



Number 17: 21st June 2019



WRAP-AROUND CARE ON-SITE AT BLACKTHORNS

Online booking is now available for our new Breakfast and After School Clubs, opening in September 2019. Registration for either regular sessions or to enable you to book on an ad-hoc basis is very easy to complete. We would encourage you to register for ad-hoc sessions even if you do not require regular sessions, as this will enable you to book sessions at short notice. Tree Tops staff will be attending our Open Morning next week, as well as the FOBs Summer Festival.

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What's Great?

Class 4H have been working really hard on their rehearsals for this upcoming production.

In Class 1S, naughty Mr Toad has been causing havoc! The children have written and displayed 'Wanted' posters for him around the academy.

Class RN have been weighing, measuring, estimating and writing letters.

Class 5T have been writing about their text, 'The Nowhere Emporium' and have used some excellent high level vocabulary.

A huge congratulations to both Year 6 classes on their wonderful efforts in Big Businesses! The second trade day is 2nd July 2019.

Class 2C had a very interesting walk around the village—thank you to our helpers!

Class 3M have been completing some excellent persuasive writing linked to their Rainforest work—they should be very proud of their efforts.



Congratulations to Scott (2C) who has been awarded a Head Teacher's Award and has had his name recorded in the Gold Book since the last newsletter:

KEY STAGE 1 MODERATION

Each year, 25% of schools are selected to have their Key Stage 1 assessments moderated. This process enables us to present the evidence that we have in order to validate our judgements. This year we were selected for moderation and I am delighted to inform you that all of our judgements were agreed, with the moderator being very impressed with the quality of evidence provided. Well done to the children, Miss Chapman (Year 2 Teacher) and Mrs Neller (EYFS/Key Stage 1 Leader).

BOOM CYMRU FILMING

We were very honoured to welcome a film crew from 'Boom Cymru' Television last week, who were filming for a programme entitled 'Adre' (at home), during which Welsh celebrities are filmed in their homes and everyday lives. Elin Manahan-Thomas was the focus of the filming, and the singing club that Elin runs with Mrs Moffatt was filmed learning a traditional Welsh song. The programme will be shown on S4C on Sky and the iPlayer later this year.

STAFFING NEWS

As some of you are aware, Mrs Sally Carr has been unwell and away from school since the start of this academic year. Unfortunately, Mrs Carr has now resigned in order to concentrate on getting better. This has been a very difficult decision for Mrs Carr, having been part of the team at Blackthorns for 18 years.

We all wish her all the best for her recovery and for the future.

We have been planning for the fact that the academy is reducing from 8 to 7 classes from September, so Miss Rosa Sanders was initially employed on a one year fixed-term contract, due to end this summer. Following Mrs Carr's resignation, I am pleased to inform you that Miss Sanders has agreed to become a permanent member of staff and we are delighted that she will continue to be part of our team after an excellent first year.

At the end of this year we will also be saying goodbye to Miss Ellie Farmer. Miss Farmer has been a Teaching Assistant here for a number of years and has been training to become a teacher, based in Class 5T, throughout this academic year. Miss Farmer has accepted a teaching post locally from September. Congratulations, Miss Farmer!

In addition, we will be saying goodbye and good luck to Mr Jacob Neller, who has been working here as a temporary Teaching Assistant during his gap year before starting university in the autumn. Mr Neller has also been running the very successful Film Club each week.

Transition to new class teachers will take place during the beginning of July and children and parents will be notified of class allocations for 2019/20 prior to the transition events.



BLACKTHORNS STARS OF TOMORROW TALENT SHOW

Last Friday night we hosted the first ever Blackthorns' Stars of Tomorrow talent show and what an absolutely wonderful evening we had! The children sang, danced, played musical instruments, showcased magic tricks and lots more. It really was a magical celebration of the many talents at Blackthorns. Thank you to the children for their hard work in preparing for this, and to the large number of parents and children who came along to support them. It is definitely an event that we will be repeating again next year, so get practising now for your 5 minutes of fame!

As a lot of the older children at Blackthorns walk to and from school with friends or independently, we are supportive of the need for children to have a mobile phone for their safety. However, on several occasions recently, children have been discovered using phones on the school site. This is absolutely not allowed for safeguarding reasons. Children have been reminded that phones must be switched off before they enter the academy site and must not be switched on again until they leave the site at the end of the day. If you have a message for your child, please phone the academy office and we will ensure that this message is passed on.



Thank you for your support with this important rule.

KEY DATES

25th Jun: Open Morning (9.30-11.30am)
26th Jun: Class 4H to Seven Sisters
27th Jun: Year 3 and 4 performance
1st Jul: Sports' Day
2nd Jul: Reserve Sports' Day
2nd Jul: Big Businesses Trade Day 2
3rd July: Transition session (pm)

4th July: Class 1S to Borde Hill
5th Jul: FOBs Summer Festival
9th July: Transition session (pm)
10th Jul: Year 6 Area Sports
12th Jul: FOBs discos
15th Jul: Year 6 production
16th Jul: Year 6 production
19th Jul: End of the academic year