

Temperatures plummet as children's learning heats up

It has been a very chilly week at Blackthorns which has provided me with the opportunity to see lots of Brighton & Hove Albion scarves and woolly hats after they defeated Liverpool at the weekend! The children have coped really well with the frosty conditions and I have been very impressed with the children's focus on their learning when visiting classrooms this week.

Wraparound care update

Earlier today we sent out an email sharing the great news that Pioneer Childcare will be opening up their breakfast and after school club at Blackthorns from Monday 30th January. Thank you for all the positive feedback that we have received on the gate regarding this news. If you require wrap around care then please do register and book your sessions by following the link in the email.

Author visit

Today we welcomed author and illustrator Sophy Henn to Blackthorns. She gave an inspiring talk to our children in Years 1, 2 and 3 and then led a session showing them how to draw a Great White Shark! The children produced some fantastic sketches. Sophy was a fantastic presenter and has accumulated a great deal of knowledge about the animals that she expertly portrays in her Lifesize books. She was happy to debate the largest dinosaur that ever existed too!

Many families ordered copies of Sophy's books and we do have a small number of books still available to sell if your child was inspired by meeting Sophy this afternoon. Please visit the office to enquire further.

Friends Of Blackthorns



Key Stage 2 Playground

The climbing frame is fixed! The key stage two children are thrilled to have their play equipment back to full working order thanks to funding by FOBs.

Race to Recycle

Did you know that it takes 500 years for a toothpaste tube to decompose in landfill, and 300 million tubes a year end up in landfill in the UK every year?

But, harder-to-recycle items such as this can be recycled, and now they can be recycled through school! Pupils have been challenged to collect the following items for TerraCycle:

- Chocolate / sweet / cereal bar packets and wrappers
- Crisp and popcorn packets (shake out crumbs and flatten)
- Milk bottle tops (clean and dry)
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes

Every Friday, the special bin in each classroom will be emptied and the contents counted and weighed. The class that collects the most items for TerraCycle by the end of term will receive a class prize of their choice!



Inside our classrooms

This week in **The Hive** we have looked at measurement in Maths, using a ruler and thinking about different units of measurement. We have also continued with our mental maths, focusing on multiplication and dividing. In English we have continued to look at the characters in Harry Potter, acting out and describing the characters, relating to our zones of regulation.



Inventors Over the past two weeks, Inventors have been busy with their Write Inspired English sessions which focused on our current topic 'to infinity and beyond!' Inventors listened to space themed stories and music, watched videos of space and created images using oil pastels. Their oil pastel drawings were the first point of inspiration for their space inspired poetry. Children worked collaboratively to brainstorm powerful and imaginative adjectives to describe the stars, cosmic dust and planets. Once they had chosen their favourite adjectives, they put them into sentences and published their poems on top of their oil pastel drawings. They look absolutely magical and are now proudly displayed as you walk into Blackthorns.

In Explorers Class, Year 2 have had an exciting time playing with words. We began by watching clips of the Northern Lights and thought of words to describe their colours and movements. We then chose an order for our sentences to create a poem, which we performed to each other.

We then used the skills we had learnt to write a poem about 'The Frozen Forest.' We started by

visiting our own frozen forest and made models of the trees. Next we gathered words, thinking about rhyming, alliteration and similes as we put them into sentences to form a poem. Finally we published them ready for display.

Our Year 3 **Warriors** have had a very busy fortnight (as always!) starting their Roman topic by looking at who Romulus and Remus were through a whole class drama performance as well as looking at how the Roman Empire spread over time! We are thoroughly enjoying our new book Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans and would recommend the whole series! In maths, we have been tackling the 4 and 8 times table and we are becoming more confident with these. Finally, in Geography, we have been travelling to Italy during the afternoons (quick flights) and learning more about the parts of Italy as well as their culture.

We are really looking forward to our Roman experience day on Wednesday!

Innovators class have been learning all about how the Tudor rule started and the Battle of Bosworth. We have also been asking ourselves if Henry VIII's famous portrait by Hans Holbein is an accurate picture of what he looked like, or whether portraits might have been used like photo editing tools today. English and science are focusing on space at the moment. While learning the science behind the solar system, we have also been considering what is meant by 'humankind' and exploring what a final message from space might look like.

Trailblazers have been planning our advertisement to try and find the perfect crew member to join our Antarctic expedition. We also studied Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If' as Ernest Shackleton used this poem as inspiration to help him become the ideal citizen and leader of men.

In maths we have been converting between decimals, percentages and fractions.

We began planning our science investigation into how light travels.

In DT we have planned our Polar shelters and have started to look at how to construct joins and identify the features of a successful shelter.