

Remembrance

Today our school community stopped and remembered those who have lost their lives through conflict. A two minute silence was beautifully observed by the children who clearly demonstrated our value of respect. This was the culmination of their learning this week about the significance of the poppy and the importance of remembering those who have laid down their lives for their country. The two minutes silence was followed by Year 6 children reading our Blackthorns remembrance poem to the whole school. Earlier in the week, our children experienced a wonderful assembly from Mr Taylor linked to remembrance and the role that Lindfield residents played in World War 1. The children have been wearing their poppies with pride this week; I must thank our Year 6 children who have been selling poppies and everyone who has contributed to our poppy collection. On Sunday, a group of children from the school will be laying a wreath at the Lindfield War Memorial.

Staffing update:

I'm delighted to announce that on Wednesday we successfully interviewed for a Music Specialist teacher who will be continuing the excellent tradition of music at Blackthorns. Further details will follow soon. Sadly, I must also share news of two longstanding and highly-valued members of the Blackthorns Team who will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term. Angela Day will be retiring after working at Blackthorns for 31 years! She has played a huge role in the lives of all those who have passed through the school. She is the font of knowledge for all things Blackthorns and she will be greatly missed by children, staff and parents alike. We wish her the very best of luck for her upcoming retirement and hope she enjoys her well-deserved new adventures. In addition, I'm sad to say that Mrs Fowler is also going to be leaving Blackthorns to take up a new role that combines her love of supporting children's emotional development with her previous experience in nursing. This role, working in hospitals is perfect for Mrs Fowler's skill set and we wish her well for her new career.

Year 1 Phonics Meeting:

On Thursday, Miss Renfree hosted a phonics information session for parents from Year 1. Those who were able to attend, commented on how helpful they had found this session so we are keen to share the resources with you. These will be shared via Parentmail this afternoon.

Open Mornings and afternoons:

This week we held 3 parent tour sessions for prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2023. Our Year 6 children accompanied the parents around the school and performed this role superbly. The parents were full of praise for the children's passion for Blackthorns, love of their school and the articulate way in which they delivered the information and answered their questions. Well done Year 6 — we are very proud of you!

Odd Socks Day! Monday 14th November:

A reminder that on Monday, children, staff and parents are encouraged to wear Odd Socks to celebrate the start of Anti-Bullying week. We look forward to seeing a wide selection of bright and bold odd socks on Monday!

ILP Review meetings

These will take place on Wednesday 16th November after school. We were hoping to confirm appointment times today but we are chasing up the last couple of forms to ensure that all parents and carers of pupils on the SEN/D register have the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their ILP.

If we haven't received your form yet then we will be sending home a paper copy with your child today. Please return these on Monday as we will be confirming everyone's appointments on Monday afternoon.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who has completed our parent survey. This will close at the end of next week so please do take the time to share your feedback with us. The survey can be found at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/STBNKeNHZf>

Dates for your diary:

14th November - Odd Socks Day - start of Anti-Bullying Week
14th November - Year 2 trip to the Sea-life Centre
14th November - Year 2 and 3 parents consultation evenings
15th November - Individual photos at school
16th November - ILP review meetings
21st November - World Cup Day

6th, 7th & 8th December - KS1 Nativity performances.

16th December - Carol Concert & end of the autumn term.

Inside Our Classrooms This Week

This week in **the Hive** we have been thinking about Remembrance and the significance of the poppies. We have been looking for adjectives and verbs in a poppy poem and we will be writing our own. We looked at different poppies and described them. In maths we have been looking at counting in 10s, ten more and ten less.

Thinkers: This week, Thinkers have been learning about superheroes, inspired by reading Supertato. We have created our own Supertatoes and have designed traps and written Wanted posters to catch the Evil Pea. We also had the privilege of meeting a real life hero: Sergeant Moore and his Police dog, Inca. We learnt all about Sergeant Moore's role in the Police force, the equipment he carries and had a live demonstration from Inca, who uncovered a wallet and phone that had been hidden in the playground.

Inventors have been learning all about a special new book called 'Traction Man' written by Mimi Grey. Traction Man is a brand-new model with grippy hands, swivel eyes and extra string and in charge of guarding the breakfast toast! Inventors have loved listening and responding to this now familiar story by writing what their favourite part of the story is. We moved on to collaboratively describing Traction Mans outfits, looks and personality using powerful adjectives. Our next step was to design a new outfit and setting for Traction Man, ready for our final writing session describing our designs!

Explorers have been busy learning about the life of Jacques Cousteau and writing a biography of his life. They have been getting ready for their trip to the Sealife centre on Monday by making some funky stained glass fish and researching which plants and animals live in world habitats, including the ocean and how they adapt to their environment.

Warriors Year 3 have had a busy start to the term continuing their journey back to the Stone Age period. We had an amazing trip to the Ashdown Forest where we learnt many survival skills including den building and why people used hills to settle. Back in 2022, we have been getting to grips with column subtraction looking at when to knock on our

neighbours to exchange during our Maths lessons. In PE, we have made a start to our gymnastics lessons showing balances on patches and points as well as different ways to jump! We are excited to use the apparatus soon!

Groundbreakers

Groundbreakers have been creative this week, making picture books about a King/Queen who banned something (we have come up with some very interesting ideas...). We've learnt that structure and organisation are paramount during this process and have worked really hard on this piece of work. Next week we kick-start multiplication and division in maths, using our times table knowledge to help us along the way. We dive into our geography topic, focussing on the Industrial Revolution, where we discuss just how much life changed during this period.

Innovators:

This week we learnt about Cleopatra and found out how the great Ancient Egyptian civilisation ended. In learning how to write balanced arguments, Innovators have discovered that they have lots of opinions of different subjects and that it can be difficult to stop your discussion favouring one side or another! We are looking forward to taking part in UK Parliament Week next week when we will be finding out more about how the country is run and welcoming visitors from different political parties into our classroom.

Trailblazers:

On Monday, Trailblazers continued their learning about World War 2 with a visit to Newhaven Fort. It was an amazing trip which was greatly enjoyed by the class. The children handled lots of interesting artefacts and even got to meet a military bugle player who was practising for Remembrance Sunday. Trailblazers also got to lead tours of the school. Lots of parents came to visit Blackthorns, wanting to find out more about the school before deciding whether to send their children to join us. The children delivered brilliant tours and were able to share all the things that make Blackthorns such an exciting place to be.

School photos from Tempest Photography:

The school photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 15th November** to take individual and family group portraits.
If parents would like pre-school children photographed as a family group (parents may be included) then please just turn up at 8.15am. You are not obliged to purchase any photographs.

Update from FoBS:

Christmas Fair: 26th November – just 15 days to go!

Donations: We need your donations for the Christmas Fair ASAP!

- Unused toys, puzzles and games
- Wrapped sweets and treats
- Bottles of booze and toiletries
- Pre-loved cuddly toys
- Pre-loved Christmas jumpers

Please leave donations in the silver bin just inside the gate in the Key Stage 1 playground.

Helpers: We need your help on the day, and to set up the Christmas Fair. The class reps will be sending a message on the WhatsApp groups, so please look out for details on how to volunteer to help on Saturday 26th (and set up on Friday 25th).

Club News: Mr Luckhurst is busy speaking to all our club providers to gather in all the end dates; once these details are in, we will send this via ParentMail. We are still looking for boys in Year 4, 5 and 6 to join Netball club – it is an exciting, fast-paced game with lots of opportunities to represent the school with up to 3 teams taking part in competitions.

Choir Club, now with Mr Luckhurst, will start at the earlier time of 8am. Music and lyrics have been added to the children's SeeSaw accounts and we welcome you practising with the children at home.

Sports News: We are still waiting to host the Year 5 and 6 boys/girls' football tournaments but unfortunately the weather gods haven't been kind to us and we have had to postpone the date. The next competition will be the Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics competition on the 25th November closely followed by the Year 5 and 6 Cross Country event on Saturday 3rd December.

A reminder about parking respectfully in the local area

Just a gentle reminder that if you are driving to Blackthorns then please park courteously and responsibly in the surrounding roads, particularly taking note of double yellow lines and ensuring that you are not obstructing driveways. It is really important that we can maintain a steady flow of traffic and ensure that our children and parents are safe when arriving at and leaving the site. We also want to maintain positive and respectful relationships with our neighbours.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Blackthorns Christmas Fair
Saturday 26th November, 1-4pm

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS

With less than 4 weeks until the Christmas Fair, **we are looking for your help with donations.**

This is one of our biggest annual fundraisers – it's fun for the children and raises essential money for the school!

<p>KIDS' TOMBOLA</p> <p>We need new, unused toys, puzzles and games etc for kids' tombola prizes.</p>	<p>ADULTS' BOTTLE TOMBOLA</p> <p>Bottles of booze, bottles of perfume, bottles of toiletries etc - we need bottles as grown-up prizes!</p>	
<p>CUDDLY PET STALL</p> <p>Give those pre-loved cuddly soft toys a new home!</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS JUMPERS</p> <p>Outgrown, pre-loved Christmas jumpers/ outfits for children and adults.</p>	<p>SWEETS AND TREATS</p> <p>Donations of sweets, chocolates and treats too please – just make sure they are wrapped and in date.</p>

All the stalls depend on the generosity of donations, so please **give generously** and make sure all items are in **good condition.**

There will be bins in the Keystage 1 playground from Monday 7th November.

Your help is appreciated, we can't do it without your generosity - we are looking forward to a great day!

Thank you
Friends of Blackthorns