

## Inside Our Classrooms

**The Hive** This week in The Hive we have continued learning about plants and trees. We have written our own poems about the lifecycle of an oak tree and we have made a variety of graphs and charts to record our favourite fruit and vegetables. We have been caring for plants of our own by watering them every day.

**Thinkers** In Thinkers class this week, we have been looking at doubles. We used magic mirrors to help us double objects and had a 'picnic' with our friend and shared food equally. Our year 6 buddies helped us to design and build our own circus tent materials.

**Inventors** This week in Inventors, we thought back to last week where we predicted the ending of the story 'The Secret Garden'. Children drew their predictions and wrote sentences to describe what they thought may happen. We continued the story and found out whether our predictions came true! This week in English, inventors put their imaginative caps on and have started to write a piece of creative writing. Inventors had to imagine that they were the main character and were entering their own version of the secret garden. Next week, they will be moving on to writing what they see, hear, smell and touch as they enter their secret garden. As a challenge, Inventors can think about what they may taste! There have been some brilliant ideas and I can't wait to see what they write next.

**Explorers** have taken a journey through the Rainforest and learnt about all the amazing animals and plants that are found there. We have been planning stories based on 'Where the Forest meets the Sea' by Jeannie Baker and used Now>Press>Play to listen to sounds from the Rainforest. We used our senses to imagine what we might see, hear, feel and smell and write descriptive sentences. We have continued our fabulous fraction work in maths and learnt to find halves, quarters and thirds of amounts. In science we have learnt about the functions of different parts of a plant, and begun an investigation to compare the rate of growth between bulbs and seeds in our KS1 garden.

**Warriors** have had a busy two week period - time certainly flies when you're having fun! We have enjoyed our English sessions based on The Day The Crayons Quit - looking at creating our own punctuation characters and giving advice to Duncan and the crayons on their next steps. They also had to write their own letters of apology as on Wednesday morning, after break, we

came into the classroom to see that all of the chairs had quit as they were annoyed by being dragged, swung on, left out and even suffering windy whizz-poppers! Luckily our letters were so great, Mr Blue Chair (the representative) was happy that we could get them back! We have been busy with our topic work - looking at early trains and steam engines as well as coastlines and how arches, stacks and caves are formed. In other areas, we have looked at unit and non-unit fractions in maths; shadows in science; athletics and sprinting techniques in PE; desktop publishing in computing and finally homophones and the prefix dis- in phonics.

**Ground-breakers** have become more confident working with equivalent fractions. We have used the information we learnt from our Mayan workshop and own research to begin drafting Mayan fact files. In science, we have been focusing on what

happens to our food after we eat. We had a lot of fun recreating the small intestine with a pair of fights!



**Innovators** have loved the suspense and drama of the The Highwayman, a poem which has prompted many predictions about what was going to happen at each stage, along with lots of debate. We have been finding out about law and order in the middle ages and the general feeling was that it was most unfair! In computing, we have been working hard on understanding the terminology and the 'how' of coding in Scratch, with lots of year 5 realising that they previously made code work through trial and error and moving blocks around, but that now they understand about conditions, outcomes and questions within the code.

**Trailblazers** have been making all of their families and teachers very proud this week. The children have shown an incredibly mature attitude in their preparations for and execution of the end of key stage 2 assessments this week. SATs breakfasts have been a great way to start each day, which I'm sure some would like to continue! In the assessments, the children impressed all of the adults in the school, displaying incredible fortitude and determination. They have also found time to produce some special science projects in the afternoons. Well done year 6!

## Dates for your diary:

16th May Walk To School Week/The Big Plastic Count

18th May Goals for Gardens fundraising event

25th May Reception Circus Show to parents (pm)

26th May Year 6 Parents Isle of Wight meeting (evening)

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

10th June—Jubilee Tea Party (Dress in red, white and blue)

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

## Active Blackthorns

The start of the summer term is always busy for the PE lead at any school with numerous events, PE on the field and Sports Day (scheduled for the 24th June) and this year has been no different.

It started during the Easter holidays with our girls and boys football teams representing the school as mascots for Lewes Women FC and Haywards Heath FC respectively. It was amazing to watch the children interact with the footballers and enjoy football even more despite two losses. Also, over the Easter holidays, Dance Troupe which consists of 19 Year 5/6 children, performed at the Haywards Heath Spring festival to a bumper crowd at Muster Green.

Back in school, children have already had opportunities to represent Blackthorns in sport. Last week, 10 Year 2 children took part in a tennis festival at Warden Park having a go at many different skills to help them become the next Murray or Radacanu. Also, 10 Year 4/5 children went to the picturesque setting of Ansty CC to partake in a cricket festival run by Sussex Cricket in which they got to practice bowling, batting and fielding. This week saw 8 Year 3 and 4 students take part in the Road to Eastbourne tennis competition in which we came 4th out of 9 schools! Finally, we managed to take 16 Year 2 students to St Michaels CC to have a go at a cricket festival run by Sussex Cricket club - many thanks to all parents that supported on these events either with group support or transport.

The rest of the year will see even more classes represent Blackthorns in a variety of different sports including athletics, stoolball, tennis, cricket and many more.

Finally, we host our Sports Week during National Schools Sports Week during the week of the 20th June. We already have a jam-packed schedule but if there are any clubs or societies reading this that would like to come and run some sessions with us, please contact our PE lead via [sports@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:sports@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk)

## Coming Up

Next week, 16th-20th May, is Walk To School week, in association with Living Streets, so strap on those hiking boots and make your way to school! In addition, we are also asking households to take part in The Big Plastic Count this week.

We will be making crowns and flags in school in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations. Children can wear these on Lindfield Village Day, when children and parents from the local schools will be encouraged to walk around the common in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's unique place in history. We plan to celebrate the Jubilee after half term with an afternoon tea party in school on Friday 10th June, where the children can dress up in red, white and blue.

## FOCUS on

### Friends of Blackthorns—FoBs

#### A HUGE THANKS FROM FOBs!

What an amazing start to the return of school fundraising last term! Thank you so much for getting involved. Your support through volunteering your time, providing raffle prizes and contributing to the fundraising is thoroughly appreciated. It simply could not happen without you and we are very grateful! We hope the kids had some extra fun with their friends along the way.

We raised a fantastic £1,840 which we are spending on new classroom reading areas, some outdoor furniture, a clown, play equipment for our Inventors class and we hope to give our Primary School Leavers a memorable send off at the end of this term!

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for the following upcoming events:

- **Feel Good: Thursday 26th May**
- **Race Night: Friday 17th June**
- **2022 Summer Festival! Friday 15th July**

If you'd like to be part of the Summer Festival team, please let us know via email,

[Pta@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:Pta@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk) or message Lilly on 07973626623.

Looking forward to more fun this term! THANK YOU!

### 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—Ivy Layla and Jack, Y1—Stanley and Anwen, Y2—Emily and**

**Ellie, Y3—Ava and Elodie, Y4—Amane, Isaac and Eliot, Y5—Gabriella and Scott, Y6—all year 6 got Golden Rule certificates!**

**Golden Rule certificates for treating others with exceptional consideration went to Jasmine, Anwen, Logan and all year 6!**



### House Cup

A tie! Metal and Water won the house cup with 415 points collected this week!



### School Council

Thank you for supporting our school council and their initiative to support the people of Ukraine. You raised £286.65, which has been donated to

### Reminder

Children should not be on the climbing apparatus in the Key Stage 2 playground after school.