

## Inside Our Classrooms

**The Hive** have been exploring organs of the body. We have focussed on the lungs and heart and even made a pair of inflatable lungs from balloons. We have explored the effects of exercise on our bodies and have recorded our results. We have worked hard on our independent targets and are starting to look at division. Most excitingly we have been welcoming a new member to our gang!

**Thinkers** have been police detectives, trying to find Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh this week. The children have made WANTED posters, writing descriptions of the robbers to help find them. They also practised taking finger prints with their buddies. In maths they have been learning about doubles, using ladybird spots to practise.

**Inventors** This week Inventors have been doing some amazing gymnastics. They are learning how to safely use the apparatus and gymnastics mats. Inventors are very eager to learn and are now confident at pointing, stepping, feet together. This week, children moved on to spinning or jumping 180 degrees at the end of the apparatus and were brilliant at showing they are finished, by raising both hands up. In Maths this week, Inventors have been focusing on learning the tricky strategy of adding by making 10 first. They have worked really hard to solve additions to 20, by creating 10 first. Understanding their number bonds to 10 has really helped to support their learning!

**Explorers** have continued to learn about Australia. We have been focusing on Traditional Dreamtime stories told by indigenous Australians and had a go at creating our own story endings for Tiddalick the Frog. In maths we have been excelling at multiplication, learning how to add equal groups and write multiplication sentences from pictures. Last week we enjoyed a dance and drama workshop from company 'West End in Schools' and performed the classic story 'Where the Wild Things Are'.

**Warriors** have been super busy over the last two weeks becoming journalists to write a newspaper article about Vesuvius

erupting; experts in time by learning the months and days in each month; volcanologists looking at how volcanoes are formed and how they affect people; historians looking at the legacy of Romans on Britain as well as learning to play forehand shots in tennis! It's been a busy, busy fortnight (Year 3 should be able to tell you how many days that is!)

**Ground-breakers** had a brilliant trip to Butser Ancient Farm on Tuesday 15th March. We timed it perfectly in terms of the weather and our journey into the past was bathed in glorious spring sunshine. The children were very excited to see the replica buildings at Butser, with the real fires burning in the middle of the dwellings, ancient tools and weapons on display and secret floorboards hiding valuable treasure! The children made chalk carvings, fashioned jewellery from metal wire, constructed fences from hazel branches and carried out their own archaeological dig.

**Innovators** have blown Mrs Allen away with their writing this week. They have written phenomenal character descriptions of their own fairies that would fit into Midsummer Night's Dream, using amazing similes and parenthesis. In Maths, they are persevering with fractions, even when things get tricky. They have shown determination and are now adding and taking away fractions with different denominators. We have also been planning our next holidays by dreaming of warmer (or colder) climates whilst learning about the climate zones across the world. Creating fantastic motifs based on British Values in Dance has topped off a very busy fortnight.

**Trailblazers** have been trying to decide who is most to blame for the loss of life aboard Titanic. They have been considering the evidence for and against the main contenders. We also began to ponder the legacy of Titanic, and how safety laws changed for the better after she sank. In maths they have been busy calculating all things area, perimeter and volume. Trailblazers proved to be 'ace' tennis players and 'love' the sport, but they do make quite a 'racket'.

### Clicker8

As you may know, we have recently introduced Clicker8 in school and we have been using it to support our writing with some fantastic results. What we really love is that the children are also able to use the same software at home through the unique code that was sent home.

We know that more people would like to know a little more about the word processing software package and Mr. Luckhurst has kindly offered to host a parent workshop in school. This will take place on Thursday 7th April. Mr. Luckhurst is also planning to release a video covering the main points to support the use of Clicker8 at home.

### A Wheelie Good Idea

Thinkers class are offering you the chance to create a bit more space in your homes if you are having a bit of a spring clean! The tricycles that the children love to ride around are in need of a service. If you have a trike at home that has reached the end of its use, but you would be willing to pass it on to the school, then the reception children will be very grateful. We only ask that the items are in a good state of repair and are safe for rigorous riding! Please talk to the reception staff or the office if you have a tricycle that you would like to donate.

### Dog Walking

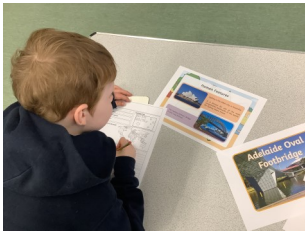
It is lovely to see our children walking to and from school with their four-legged friends and the special relationships that many children have with them. It is great when our dogs have been able to toilet before the journey but should they experience a call of nature on the school route, please be mindful of the local houses in the area and other walkers and tidy up any waste appropriately. Thank you for your consideration.

**Fair Dinkum!**

In Year 2, Explorers had their Australia Day on Wednesday 9th March. The children spent the day immersing themselves in a 'land down under', in this virtual experience of the antipodean country and culture. Over the course of the day, the children researched Australia and discovered a huge amount of information. They were particularly intrigued by the native animals and landmarks in the country. Some of the teachers even learned a thing or two when they visited the hall and examined the creatures that were on display. If you haven't heard of an echidna or a sugar glider—look them up! The children even had a go at aboriginal art as a part of their experience. What a good day (or should that be g'day?)!



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**Sports News**

Our Year 5 and 6 girls footballers took part in a national FA day to get as many girls playing football in the UK at once on the 9th March at Ardingly College. Our team of 17 were part of 240 girls at Ardingly and 60,000 girls in the UK taking on lots of football challenges: top bins, ball in the bin and bouncing volleys, to name but a few. They also took part in some small sided matches against other schools as well as some GIANT Year 7 and 8s - our team of 9 girls and one teacher beat a team of 5 Year 8s, which I think the girls were very proud about! The following week, 10 Year 4 children went to Warden Park to take part in a brilliant Handball festival where they learnt all the skills necessary to play Handball and lots of sporting messages relating to the school games values.

**Bringing Books To Life**

On Friday 11th March, our Key Stage 1 children were fortunate enough to experience a dance workshop. Year 1 had a brilliant time bringing the story of 'Where The Wild Things Are' to life! The used movements, sounds and excellent facial expressions to represent each character and especially loved when Max met the Wild Things and had a wild rumpus! Inventors were all smiles and thoroughly enjoyed their experience!



## Dates for your diary:

25th March Drama Club Performance

30th March Zoolab Visit KS1

30th March Year 5 Trip to Hever Castle

1st April FOBs School Discos for KS1 and KS2

7th April Non-school Uniform yellow and blue for Unicef (Ukraine)

7th April Clicker8 Parent Workshop 2-3pm

8th April Spring Celebration Service at All Saints Church (am)

11th-22nd April Easter Holidays

26th April Class Photographs

28th April Daily Mile 10th Birthday

2nd May Bank Holiday

9th-12th May KS2 SATS week

27th May INSET Day

30th May-3rd June Half Term

13th-17th June Year 6 Residential to IOW

20th-24th June Sports Week

24th June Sports Day

27th June-1st July Year 6 Bikeability



## School Council

Blackthorns School Council are organising a non uniform day to raise money for UNICEF and, in particular, supporting keeping children safe around the world. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April pupils can wear their choice of clothes in exchange for a suggested minimum donation of £1

### A Reminder

Please do not drive up the hill to the academy at the start and end of the school day, unless you have an agreement with the school to do so for safety and accessibility reasons.

If you need to drive part of the way, please park at the bottom and walk up to the school. We need to be respectful of our local community and keep all of our Blackthorns parents and children safe when they are dropping off and picking up children at busy times of the day. We want everybody to arrive safely.

The school is a busy place at the end of the school day. Once the children have left their class rooms to be with you, please keep them close as the area can be busy and confusing for younger children especially. We also ask that they do not climb on the walls outside of the school, as a fall could prove to be very painful.

## Spring Celebrations At All Saints Church

Key Stage 2 will be part of a spring celebration at All Saints Church on Friday 8 April. The traditional Easter Service would start at 9.15. At the moment, the church are comfortable with 1 adult per family attending and children will meet at the church, with further details to follow.

The church have a youtube channel, so we are hopeful that we will be able to show the service in the school hall for Key Stage1 pupils.

The service will be followed by a 'Generations United' concert with our Blackthorns Choir and Mrs. Moffatt's newly formed U3A Choir (elderly citizens). This will start at 11 am and should be finished within the hour. Happily Year 6 are going to be in the audience and will have lyrics to the songs so that they can sing along in some items. Parents and grandparents or carers of the choir members will be invited to attend this event.