

## Sports News

On Wednesday 15th March, Mr. Luckhurst took 8 Year 5/6 children to Horsham to take part in the Sussex Schools



Swimming Association Primary School Relay 2023. We entered the small schools category as we have fewer than 60 Year 5/6 children and we were grouped with Battle Abbey Prep, Bedes Prep, Wivelsfield and West Dean as well as Ardingly College and Brighton College in different heats! The two teams battled superbly well against other schools including some private schools in a very well-run event in which rules were rules - one school was disqualified in their first leg for going before the buzzer (this shocked Mr. Luckhurst when Amelie told him). The A and B team really went for it and swam amazingly! The B team finished third in both of their relays and the A team won their heat in the mixed stroke relay (back, breast, front, front) and their heat in the freestyle relay. The times of both heats were put together and the A team finished second in both; thus, qualifying for the next round and the South-East Primary Schools Team Championships in Guildford! On a Saturday evening in May. Well done to Gabby, Charlotte, Luca, Bella, Amelie, Eriko, Isla and Maisie

## Friends of Blackthorns

### Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came to the quiz night last Friday - the school hall was packed with teams! It was a great evening and we raised over £1000 for the new phonics scheme.

### Fundraising Fortnight

In assembly this week, FOBs launched this year's Fundraising Fortnight – an annual initiative held over the Easter holidays when Blackthorns' children raise money for the school by setting themselves a sponsored challenge. This year, we are raising money for new playground equipment. A letter and sponsorship form came home with the children earlier this week – it should tell you everything you need to know to get involved. If you need any more information, please contact FoBs on [pta@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk](mailto:pta@blackthornsprimaryacademy.org.uk)

### Race to Recycle

FOBs did the final count and weigh for all the recycling today, and the winners will be announced next week! We will also be sharing our plans to have some long term Terracycling facilities at school in due course.



### Healthy Snacks

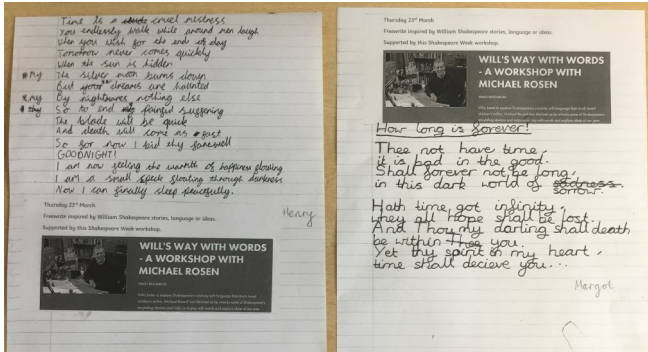
We do encourage children to have a healthy snack as part of their break time routine. Break times are a great opportunity for our children to get some much needed food and drink on board to bridge the gap between breakfast and lunchtime. It is a good time for the children to have a suitable healthy snack and a drink. Healthy snack suggestions are usually fruit or vegetables, but if you are looking for some ideas or inspiration, please have a look at the NHS Better Health Healthier Families website [here](#).

### Grounds Day Planning Begins

Mr. King met with Mrs. Hill to begin planning this annual event to give the school a bit of a helping hand to make itself look beautiful! A school site is a hard thing to maintain and nature's determination is relentless. We love our school being surrounded by trees and greenery, but it does bring with it some challenges and many, many leaves! We did a tremendous job together last year and the parents made the Key Stage 1 areas shine for the summer. We are planning to roll up our sleeves once more and we hope that you will be able to join us for a fun day of tidying and tidivating later in the summer term. We are planning for it to take place from 2-5pm on Saturday 20th May, so keep the date!



**We Are All Writers!**



Please take a look at some of the fabulous writing that takes place in our curriculum. Some of Year 6 have been exploring the villanelle form of poetry, with a spring theme that seems fitting here. Year 2

have been recreating Australian traditional tales and you can see that Mia White and Jenna Baron have been hard at work here. Interestingly, Year 5 were given a flash Shakespearian writing challenge with only 20 minutes to produce something inspired by the bard. Their first draft attempts were great to hear—you can see Henry Creasy and Margot Trisnan really enjoyed letting their ideas flow.

Cloudy days roll to bluer skies.  
It marks the beginning of spring.  
New life watches the sun rise.

How the baby bird flies -  
And hear them learn to sing.  
Cloudy days roll to bluer skies.

New flowers always bring a surprise.  
How the daffodils blow; I watch them dancing.  
New life watches the sun rise.

Green meadows where lush grass lies.  
So much life spring will bring.  
Cloudy days roll to bluer skies.

Jade shoots give flowers their disguise.  
Which baby animal will be crowned King?  
New life watches the sun rise.

Winter is gone, it withers and dies.  
How the bluebird flies, showing its ice blue wings.  
Cloudy days roll to bluer skies.  
New life watches the sun rise.

By Georgia Longhurst



Golden sun shining bright,  
Helping flowers grow.  
Rays of sun waking night.

Snow drops are snowy white.  
Fields occupied by doe.  
Golden sun shining bright.

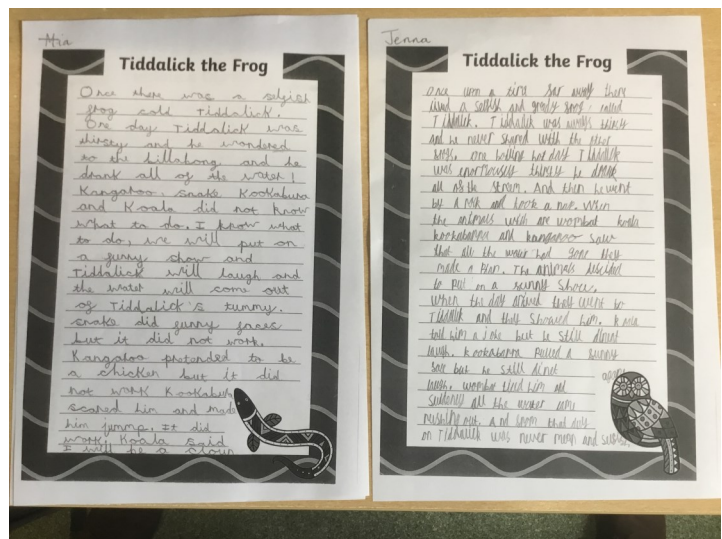
Sunflowers reaching such heights.  
Grass is needing a mow.  
Rays of sun waking night.

Feathers from chicks are very light.  
Sunny spring is on the go.  
Golden sun shining bright.

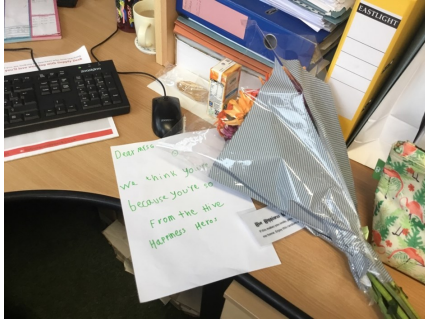
Midnight blackbirds take flight,  
Let the pretty flowers grow.  
Rays of sun waking night.

As eggs' film shines very bright,  
I am glad winter lets go.  
Golden sun shining bright.  
Rays of sun waking night.

By Violet Tingley



## Inside Our Classrooms



### The Hive

Over the last two weeks The Hive have been continuing with our Happiness Project. We learned about

Random Acts of Kindness, and have formed the Hive Happiness Heroes, a secret band of superheroes spreading joy throughout the school. Look out for more random acts of kindness next week; we are hoping to have spread happiness to everyone in the school before Easter! In Maths we have looked at 2d and 3d shapes, their properties and lines of symmetry. In English we have read the book *Kindness is my Superpower* and spotted the rhyming words. We wrote our own rhyming couplets, which turned into our song, 'Kindness'. We are hoping to refine it next week, add some instruments and record it.

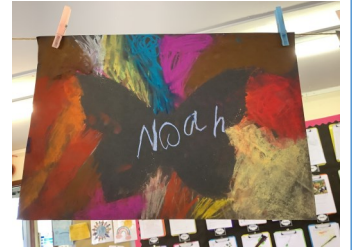


### Thinkers

Thinkers have enjoyed another busy week! They have been learning the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by

Eric Carle, creating story maps and using them to retell the story. We learnt all about the life cycle of a butterfly and loved learning the word 'metamorphosis'! We also

talked about our favourite fruits and designed and made our own fruit kebabs. Here are some pictures of our beautiful butterfly art too, created with Mrs Wheller. We used oil pastels for the first time... it was a little messy!



### Inventors

This week in Inventors, Mrs Armitage took us on her journey as 'Queen on The Road'. Her Uncle Cosmo was kind enough to send her a letter to say he had bought a new motorcycle and she could have his old car. Thrilled, Mrs Armitage took it for a ride within seconds! We decided that the best way to thank Uncle Cosmo, was to write him a letter of thanks. Inventors spent two lessons thinking about what a letter must include and began writing. The next lesson, they did their first piece of editing and made sure their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops were in the right place! Lastly, they published their letters ready to be sent off! They look amazing and Inventors should be proud of the writing they have done! As we are coming to the end of our 'Travel and Transport' topic, we look forward to learning about a brand new book next week!

## Dates for your diary:

27th March—FoBs Meeting

28th March—Zoolab visit to KS1

31st March - FoBs Fundraising Fortnight begins

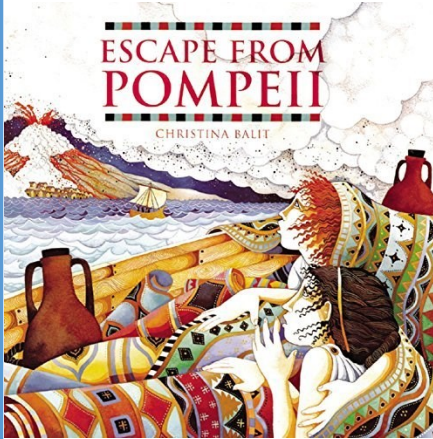
31st March—End of Spring Term - break up for Easter

31st March - Easter Service at All Saints

17th April—INSET Day

24th April—Neurodiversity Week

25th April—Class Photographs



## Explorers

Explorers have written some beautiful 'Pond of Truth' poems about different aspects of nature. They used some wonderful metaphorical phrases and

created some fabulous artwork to accompany their poems. They have also been busy making clay pots which they are very much looking forward to decorating in an aboriginal style of art next week, which they have been learning about in their art lessons this term.

## Warriors

Year 3 have been PHENOMENAL with their learning this fortnight - they have been working their socks off to cover so many amazing topics! In English, they have amazed me with their knowledge of paragraphs and main and subordinate clauses in writing a diary as Tranio from Escape from Pompeii. In maths, we finished our Multiplication and Division unit with my favourite part - How Many Ways and then made a great start on the next topic: Money. Our history and geography topics are coming to the end too and we have looked at mountains and the key features of these as well as looking at Hadrian's Wall and the different houses that the Romans lived in when they came to Britain. Finally, we also looked at the different ways to move a sprite in Scratch - there are some budding coders in our class!

## Groundbreakers

This week Groundbreakers have been exploring narrative poems. They have been looking at some incredible poets such as Michael Rosen, Tony Mitton and Judith Nicholls. The children explored performance poetry and even worked as a class to perform 'Willow Pattern' by Tony Mitton.



## Innovators

Innovators are coming to the end of their Tudors study and they have

been thinking very carefully about one of their key focus questions, 'Who was the most influential Tudor monarch?' There is split opinion, but Henry VII and Henry VIII seem to be popular choices!

## Trailblazers

Trailblazers have been working really hard at sitting their mock sats tests and have performed really well. The highlight of the week has been the opportunity to act out the court scene, where all those blamed for the loss of life on board Titanic were sent to trial. There was a judge and jury, press and lawyers present. Captain Smith ended up being sent down! In RE the children debated 'Is anything eternal' and produced some very thought provoking writing. Mrs Thomas led the class in printmaking, producing some excellent representations of icebergs using polystyrene sheets as printing blocks. In science they have been learning about the human heart and debating the question: What is more important the heart or the lungs?

## Spring Has Sprung?

### End of the Spring term

We are sure that we have seen glimmers of spring, but it does feel as though the sunshine is dragging its heels more than normal this term, even though it is drawing to a close and we approach a new summer term! It was great to see all of our parents in for the spring term parent consultations. It is always a good opportunity to reflect on the term and look forward to what comes next. Thank you all for the support that you provide at home to help our learners keep growing and developing.

## INSET Days 2023-2024

Date

Friday 1st September 2023

Friday 20th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Mon 19th February 2024

Thurs 28th March 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

## Project Enrichment Update

Before we bring this Term to a close and look forward to the Easter break, we thought it would be a good opportunity to update you on how Blackthorns Community Primary Academy has been working with Lindfield Primary Academy since the completion of Project Enrichment in December 2021. This vision to work more closely between each Academy came from the isolation of the Pandemic.

### Teaching and Learning support

- Staff have been on shared learning walks across the Academies, in their joint year groups, looking at different classrooms and criteria for that learning walk, picking up ideas and solutions that they might have from visiting 30 different learning environments (22 classes in Lindfield, 8 in Blackthorns, which includes the SSC). They have had regular book/work moderation where they have been sharing ideas and discussing children's learning.
- Various year groups, such as Early years have met to look at planning and assessment within their year group. Whilst individual members of staff in charge of different subjects have met on numerous occasions and discussed their subject and plotted ways forward, sharing ideas, and resources and supporting each other to get the best outcomes for the children.
- The use of a professional development tool for our teachers, 'irisconnect,' has been planned across both schools and this does have a positive impact on teaching and learning.
- The curriculum leads from both Academies have met and shared ideas about how both schools can support each other in evolving their dynamic curriculums.
- The Inclusion Leads from both Academies have met to support each other with resources.
- Classes have also shared reading with other classes across both Academies.
- During this year, both schools welcomed Ukrainian children into our communities. I am pleased to see them settling in well, made easier by setting up a regular meeting.

### Staff support

- The benefit for the staff in each Academy has been one of support and professional dialogues.
  - Regular meetings with the senior leaders have taken place so that various events and dates can be organised together for the academic year.
  - Various projects for our community, such as World Book Day, Mission Vision and Values and Pupil Premium projects, have senior leaders from both Academies working together to pull resources and ideas.
  - This is also the case for key areas of our curriculum, such as Literacy, Maths, Assessment and the wider curriculum, where leaders, especially the Vice Principals, have supported each Academy. The schools have also shared the learning to be gained when both academies have had the Trust School Improvement Advisor (Challenge Partners) in.
  - We have had shared training for professional development, such as our Safeguarding INSET, Fire Awareness training for Wardens and our Drama in the Curriculum INSET.
  - We have also had regular learning walks across both Academies and moderation of work to understand children's progress so that the staff are secure in the judgements that they are making about the children.
  - Staff have also shared volunteer induction resources to get more volunteers into the Academies and have also shared a strike picket line together and a regular coffee van that comes to visit!
- We continue to work together and support each other where we can for the good of the children in our community.