



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

I am sure that you will all understand that we will need to celebrate Christmas in a very different way in school this year as we will be unable to host our very popular events for the whole school community, such as the FOBs Christmas Fayre, KS1 Nativity and Christmas Service at All Saints Church.

However, we intend to ensure that the magic of Christmas is still very much alive and kicking in our school and will be celebrating Christmas in a variety of ways during December.

The children will be working on a musical project with Mrs Moffatt over the next few weeks and we hope to be able to share some of this with you in audio form. We will also be having our usual Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save The Children on Friday 11th December 2020.

We recognise that the children enjoy exchanging Christmas cards at this time of year and we would very much like to encourage them to do this in a safe way. We will be placing a card drop-off point in the playground each day at drop-off and pick-up from 1st until 11th December. No more cards will be accepted after 11th December to allow us time to quarantine the cards before distributing them during the last week of term.

There will be a number of other Christmas activities that we will share with you over the next few weeks.



What's Great?

In Trailblazers Class they have been writing tributes to local people involved in World War 1 and/or World War 2. A huge well done to the children on their house captain speeches too. They have also written some excellent French paragraphs. Globetrotters Class have been writing political speeches, which have been very impressive. They are very persuasive young people!

The children in Ground-breakers Class have been drafting information texts about sea creatures.

In Warriors Class, they have had a very busy week. They have learnt about Divali and have also been writing stories based on their text 'Stone Age Boy'.

Explorers Class have been working very hard and are learning all about Jacques Cousteau. They have been thinking of questions to investigate.

The children in Inventors Class are enjoying learning about toys and have been thinking about their favourite toys.

In Thinkers Class the children have been learning about Remembrance and have produced some lovely art work.

Well done to the children in The Hive for their involvement in Remembrance.

OUR FURRY FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

The Blackthorns community has grown significantly in numbers during lockdown and it often seems as though there are more dogs than children on some days! Whilst we are very pleased to welcome them to school, please can dog owners ensure that they clear up after their dogs, as a parent unfortunately stepped in dog's mess on Blackthorns Close this week. Thank you!

FOBS NEEDS YOU!!!!!!

We had the FOBs Annual General Meeting earlier this week. Although it has been a very different year for FOBs, there was still much to celebrate. Wyn Lewis has agreed to stay on as Treasurer and will be supported by Lee Goodeve—thank you to you both. A huge thank you to Sarah Muirhead-Smith who stood down as Secretary but will remain on the committee. Also a thank you to Jo Timcke who is standing down as Chair. Both Sarah and Jo are incredibly organised and dedicated and we have been very lucky to have their involvement for the last few years.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to fill the positions of Chair and Secretary. However, we have a very hard-working and committed team of volunteers on our committee and their work for our children will continue. Please consider getting involved with FOBs—it is very worthwhile and rewarding, but also a lot of fun. We would be very pleased to hear of anybody that would be interested in getting involved.

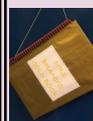
THANK YOU!

Last week we had a very successful non-uniform day and collected donations in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and BBC Children in Need. We collected over £400 in total and are very grateful for the generosity of our community for these very worthwhile courses.



STAFFING NEWS

As you know, Miss Sanders will be leaving Blackthorns at Christmas. I am very pleased to inform you that we have appointed Miss Piper Renfree to become the new Inventors Class teacher from January. Miss Renfree joins us from a large primary school in London. We have also appointed Ms Catherine Hawtin as an Interventions Teacher from January and she will be working with small groups from across the academy to help support with our 'Catch up' programme following the academy closure earlier this year. We also welcome Mrs Michelle Mundy, who has recently joined us as a new Midday Meals Supervisor and has made a great start to her new role. We are currently recruiting for a Teaching Assistant to cover Mrs Casey's maternity leave.



Well done to the following children, who have received a Head Teacher's Award and been written into my special Gold Book since the last newsletter: Eleanor (Trailblazers), Joel (Trailblazers), Serena (Globetrotters), Barnaby (Explorers), Luisa (Explorers), Indigo (Explorers), Jack Ba (Globetrotters) and Holly (Globetrotters).

COVID RESTRICTIONS

Following a rise in cases both nationally and locally we asked parents/carers to wear face coverings on the academy site from after half term. I am incredibly grateful for the way in which our community has followed this request without exception and has continued to support everything we are doing in school to keep everybody safe. Thank you so much.

DIARY DATES

23rd Nov: Flu vaccinations
1st Dec: Christmas card drop-off point opens
11th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day

11th Dec: Deadline for bringing in Christmas cards
18th Dec: Last Day of Term—break up for Christmas holidays