

Inside Our Classrooms This Year

The Hive In The Hive over the last two weeks we have been learning about volcanoes, linked to our book, My Mouth is a Volcano by Julia Cook. We have learned why they erupt, what they are and we have conducted an experiment to see what are the best materials to make our own volcanoes. We have discussed what a metaphor is and thought about when mouths can be like volcanoes. We have played an interrupting game and thought about how it feels when people interrupt us. In maths we have continued to learn about the four operations, looking particularly at multiplying and dividing. We were very excited when we had an email to say we had won a prize for our winning dreamcatcher, which Ms Hawtin collected and it was a birdbox! Now we are thinking about where to put it and what birds might need.

Thinkers had a super busy few weeks in the sunshine! We started off with our Rainbow Fish text, where we learnt all about how to share and be a good friend, as well as decorating our own Rainbow Fish using coloured finger prints. We moved onto our Lighthouse theme and designed our own lighthouses/lunchboxes, thinking how to keep naughty seagulls out! This week, pirates have been in our minds. We've made telescopes, pirate hats and eye patches (all recyclable) and learnt all about a pirate life ready for our Pirate Day!

Inventors The Summer term is such an important and influential time in the school year and Inventors have taken it in their stride. From building friendships and growing together, to achieving the most amazing outcomes in their Phonics Screening Check. The children of Inventors have achieved a great deal they should be proud of. In the Summer term, we focused on 'stories in secret places' and thoroughly enjoyed learning all about The Secret Garden, The Wind in The Willows and all the topics in between. They have progressed so much. From learning how to write simple sentences to creating imaginative, descriptive stories which wowed me throughout the year. From learning place value within 10, addition and subtraction within 20 to recognising place value within 100, identifying money and telling the time. It is incredible what we have all learned together. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching Inventors and I wish them all the best in Year 2!

Explorers have continued to be 'Planet Protectors'. We read the story 'Greta and the Giants' and were inspired to create 'Save the Forest' posters. In Maths we have been learning about properties of 2D and 3D shapes and have been building 3D shapes using nets. We had a Spanish feast with Mrs Robinson, tasting a variety of Spanish foods, which was DELICIOSO! This week we had a fantastic 'Jolf' session and demonstrated some super golfing skills. We have also spent time in our Year 3 classroom during our transition sessions with Mr Luckhurst, and are

really looking forward to becoming Warriors in September!

Warriors have persevered their way through some stifling temperatures to enjoy lots of curriculum focused days! We have had a history day where we looked at the first underground stations as well as how the train station impacted Haywards Heath; a Maths day where we estimated the weight of items and used scales to check as well as making new drinks by measuring out juices; a science day where we looked at friction and which surface caused most friction as well as becoming human scrapyards magnets by separating magnetic and non-magnetic materials. We also enjoyed getting to know our new teacher, Miss Wilding, in our transition sessions.

Ground-breakers We have loved our Mayan style sewing, producing some amazing and colourful outcomes. Continuing our Mayan theme, it has been time to create like an ancient Mayan, making and decorating Mayan pots with glyphs and patterns. This week, we have enjoyed something different, with an independent free write on an edible theme!

Innovators have had a very busy couple of weeks both being visited and visiting! PC Kemp came to talk to our class about the police force and the many different roles and responsibilities within it, and we had our final Year 5 trip to London. Travelling up on the train, we enjoyed some of the sights on the river Thames before taking part in a crime and punishment workshop at the Tower of London, where we learned about how innovative some of the prisoners were in making their escapes! We also went to see the Superbloom exhibition and enjoyed the speed of the slide down into the moat. Thank you once again to the parents who helped us to make that day a safe and successful one.



Trailblazers have been working their socks off to deliver a knockout performance to end the year and their time at Blackthorns. The acting was of a superb standard and they showed their abundance of talent in their round up of their final primary school year. They have been

preparing their leavers' speeches, making cards for their buddies and continuing to work hard in their last two weeks. Well done, Trailblazers. We wish you well as you move on to pastures new!

Dates for your diary:

15th July (after school) Summer Festival

19th July Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

21st July INSET day and End of Summer Term

1st September—INSET day

2nd September—INSET day

5th September—Pupils return to school

14th September—Start of Year Meetings

21st October—INSET day

24th-28th October—HALF TERM

Grounds Day (Evening!)

Sleeves were rolled up, jaws were set and muscles were flexed as the Blackthorns community got to grips with the grounds on Friday 1st July! We love nature at Blackthorns, but sometimes it feels like it doesn't love us! Plants thriving around the site can get out of control during the warmer months and it can become very difficult to keep on top of. Plus, over the course of the term there are often areas that need a little bit of extra care and a tidy up! Well done to all involved!



General Reminders

Did you know that Chartwells has a dedicated answering phone for people to report their child's absence and get credit back for the unused school meal? They check the line for messages at 10.30am each day. Messages can be left any time before that on 01243 773239. So, if your child is unwell and is absent from the academy because of this, you don't need to lose a lunch!

JOLF



Blackthorns welcomed back Mr. Neil Plimmer and his fantastic JOLF, which aims to introduce children to the sport of golf in a fun and engaging way. With equipment adapted to suit the children and bright, exciting course set ups, the children really enjoy getting active with golf in this way. The quest to gain the golden ball at the end of a class session is always an aim for the children and well done to those who were spotted getting involved in the right ways to gain one! Hopefully we can continue to do more JOLF in the future!

Goodbye

Blackthorns bids a fond farewell to two amazing people at the end of this term. Gemma Sawyer and Karen Ramsbottom have been a huge part of the Blackthorns story and we wish them well with their next adventures!

Mrs Neller

Sarah Neller has decided to leave The Blackthorns Academy at the end of August for personal reasons. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Sarah for being a wonderful teacher, mentor, colleague, guide leader and friend to so many of us during her many years here.—Mr. King

Local Board

We are currently recruiting to our Local Board and are inviting applications from parents/carers and members of the community to join this important group.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the Local Board has responsibilities which include monitoring areas of pupil welfare, the academy community engagement strategy and how the academy implements the Trust vision, mission and values. You will need to be able to commit some time to attending regular (4 times a year) meetings in the evening, be able to visit the academy during the day – typically 3-6 times each academic year- and participate in training (online and face to face) to ensure that you are fully equipped to carry out your role.

For further information, or an application form, please contact governance@brightonacademiestrust.org.uk

Blackthorns would like to send a huge thank you to the Local Board members leaving us this year. Your input and commitment to the school, its pupils and staff has been exceptional during your time on the board.

Year Six Spectacle!

Year 6 put on a wonderful performance to round off the year on Wednesday 13th July. They overcame adversity and dealt with the warm weather admirably. Read all about it below! *By Ella Bartholomew*

Trailblazers Tribune
Date: 15.7.22 YOUR DAILY FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER Price: _____

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR
Local primary school show of their acting skills as their performance comes to life.

The school had many problems to overcome: Winston Churchill was extremely ill, a costume went missing - then to be found again and an actor went riot after suffering a sugar rush. A member of the audience arrived just in time to watch her son steal the spotlight in the marvellous Shackleton scene whilst during the Titanic scene two cleaners entered the school building distracting some members of the cast but those on stage carried on with the extravaganza. We must mention the marvellous first scene where Mrs Jones (played by Ella Bartholomew) really shone - she is very likely going to feature in the future. A heart-warming moment was when all the children stated their wishes for their lives. This really was the performance of the year.

Caption: Mrs Smith, Linda Stone, excellent historical costumes!

Drama, ballets, war, comedy and music all featured in the show of the year. On Wednesday 13th July 2022, Blackthorns Trailblazers performed in their school hall in front of a massive 90 supporters. They aimed to please their family and friends with a show that made them laugh and cry and they did just that receiving rapturous applause at the end.

Time Flies



As always, another year ends at school where the previous September feels like a lifetime ago. It astounds me every year how much the fantastic people of Blackthorns manage to squeeze in to a school year. Busy parents, staff and children pack so much into our terms and it is almost impossible for me to keep up with everything that is going on (as those of you who ask me on the gate can testify!)

Change is a big part of life and children at primary school do a massive amount of this every single day. The growth and learning is often visible minute by minute as you walk around the class rooms. People who work with us come and go as their lives move on and circumstances change, but their imprint remains with us. We thank all of the staff and families who have made the school what it is, but now continue the adventure in new places.



September began with new starts and fresh outlooks as it always does, with some of the effects of covid still making their presence felt, but with a shared determination to move forward. Teachers began to plan trips, clubs started up again and learning was resolutely back inside the academy. A welcome return to things we hold dear. Year 6 set off to Newhaven Fort, 4 were in the Royal Pavilion and 2 stepped



into the Sea Life Centre. Nativity took place, Christmas parties were back, panto was on again (oh, no it wasn't—oh, yes it was!) and we gathered as a community for a Christmas service at All Saints church.



Spring saw a celebration of 50 years of fantastic Blackthorns learning and thoughts of the thousands of people who carry still a part of Blackthorns with them wherever they go. Hats were designed, cake was gratefully devoured and gold shirts that never should have seen the light of day were on display (not for the last time...) Year 5 took on all challenges at Bowles and had a fantastic time. World Book Day was a hit, workshops took place, sports events came thick and fast and visitors enriched the curriculum as the term raced on relentlessly. Year 5 went to Hever castle, Zoolab crept and crawled into the hall and children dusted off their dancing shoes at the FoBs discos.



Summer term came. The sun and the children shone. Children took on the challenges of different assessments in many year groups with fantastic resolve and the school community worked as a team to support our learners through the different tests that they faced. We are immensely proud of all of our children and how they showed their independence and learning in all they undertook. Walk to school week was back, Reception brought the circus to town and year 3 got on board with the Bluebell railway (as well as a few other stations of different types!). The

Platinum Jubilee was joyous and a sports week topped off by the greatest Sports Day in many years really brought everyone together in a fantastic way.

What have I missed? Well, loads, actually. Washbrooks farm, the Isle of Wight, Tower of London, Area Sports, Pulborough Brooks, Fun Abounds, swimming lessons, Mexicalore Mayan workshop, British Wildlife Centre, Oathall farm, Location Location Location week, cross country, Easter service, Butser Ancient Farm, Brighton Toy and Model Museum, fundraising fortnight, library visit, pretty much every sport event you can imagine, Year 6 performance, Grounds Day and the Summer Festival to name a few.



The school buzzes throughout the year and at a lot of the time it is frenetic with activity. Thank you parents for your part in this: organising lifts to sporting events, supporting on trips, communicating with us, working with us and your children and understanding the busy nature of a primary school. Thank you to all of the staff for their energy, thought, care, creativity and hard work to keep the children safe and learning when challenges beset us all. Thank you to the pupils for being positive, smiling, astounding us, making mistakes (you have to do this to learn as humans), creating and above all learning and growing.



Life often throws us challenges. Facing them together, realising our limitations, strengths and areas to work on is all a part of the journey of learning. As a community of human beings, we are all doing it all of the time. That can be exhausting and enthralling. Allow yourselves a break—we've all earned it. I know I will be first in line, clutching tightly to my ticket for the rollercoaster once again in September and I hope you will be too. Stay safe, take care and have a great summer, Blackthorns.