

## It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

It's a real privilege to work in a primary school in the run up to Christmas as we get to see the children's excitement building as they encounter the array of special events.

Our Christmas Fair took place on Saturday 26th November and was a great success! It was wonderful to see our community come together to organise and support this event and there was a lovely, festive atmosphere throughout Blackthorns. Thank you to the team from FoBS who have put in a tremendous amount of effort to make this so successful, whether in the preparation for the Fair, or in running stalls and activities on the day. Thank you also to all our families and staff who attended on Saturday. I know that the Blackthorns children thoroughly enjoyed themselves from the conversations I have had with them. It was a very impressive event and a wonderful way to launch the festive season at Blackthorns.

### Nativity

Rehearsals are in full swing for our upcoming performances of 'Christmas with Aliens' and the children's singing sounds fabulous! They have been working hard to learn their lines and stage directions and we appear to have a couple of budding directors in KS1 who are making sure that everyone ends up in the right place at the right time. Information regarding the booking of tickets has been sent out to Parents and Carers of the children performing and we look forward to welcoming a large audience to Blackthorns next week.

### Christmas Carol service

Our Christmas Carol service will take place at All Saints Church in the morning on Friday 16th December. Further details will follow.

Our **World Cup Day** took place last Monday and the children enjoyed the different activities available to them throughout the day. Mr Luckhurst's football challenge was very popular and many children chose to watch the England vs Iran match during the afternoon. Seeing the children celebrating England's goals and supporting the team with singing made it a very memorable experience. This morning's assembly linked in to one of the stories of the World Cup, as we discussed the Japanese supporters and players cleaning the stadium and the changing rooms after their victory over Germany. This links in perfectly with our newly launched 'Above and Beyond' certificates, presented to children who help to ensure that

Blackthorns is a fabulous environment in which to learn. Today's certificates focused on the children who have helped with improving our playground through sweeping up leaves.

### Charity appeals — update on our fundraising

In recent weeks, the children of Blackthorns have supported the Poppy appeal, raising £192.79. In addition, our School Council have decided to donate £131 from the proceeds from our Tuck Shop to Children in Need. Both donations will be gratefully received by these organisations so thank you for your support.

### FOBS UPDATE!



### New KS1 playground equipment

Thank you to everyone who came to see the unveiling of the new equipment in the KS1 playground. For those of you who couldn't make it, you may have spotted the new shelter and boat – both donated by FOBS, all thanks to the fundraising and donations by the school community!



### Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with and supported the Christmas Fair last Saturday – it was a great success and lots of fun was had

by all. These events are only possible with the generosity of everyone who supports them in all the different ways, from attendance and donations, to helpers and volunteers – so thank you everyone!

We also have our winners of the guess-the-jar competition:

*Guess number of Lego pieces* - the answer was 679 and the winner was Ethan O'Hara

*Guess number of corks* - the answer was 163 and the winner was Sarah Levack

## Dates for your diary:

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

7th December - Trailblazers visiting Oathall for performance of 39 steps.

12th December - Flu vaccinations

13th December - Pantomime performance in school

14th December - Christmas Lunch and wear a Christmas Jumper Day

15th December - Ensemble Reza: visiting music performance

16th December - Carol Concert at All Saints Church (am)

16th December - FoBS Party Lunch & Christmas Raffle (pm)

16th December - End of the Autumn Term

### 2023

3rd January - INSET day (school closed to children)

4th January - Children return to school for the start of the Spring Term

## Inside Our Classrooms This Week

**The Hive:** This week we kicked off learning about The World Cup with our chosen country, Spain. We tried Spanish food, Flamenco dancing and learned a song in Spanish. From our food tasting, we made tally charts and bar graphs to show who liked which Spanish food. We were lucky enough to have Indigo's mum, who is Spanish, come in to tell us more about the country. She taught us the colours in Spanish and we looked at the flags of the World Cup. Senora Robinson came and played some games with us in Spanish and we have had an amazing week.

**Thinkers:** For World Cup Day, Thinkers chose England as their focus country. They loved using Google Earth to find England, and some of the other countries they knew, on the interactive globe. All of the Thinkers made their own England flag to wave in time for the game too. In Thinkers we have continued our work with Supertato and the Evil Pea. We created our own super veggies and wrote letters to the Evil Pea telling him how to change his ways! Thinkers thought love might help! In Maths we have become so good at number composition to five that we can now solve number problems, such as Evil Pea subtraction squish!

**Inventors:** This week, Inventors prepared for their first school trip in Year 1! As our topic this term is 'The History of Toys', we visited The Brighton Toy and Model Museum which focused on answering our History Focus Question 'How were my grandparents' toys different to mine?'. Inventors had an amazing time exploring the museum and started off on a toy hunt. They needed to look for a bear called George, a doll called Alice, a bridge made of bricks and a circus! They loved finding out about toys from a long time ago. There were even toys from the late 1800s! Inventors finished off by clearing out Miss Renfree's piggy bank and having a go at the old 10p games that were all around the museum!

**Explorers** had a little taste of French life on Monday. They learned about the country, some of the language and shared their experiences of visits there. They then enjoyed some French delicacies including croissants and drinking Grenadine and Sirop De Menthe. A big *merci* to Madame Robinson.

On Wednesday, Mrs Jago came and talked to Explorers about her experiences of Scuba diving around the world. They wrote questions to ask her and loved listening to her stories. They learnt the signs to tell dive buddies underwater for the animals they have seen.

**Warriors** have had a busy time towards the end of November looking at holiday brochures and how they persuade people to visit in English and tackling addition and subtraction including lots of exchanging and regrouping in Maths. We have also been starting to use iMotion to create animations; showing off numerous different jumps including off the new gymnastics equipment; understanding and thinking about how Stonehenge was built and looking at how Van Gogh used lines and colour to create his paintings! When you write it all down – what a busy time we have had!

**Groundbreakers:** Over the past two weeks in Groundbreakers we have been filling our brains with multiplication and division facts and discussing useful tools to get them stuck in our heads. We've thought hard about the living conditions for people during the Industrial Revolution and what an impact this had on the world we know today. We've had a fabulous period of learning with lots of amazing work and determination from all children.

### **Innovators:**

Innovators class are now experts on democracy, having enjoyed taking part in UK Parliament Week. It was a jam-packed week and included visits from Liberal Democrat, Green Party and Conservative candidates – including our own MP, Mims Davies.

Maths has been all about square and cube numbers. The children have been working hard to get their heads around how many times they need to multiply a number by itself and brushing up on times table facts.

As we entered a football frenzy this week, we turned our attention to the countries of Africa and in particular the five who have made it through to Qatar. The children surprised themselves (and Mrs Highton!) at the amount of countries they already knew and the challenge has been locating them on the map!

### **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.

## Sports round-up

We have had a bumper end to the month with sporting events with over 40 children getting the chance to represent Blackthorns in both Athletics and Football.

On Tuesday 22nd November, both the boys' and girls' football teams travelled to St Pauls to take on 7 other schools in the Haywards Heath 7 a-side tournaments. 25 children were split into 3 teams and played some amazing football over the games they played with all teams making Blackthorns very proud!

### Girls competition:

Blackthorns B 0-3 St Wilfrids  
Blackthorns B 0-2 Lindfield  
Blackthorns B 0-0 Holy Trinity

7th/8th Place Play Off Blackthorns B 3-0 Northlands Wood (to finish 7th)

Blackthorns A 0-0 Bolnore  
Blackthorns A 0-1 Harlands  
Blackthorns A 3-0 Northlands Wood

5/6th Place Playoff Blackthorns A 3-0 Holy Trinity (to finish 5th)

### Boys competition:

Blackthorns 2-0 Northlands Wood  
Blackthorns 1-1 Holy Trinity  
Blackthorns 0-2 St Wilfrids

5/6th Place Off Blackthorns 2-2 Harlands (tied to finish 5th)

Well done to all those that took part and thank you to Mr Luckhurst and Mr King for running our teams and to our parents and carers who supported at this event.

### Sportshall Athletics Competition:

On Friday morning, some of Trailblazers (Year 6) and Innovators (Year 5) set off to Haywards Heath College for an indoor athletics tournament. There were 2 sections called track and field events. Track is running in different types of relays, field is the section where you do events such as vertical jump, chest push and long jump. Blackthorns did brilliantly in the first two races, obstacle relay boys and girls, where they achieved first place for both. They did

well in the over and under relays; girls came first and boys came second. Overall, we came joint first with Bolnore Village School, but our scores will be added to the leader board with ten other schools that took part. By Fletcher, Gabriella and Maisie

### Club News:

Due to a large amount of cancellations and postponements of clubs due to Inset Days, bank holidays, unavailability of the hall, pitch flooding and other reasons, many clubs have varied end dates. To try and keep you as informed as possible, please find the scheduled end date of each club below. All clubs were due to finish next week as the darkness draws in earlier and the hall becomes ready for Christmas and Nativity, but many have added extra sessions.

KS2 Just Box Fitness 12th December

KS2 Indoor Athletics 29th November for Y3, 4, 5 and 6 (we will have one bumper session)

KS2 Basketball 23rd November

Y4-6 Girls Football 23rd November

Cross Country 24th November

KS2 Choir 15th December

Year 5-6 Dance 2nd December

Rhythm Masters 13th December

KS2 Football Club 14th November

KS1 Art Club 28th November

KS2 Gymnastics 5th December

KS1 Multi-skills 22nd November

Y1-4 Dance 30th November

KS2 Art 23rd November

Y4-6 Netball 1st December

Year 3-5 Tennis 1st December

KS2 Cricket 24th November

Y1-6 Karate 15th December

Y1-6 Drama 9th December (please note that the 2nd and the 9th December will last for 90 minutes and finish at 16:45)