

## Big On Books!

World Book Day Friday 3rd March



WE HAD A BLAST! World Book Day was, as always, a lot of fun at Blackthorns. We had animals, spacemen, magical beings and princesses roaming the corridors of learning and we even think we knew where Wally was! It was wonderful to see the effort that had been put in to the costumes—well done to all of our parents for such wonderful creativity! It's its own special challenge for the adults every year and you never cease to amaze us. I, on the other hand, am running out of characters that may wear a gold shirt...

We made bookmarks, voted for our favourite books and the year 5 and six pupils ran wonderful group reading events for all of the children in the rest of the school.



### Stewart Foster Inspires Us!

We were very lucky to have been visited by Stewart Foster and he was incredibly impressed by our pupils. He received a great response and there are now lots of our pupils tucking into his wonderful words!

### Reading With The Neighbours

Our Year 3,4 and 5 children went over to Lindfield to share their book knowledge with the three year 4 classes at

Lindfield this Friday. Three Year 2 classes from Lindfield travelled in the opposite direction and came into our Year 1, 2 and Reception classes. They had all prepared bookmarks to swap with one another recommending their favourite reads. They chatted about these and the books that they enjoy reading. It was a wonderful event, with many children from both schools seeing inside the academy across the field for the first time! We hope to be able to do an al fresco version of the event on the field in the summer.



## Dates for your diary:

13th and 14th March - Parents' Consultation Evenings

15th and 16th March—Strike action will

17th March—FoBs Quiz Night

31st March - FoBs Fundraising Fortnight begins

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

20th March—FoBs fundraising fortnight launch to children

28th March—Zoolab visit to KS1

31st March - Easter Service at All Saints

17th April—INSET Day

24th April—Neurodiversity Week

25th April—Class Photographs

## Inside Our Classrooms



### The Hive

We had a fabulous Book Day in The Hive, Miss Rankin joined us as Lola to read with us. The Hive adults were the crayons from The Day the Crayons Quit, and each one read out their letter to Duncan.

On Shrove Tuesday we kicked off our Happiness Project by making pancakes. We talked about Lent and have set ourselves the challenge of doing kind deeds every day in Lent. We have written letters to each other, telling our classmates what we like about them and are recording our good deeds in our Kindness journals.

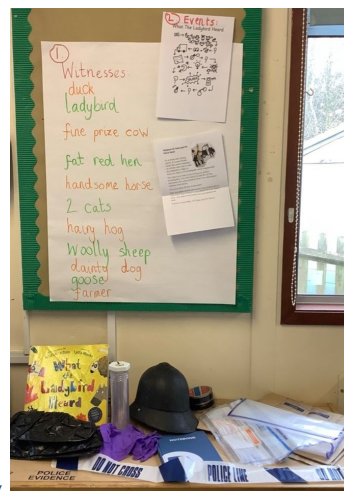


### Thinkers

It's been a busy couple of weeks in Thinkers



Class! We especially enjoyed World Book Day, celebrating our favourite books and dressing the part. We were lucky enough to have a visit from groups of children in Yr 5 and Yr 6 who read some wonderful picture books to us. Speaking of brilliant authors, Thinker's have been enjoying the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. We were sent a letter from PC Pete and PC Percy informing us that 'Hefty Hugh' and 'Lanky Len' have escaped. The investigation has been launched in class and so far we have created a list of witnesses, drawn up story maps of the event which took place and have held police interviews in role. Next week we will be going undercover!



### Inventors

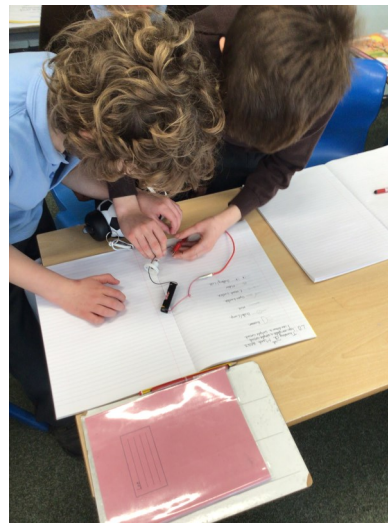
It has been a very busy few weeks in Inventors! We have been introduced to the fantastic book character, Mrs Armitage and have emerged ourselves into the story 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. We came up with powerful adjectives to describe her character and learned that she is an inventor, just like us!! When her bike went CRASH! CLANG! CLUTTER!, she wrote us a letter asking if we could design her a brand new bike! We took it upon ourselves to design the most fantastic bike, after all, that's what she deserves! Their new designs are proudly displayed on our English Working Wall.

## Explorers

Explorers wore their sunhats and shades, printed their boarding passes, boarded the plane and jetted off to Australia to learn all about this wonderful country in Australia day. They immersed themselves in their learning by making flags, puzzles of the states and fact-files, They made wonderful boomerangs for homework and have been looking at and recreating some aboriginal art. They have enjoyed a traditional aboriginal tale about Tiddalik the frog and have worked so hard to create an alternative ending.

## Warriors

We've been working extremely hard over these two weeks getting to grips with new learning in English and Maths as well as a new topic within our Geography work. In English, we have started reading *Escape to Pompeii* and used this as a stimulus to learn about the 7 different types of pronouns (bonus parent points if anyone can e-mail me the 7 without Google!) and how these help our sentences and paragraphs flow. In Maths, we have started multiplying two digit numbers by one digit using resources, drawings and partitioning. Volcanoes have been the subject of our Geography work looking at how they erupt and the different parts of these. Also, we have been enjoying starting our coding lessons looking at Scratch and how we can sequence events!



## Groundbreakers

Groundbreakers have had a fantastic week. We have been preparing to create a documentary sharing all we have learnt in History about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We have started a new topic in Science exploring electricity and the

class created their own circuits. The children have loved reading *Odd and the Frost Giants* in English and have been working exceptionally hard to create information leaflets about Frost Giants. Well done, Groundbreakers! What a busy week!

## Innovators

Innovators have been channelling their inner bard and have been writing like William Shakespeare after studying a variety of his texts. *The Tempest* was supposed to be a comedy, but we think their sense of humour must have been a bit different back then! In maths, we have continued to work on multiplying 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers. We also reflected on what we now know about the Tudors following our Hever Castle trip last week—it turns out that you wouldn't want to take a dip in a castle moat—don't ask!

## Trailblazers

Trailblazers have been wondering 'What was the legacy of the sinking of the Titanic?' They are now experts in ship health and safety! We had a great Q and A with Stewart Foster and in maths, we have been examining his punk song choices and working out the mean of our class voting. Green Day came out winners, closely followed by The Sex Pistols and The Undertones. This week we have also started to look at our Healthy Living module in PSHE, thinking about what physical and mental well-being is and completing our personal profiles.

## Sports News

### Netball Tournaments:

16 netballers from Year 4 and Year 6 travelled to Downlands school to take part in the HH area Netball tournament. Each team showed all of the Blackthorns values to succeed across the day particularly the Year 4 children who were competing in a Year 5/6 competition due to our Year 5 children being on a school trip!

### Results:

#### B Tournament:

Blackthorns 3-1 Northlands Wood  
Blackthorns 3-4 St Lawrence

Blackthorns 1-0 London Meed  
Blackthorns 0-3 St Giles  
Finished 3rd in the group

#### A Tournament:

Blackthorns 0-4 St Lawrence  
Blackthorns 2-0 London Meed  
Blackthorns 0-0 Southway  
Blackthorns 1-1 Holy Trinity  
Blackthorns 6-0 St Wilfs BH  
Blackthorns 0-0 Lindfield  
Amazing job from our netballers despite being one of the only one-form entry schools! Great job team!

## Pioneer Childcare Breakfast Club

Pioneer currently have good availability at our Blackthorns Breakfast Club.

The friendly and experienced team provides a fun and nurturing environment, delivering children to school with a positive mindset.

You can drop your children anytime from 7.00am to enjoy a healthy breakfast and a variety of activities.

Breakfast Club is £9.25 per child, per session.

To book your child into Breakfast Club, please [register an account online](#).

Pioneer accept Tax-Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers to help pay towards the cost of your childcare.

You are able to book Breakfast Club on an ad hoc basis (depending on availability) to help meet your childcare needs.

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We're also running an Easter Holiday Camp locally at Harlands Primary, with FREE HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) places available for eligible pupils. I've attached our poster to share with your school community.

The HAF programme is free to school-aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals. More information can be found at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/support-for-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>.

