

## Inside Our Classrooms

**The Hive** This week has been very exciting for The Hive. Most importantly, we welcomed our new pupil, Hugo. On Wednesday we joined Warriors Class for a trip to Haywards Heath train station and we travelled on the train to Burgess Hill and back. We have been learning about different plants and trees, as well as starting fractions in Maths.

**Thinkers** This week started with the circus coming to town! The children dressed as different circus performers and have been practising their circus skills. Later in the week, the children were able to use 'sparkly' descriptive words to make their own version of our text "You see a..., I see a...!" They also made a clown's body with their year 6 buddies by cutting out each others colourful hand prints.

**Inventors** This week Inventors welcomed our new focus, 'Stories in Secret Places'. Our focus links to English, Geography, Science and Art and they are so excited to look at our new book 'The Secret Garden' next week. In English, Inventors started the week by listening to five different sounds. When listening to the sounds, they thought about powerful adjectives to describe the noun and a suitable verb. Once they had these words, they turned them into short poems. Inventors thought of some brilliant poems such as "The relaxing sun was shining". They then performed their poem to a friend. Inventors attended their first swimming session this week and achieved a whole class 'Golden Certificate' for being respectful, determined and independent swimmers. They are looking forward to next week!

**Explorers** have been writing diaries from the perspective of Captain Cook or a crew member whilst on the 'Voyage of Discovery' on board the Endeavour in 1770. We used tea staining to create authentic looking scrolls to publish our diary entries. We have been focusing on fractions in Maths and finding half of a shape, object and amount. In Science we have started observing plants, naming the parts of plants and trees and describing the job of each part.

**Warriors** Year 3 have come back to arrive ready in the Warriors Train Station waiting room to start our topic about the railways. We had a trip to see Haywards Heath Station in action—counting the trains, seeing what was on the platform and learning how to stay safe before getting on the train to Burgess Hill and back. Away from trains, we have started looking at fractions, understanding that a fraction is part of a whole and which part is the denominator and the numerator; located key coastal areas of the UK and understood what a coast is; looked at the importance of text and images in signs and finally, we finished our tennis unit with a mini doubles tournament!

**Ground-breakers** have made a great start to the summer term, bringing in some fabulous Maya mask creations from home which are now watching over the Key Stage 2 area! Creative poetry has been the order of the day, with a Write Inspired project focused mainly around the theme of Sun. In art, we have been weaving some intricate 'Gods' eyes' with different coloured wool.

**Innovators** have started summer term focus on Crime and Punishment by using art to create ideas for our 'Trapped' Write Inspired project. We have discussed what crimes and punishments we know of today, along with the importance of rules and whether we would like to come to a school without any! In maths, we have started apply our fractions knowledge to decimals. It's great to be outside for our PE lessons and we are very excited to be learning a new sport - lacrosse!

**Trailblazers** are preparing for their up and coming end of primary school assessments. Mrs. Jago is so proud of their hard work and positive attitudes. We are beginning a new science area of study: Living things and their habitats. They are choosing the living creature that they are about to do an in-depth project on. In art, they have started their self portraits and in PE they have been getting into the swing of summer with a bit of cricket practice! We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs. Thomas and to have Mrs. Allen joining us on a Wednesday!

### Dates for your diary:

2nd May Bank Holiday

May KS1 National Curriculum Assessments

4th May Year 4 Mexicalore (Maya Workshop) Visit

9th-12th May KS2 National Curriculum Assessments (SATs) week

18th May Goals for Gardens fundraising event

27th May INSET Day

30th May-3rd June Half Term

w/c 6th June Year 1 Phonics Screening

6th June—24th June Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check window

13th-17th June Year 6 Residential to IOW

13th June Year Reception Trip to British Wildlife Centre

20th-24th June Sports Week

24th June Sports Day

27th June-1st July Year 6 Bikeability

1st July Year 3 Trip—Bluebell Railway

6th July Year 5 Trip—Tower of London

13th July Year 6 Performance

15th July Year 6 End of Year Outing

19th July Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

21st July INSET day and End of Summer Term

**Life is Online**

Many of us make a distinction between our online lives and offline lives, but children growing up with technology and the internet do not always separate the two. Online life and offline life are intertwined with one another; it is a part of daily existence.



Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace and it is helpful to find ways to talk to your child about being online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

Beginning to have these conversations at an early age makes them a natural part of their technological experience and it can pave the way for healthy future discussions and practices as they grow older and engage with more online.

Top Tips from the NSPCC:

- Reassure them
- Try not to treat it like an interview
- Ask who they're talking to
- Remind them about strangers

See more detail on these top tips by [clicking on this link](#).

**FOCUS on**

**Reading**

At Blackthorns, we value reading as a journey to explore infinite possibilities. This begins in when our children join us in reception, where we aim to promote curiosity and prompt the desire to become an accomplished reader. Through phonics, we introduce the signs and symbols of the written language and books linked to each child's stage of learning help them to develop their confidence.

Tailoring book choices to individual needs continues as they move through the school, as children learn their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) score from Year 2 onwards. This gives them a number range and they can select from all the books that have been organised by these scores. However, we do not restrict their choice to books in their zone, because we want the children to be engaged and excited whatever they might choose to read. Once they have read the books, children can take an Accelerated Reader quiz which gives them and us an indication of their understanding.

Quizzes also record the number of words they have read in the book and their scores. In school we celebrate children scoring 100% on a quiz with our 100% Heroes posters and children reading over 1 million words are also given certificates to celebrate such a fantastic achievement.

**Celebrating Success**



The following children have been recognised by their class teachers for their success during the week and for displaying aspects of the school values: respect, teamwork, determination, independence and kindness.

**YR—Henry and Jayla, Y1—Tommy and Evie, Y2—Lottie and Freddie,**

**Y3—Arisa and Elsie, Y4—Annie S and Emrys, Y5—Georgia and Amelie, Y6—Rose and Ale**

**Golden Rule certificates for treating others with exceptional consideration went to ALL of Inventors and Oliver F in Reception!**

**House Cup**



Air were awarded the house cup with 531 points collected in

the week!

**Current Position 2021-22**



Water are currently leading!

**Active Blackthorns**

On Thursday 28th April, the Daily Mile celebrated its 10th birthday. The Daily Mile is a movement that aims to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. At Blackthorns, we strive to be active and moving all year around, but in recognition of the Daily Mile's Milestone, pupils took to their feet and ran like the wind! Some of Year 5 can be seen in the birthday pink tee-shirts below!

