods. One of the benefits of Tree Tops is that ad-hoc bookings can be made right up until the very last minute. However, you do need to be registered in order to book online. Therefore, we would recommend that as many people as possible register in order to be able to make use of the provision on an ad-hoc basis. If you would like to know any more about the provision or to see it in action, please feel free to contact the Tree Tops head office or through the academy office. Details can also be found on our academy website.



LINDFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL

Huge congratulations to Holly Weir, who won the Lindfield Arts Festival competition. Holly's winning design will be on a display on a banner in the window of Jackson Steps during the weekend of the festival. Holly also won £100 for her school! Very well done to Holly!



All of our children have contributed to a piece of artwork that will be on display at the United Reformed Church in Lindfield during next week (see Parentmail for information).

SCHOOL GAMES MARK GOLD!

I am delighted to inform you that we have been awarded School Games Mark Gold for our sporting activities last year. We have previously received the bronze and silver awards, but this is the first time that we have achieved Gold. Obviously, a huge amount of credit for this must go to Mr Tugwell for the exceptional effort that he put into raising the profile of sport during his time at Blackthorns.



PLANET PROTECTORS

At the start of term we launched our new 'Planet Protectors' initiative. Our children, in common with many young people, have consistently raised concerns about climate change and doing all we can to save our planet. Any child that has done something to contribute to this is invited to share this with me to receive a Planet Protector Award.



TWITTER

Please follow us on Twitter (@blackthornspri) to keep up-to-date with the many different things going on at Blackthorns. Please also follow our new Twitter sports page (@blackthornsPE) for information about the sporting activities from Mr Luckhurst.

ALL OF US DIFFERENT, EVERYONE THE SAME

Our theme week for the Autumn Term will be all about diversity, equality and individual liberty. We will be focusing on Religious Education, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and will be doing some Philosophy-based activities. We are really keen to invite visitors in to work with our children during this week and would welcome any offers of appropriate visitors from our parents, families and academy community. Please come and speak to Mrs Brand or Mrs Jago (Curriculum Manager).

KEY DATES

26th Sept: Days of Languages
30th Sept-4th Oct: Trailblazers Residential to Isle of Wight
2nd Oct: High Weald artefact handling session (Warriors Class)
9th Oct: FOBs AGM

11th Oct: FOBs Race Night
14th Oct: Warriors to Ashdown Forest
16th-18th Oct: Globetrotters to Sayers Croft
21st and 23rd Oct: Parents' Evenings
25th Oct: School closed for INSET Day