



A MESSAGE FROM THE LOCAL BOARD

We are sure you will agree that the staff are doing an amazing job making our children's return to school such a positive one at such a tricky time for us all. The Local Board has been working closely over the summer and into this term to make sure we are equally supporting our dedicated staff team; so they can continue doing a fabulous job. We have continued to liaise closely with the Trust regarding the appointment of a new Principal when Mrs Brand leaves us at the end of December. The Trust's plan is to advertise and complete a recruitment process before the end of October, which the Board will be actively involved in, and they will endeavour to have someone in place for the start of the New Year.

Julie Keylock, Co-Chair, Local Board

SWIMMING



Given the many different challenges we are currently facing, we have decided not to recommence our weekly swimming lessons until January 2021 at the earliest.

LOCAL BOARD MEMBER CHANGES

I would like to thank our fabulous Local Board members for their wonderful support in recent months. Sadly, four members of the local board have recently taken the decision to stand down. A big thank you to Paul Whetstone for his support and contribution within the role for the past year or so. Thanks also to Andrea Evans, who has served for several years on the Local Board, and who worked very closely with me to introduce our very popular wrap-around care at the beginning of last year.

We also say thank you and goodbye to two very long-standing local board members—Simon Moffatt and Mike Nichols. Both Simon and Mike have been involved in the school for many years and were instrumental to our conversion to academy status in 2015. Simon has provided hours of support and expertise with building projects, including the roof project and many others. He has always given up his own time to ensure that we are able to provide the very best for the children at Blackthorns and I have always appreciated this very much. Mike has been involved with Blackthorns for in excess of 20 years and was the chair of governors when I was appointed to my role in 2012. Mike's ambition for the academy to have the very best and advanced technology, and his expertise in this area has always had a very positive impact on our children. He has also been a member of UoBAT committees since we joined the trust. I would like to thank these members of our community for their contribution to the journey that the school has been on.

TREETOPS

I am pleased to report that Treetops Club is getting busier and busier, and the feedback is so positive. The children particularly enjoy spending time in the woodland area. If you would like to book contract or ad-hoc bookings, see our academy website.



DIARY DATES

Mon 19th Oct: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
Wed 21st Oct: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)
Thu 22nd Oct: Academy closes for half term break
Fri 23rd Oct: INSET Day (Academy closed)

BLACKTHORNS COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY, BLACKTHORNS CLOSE, LINDFIELD, RH16 2UA | 01444 454866 | office@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk

COVID-19

This continues to dominate everything that we do in school and the world in general. However, I must continue to remind you of the key points:

- (i) **book a test** if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if anyone in their household has symptoms and they must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. If the test is negative, the child may return to school.
- (ii) **provide details** of anyone you have been in close contact with if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- (iii) **self-isolate** if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result.

BLACKTHORNS CLOSE

A huge thank you to the large majority of parents/carers who are not driving or parking in Blackthorns Close. By reducing traffic on the road, we are able to make the arrival and departure from school much safer for all families. We know that there are some people that are disabled that are still driving/parking on the road, but we would really appreciate it if all other parents/carers followed this request. This week, there have been a number of incidences of vehicles mounting the curb as small children were walking past, or driving at unsafe speeds up and down the road as our families arrived at or left school. We are asking for your co-operation in the interests of safety.

WHAT'S GREAT????

Our new Thinkers are settling in really well and have been creating a 'Thinkers Kingdom' this week.

Inventors Class are learning about Hansel and Gretel and found a trail of breadcrumbs this week that led to the woods!

Explorers Class have been learning through the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. They have created some lovely 'Welcome to our world' posters.

Warriors Class have crossed the hall to Key Stage 2 and are doing so well with the new routines. This week they have written a brilliant class poem.

Ground-breakers Class have been having a big focus on reading and are enjoying 'Sky Song'.

Globetrotters Class have been exploring 'The Highway Man'.

Trailblazers Class have made a great start to their Conflict topic and are enjoying learning about World War 2. Mrs Paul was also really impressed with their philosophical debating skills this week.

The children in The Hive (our new name for The Alps!!) have been enjoying exploring the use of SeeSaw—we will be telling you more about this soon!

2nd Nov: Children return to school

3rd Nov: Individual/ siblings photos (no pre-school siblings)

23rd Nov: Flu vaccinations (forms to be sent in due course)