

Celebrating our wonderful Nativity

Thank you to all of our parents, carers and extended family members who came to enjoy our three performances of *Christmas with Aliens!* We are so proud of the way that our children demonstrated courage to get up on the stage and perform to you all. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning and revisiting the story of the first Christmas through this experience and it was wonderful to see them sing and deliver their lines with such enthusiasm and passion. Each performance was better than the previous one and we were delighted that the children were able to finish their run of shows with an excellent and energetic display on Thursday. Our staff team have worked incredibly hard to help the children deliver such a fabulous performance and I know that you share my gratitude towards them for their considerable efforts. Finally, thank you to all the parents who helped us to take down the stage after the final performance. We really appreciate your help with this.

Christmas Events in the final week of term

Next week is another busy one at Blackthorns as we try to ensure that the children and staff are fully in the Festive spirit!

On Tuesday, we have a visiting theatre company performing a pantomime to the children. They will perform to Key Stage 1 at 9:30am and to Key Stage 2 at 1:30pm.

On Wednesday, it is the Chartwells' Christmas Lunch! We encourage children to wear Christmas Jumpers on this day.

On Thursday, we have a visiting musical performance from Ensemble Reza. This will be for Years 1-5 and will take place at 11am.

Friday is the really busy day! We begin with our KS2 Christmas Service at All Saints Church. After walking the children back to school they will be experiencing the FoBS Christmas Party Lunch. Finally, we end the autumn term with the Christmas Raffle. Please do come and join us in the hall at 2:30pm for a performance from the choir and the chance to enjoy mince pies and a drink.

Dates for your diary:

- 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 - 12pm - FoBS Party Lunch

FOBS UPDATE!

New Bookshelves have arrived!

Thank you to FOBS for their purchase of new bookshelves to brighten up our shared learning spaces in KS1 and KS2. The KS1 bookshelves have already been put into action and the children are enjoying the new layout of this space and the opportunity to read in comfort. Our FOBS purchased bean bags are also enhancing this area and making it a better space in which to read and learn.



Wraparound care update

This afternoon, an email from Pioneer Childcare was sent out to all of our parents. If you require breakfast or after school childcare then please do complete the expression of interest form as a matter of urgency so that Pioneer can assess the level of need. The deadline for completing the form is midday on Monday 12th December.

I would like to thank you for your patience while we worked on finding a solution to the child care problems caused by Treetops going in to administration. Mr Still has been busy liaising with suitable providers and we are pleased that we have been able to find a possible solution so quickly.

16th December - 2:30pm - Christmas Raffle

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

Sports Update

Cross-Country:

On Saturday 4th December, a number of children represented Blackthorns in a Cross-Country fixture at Warden Park. Our athletes performed superbly well, not only running to the best of their abilities, but also supporting their fellow runners with excellent sportsmanship and kindness.

There were a number of notable performances including Eriko and Amelie finishing 3rd and 4th respectively in the girls' race, while Maisie and Charlotte also finished in the top 20 which helped the Blackthorns' team to finish in a magnificent 2nd place overall, just behind Windmills.

In the boys' race, we had 5 strong performances from our team but the highlight of this race was seeing one of our children stop their own race to support a team-mate who was struggling to complete the race. Thank you to Ned for showing kindness and teamwork, two of the qualities that we recognise as being very important at Blackthorns.

Thank you to all of the team for giving up their Saturday morning to represent Blackthorns so brilliantly and thank you to Mr Luckhurst for also giving up his Saturday morning to provide this opportunity for our children.

Cross-Country Team:

Aliona, Amelie, Charlotte, Clara, Eriko, Flo, Maia, Maisie, Eliot, George, Henry T, Ned and Jack W

Sportshall Athletics Results Update:

Following the news in our last newsletter of the excellent performance of our Sportshall Athletics team in their heat, we have now received confirmation of the combined results from all of the heats.

A number of our children performed fantastically well and were the leading performers across the whole area in some events and we celebrated their achievements in last Friday's Celebration Assembly. These excellent performances contributed towards our overall position as the 3rd place school in the whole locality, with a total of 1328 points, a mere 12 points behind 2nd placed St Lawrence.

Thank you to all of our athletes who have trained hard and performed with enthusiasm, skill and determination to achieve these great results.

Sportshall athletics team:

Gabby, Eriko, Maia, Margo, Flo, Clara T, Maisie, Amelie, Annie R, Charlotte, Bella, Amane, Eliot, Johnny, Ollie J, Joe, Ollie M-S, Serafym, Jack, Ned, Harry P, Fletcher, Luca and Jackson,