



## ACADEMIC YEAR 16/17

PLEASE ALSO REFER TO THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS CALENDAR FOR KS1 AND KS2 SENT OUT LAST WEEK

### DECEMBER

MONDAY 12TH	3.30PM—4.30PM SELECTED PUPILS TO HOLY CROSS CARE HOME—PLEASE REFER TO LETTERS SENT OUT
TUESDAY 13TH	LAST AFTER SCHOOL GYM & DANCE CLUB FOR TERM 2
WEDNESDAY 14TH	LAST AFTER SCHOOL CHESS CLUB OF TERM 2 LAST AFTER SCHOOL ORCHESTRA CLUB OF TERM 2
THURSDAY 15TH	WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH MIDDAY  KS2 CAROLS 6.30PM, ST THOMAS Á BECKET CHURCH, FRAMFIELD
FRIDAY 16TH	KS1 NATIVITY IN THE SCHOOL HALL 2PM+
MONDAY 19TH	LAST AFTER SCHOOL FSK CLUB OF TERM 2
TUESDAY 20TH	KS1 CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE SCHOOL HALL 1.30PM  KS2 CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE SCHOOL HALL 6.00-8.00PM
WEDNESDAY 21ST	LAST DAY OF TERM 2  END OF TERM CUP ASSEMBLY 2PM+ IN THE SCHOOL HALL. IF ATTENDING PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY FOR A 2PM START. PARENTS OF PUPILS WHO WILL BE RECEIVING AN AWARD WILL BE NOTIFIED BY TEXT/EMAIL OF THIS. SHHH! PLEASE KEEP THIS A SECRET!
THURSDAY 22ND— MONDAY 02ND JAN 2017	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
TUESDAY 03RD JAN	++INSET DAY++ NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 04TH JAN	START OF TERM 3 ALL PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

#### INSET DAYS FOR 16/17:

TUESDAY 03RD JANUARY 2017  
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017  
FRIDAY 21ST JULY 2017



# Blackboys News

Friday

09th December 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

The final few weeks are upon us and are jam packed with events and special occasions taking place in and around School. We have already enjoyed so many spectacular festive events, of which we hope that you enjoy reading a round up within this Newsletter.

#### Baby Hall

We are delighted to inform you that Mr and Mrs Hall welcomed a baby girl to the world on Tuesday 06th December. Amélie Erin Hall was born at 12.08pm. Mum and baby are both well. We know that you will join us in extending our congratulations to the Hall family.



#### Uckfield Late Night Shopping

A number of our KS2 pupils sang at Uckfield's Late Night Shopping Extravaganza which took place last Friday 02nd December. Taking to the Uckfield FM stage at 7.30pm, our choir sang three Christmas carols; Angels Divine, Midnight and Star Carol. Not only did our pupils look incredibly smart, dressed in their full school uniform, they sang amazingly, making us all very proud. The singing was live on Uckfield FM and if you missed it or would like to

hear them again, please use the following link:



[www.uckfieldfm.co.uk/2016/audio/late-night-shopping-2016-uckfield-fm-stage/](http://www.uckfieldfm.co.uk/2016/audio/late-night-shopping-2016-uckfield-fm-stage/)

A huge thank you to Mrs Haverty for her endless rehearsing and for being a enthusiastic choir mistress conducting our children from the front of the stage. Our music teacher Mrs Bayman must also be thanked for allowing us to record her playing the songs in order that these could be used as a backing track for the night's performance.

#### SICKNESS / TUMMY BUGS

PLEASE CAN WE AGAIN REMIND PARENTS THAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD UNFORTUNATELY SUFFER FROM A BOUT OF SICKNESS OR DIARRHEA THAT THEY REMAIN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR **48 HOURS** FROM THE LAST TIME THAT THEY WERE POORLY. THIS IS IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP BUGS AT BAY! THANK YOU.

### Holy Cross Church, Festival of Christmas Trees

As has become Federation tradition, all pupils were invited to help decorate our Federation Christmas Tree which was part of Holy Cross Church's Festival of Christmas Trees. There were over 80 trees, of which our Federation's was one of, on display within the Church last weekend. Local schools and companies are encouraged to sponsor a tree adding their own personal decoration. This year all pupils in class either decorated the front of a replica bible or chose a sentence to write within an open replica bible from the Christmas Story. The picture really doesn't give the tree or this spectacle justice. Holy Cross Church was full to bursting with beautiful Christmas Trees which created awe and wonder to all visitors to the Church.



### PTA Fair

Saturday 26th November saw our annual PTA Christmas Fair take place. As ever this was an exceptionally festive event, which even saw Father Christmas arrive in a rather snazzy open topped sports car! Thank you to all of you who supported this event either by helping out or coming to enjoy the Fair itself. Without you all there would be no successful Fair. We are very pleased to inform you that the event made £1500.00 for the PTA coffers. Add this to the individual pupil Christmas Card designs which raised £350.00 makes a total of £1850.00. Again, thank you all who brought, helped, baked and raffled the list is endless!



### Rainbow Theatre, Snow White



On Monday of this week, The Rainbow Theatre Company visited us to deliver a festive Pantomime to the whole school. Snow White was a brilliant production which was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. All pupils looked very much the part dressed as either woodland animals or woodfolk. It all added to the atmosphere of the production!

### KS1 Multiskills

On Tuesday 29th November our Year 2 pupils were invited to take part in a Multi-skills event which took place at the Freedom Leisure Centre, Uckfield. Arranged by UCTC, this event saw other local primary schools Year 2s collaborate to work on team building skills, whilst enhancing and working on pupils sporting abilities. Much fun was had by all our pupils as well as meeting like minded other Year 2s from the local area.



**Christmas Tree a Thank You!**  
Our annual thanks must go out to the Cottingham family for generously donating and decorating our beautiful Christmas tree which is currently adorning our school hall. It really is a beautifully majestic tree.

### Chess Success



A new trophy has been added to the School cabinet by our Girls' Chess team, made up of Thea & Lowenna Godfrey together with Isla Blackmore. They all contributed to the team coming joint 3rd in a Girls' Sussex Junior Chess Championship last Sunday 04th December which took place at Burgess Hill Girls' School. Well Done Girls!

### Clubs Reminder

All teacher led clubs have now finished for this term with the exception of the following:

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	FINISHES
GYM/DANCE	Tuesday 13th December
ORCHESTRA	Wednesday 14th December
CHESS	Wednesday 14th December
FSK KARATE	Monday 19th December

A new clubs letter with club choices for terms 3/4 will be sent out during the first week back to school, January 2017.

### KS 1 & 2 Christmas Party Food

Thank you to those parents who have already signed their name next to party food which they can supply for the KS1 & KS2 parties next week. Please can you bring items in during drop off on the morning of the KS1 party, Tuesday 20th December and for the KS2 party food, please bring this in when collecting children at end of school day, 20th December. Anything which needs to be provided

hot can of course be brought along at 6pm when dropping KS2 children off for the party!

Gold Book Awards for week of 28th November:

#### Class 1

- Joel Hudson: For making good progress.
- Lucas Cottingham: For improving his behaviour.
- Agnes McKeever: For becoming a more fluent reader.

#### Class 2

- Ffye Dunbar: For producing good Maths.
- Nancy Cottingham: For answering lots of questions.
- Astrid Willcox: For making great progress.

#### Class 3

- Fletcher Willcox: For concentrating.
- Hugo Ullmann: For super 8 times table.
- Millie Williams : For being the best she can be.

#### Class 4

- Brandon Willcox: For showing great achievement.
- Lucien Bourgeois: For good Literacy.
- Sara Larkin: For being the best she can be.



A U T U M N  
D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6



# Maths & English Newsletter

## English



## Maths

### VOCABULARY

Research studies have shown the strong links between having an extensive vocabulary and achieving school success. Many researchers suggest that vocabulary can be broken down into oral vocabulary and reading vocabulary. SO modelling "good talk" and reading challenging texts will extend your child's ability to understand and comprehend more advanced vocabulary. Words are also more easily learned if your child is active - drawing a picture of the word, writing their own definition of it, thinking of an example sentence to use it in. This is better than simply writing the word.

You can help by encouraging your child to read at home. More than this, you can read more challenging stories to your child that involves trickier and more complex vocabulary. Even Year 6 children need to listen to a challenging story that they might not otherwise be able to read themselves.

### SPELLING ACTIVITIES TO TRY -

#### **DICTIONARY RACE -**

Who can be the first person to find the word in the dictionary and say the definition?

**JIGSAW** - cut the spellings into jigsaws and the child places them back together.

**SPELLING TENNIS** - Choose a spelling and you and your child take it in turns to spell it together as a team.

**ALPHABETICAL ORDER** - Place spellings into alphabetical order.

### **Great Christmas Book Suggestions**

Coming Home - Michael Morpurgo

The Polar Express - Chris Van Allsburg

Nutcracker - E.T.A Hoffmann Maurice Sendak

Letter from Father Christmas - J.R.R Tolkien

The Christmasaurus - Tom Fletcher

**Amy Clarke**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions:

[aclarke@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:aclarke@blackboys.e-sussex.sch.uk)

### International Results

This week saw the publication of the international 'PISA' results in Maths, Science and Reading. UK teenagers currently sit 27<sup>th</sup> on this list in Maths, behind countries like Australia, Vietnam and Poland. The new curriculum introduced in 2014 aims to improve the teaching and learning of Maths in primary schools, enabling secondary schools to build on excellent foundations towards GCSE results.

### Parent Information sessions

After Christmas, dates will be arranged for parents to come into school to get more information about the new curriculum mentioned above. This will include looking at the school's calculation policy in order to be confident with the methods that children are using, examining some of the materials used by teachers in school, and having a look (and a play with!) at some of the excellent resources that we use in school to aid children in Maths.

### Try this at home:

Number tennis - this quickfire game can help your child to learn their different number bonds, whether that be number bonds to 10 in Reception or decimal bonds to 1 in KS2! Simply 'serve' up a number for your child to 'return' with the correct pair!

### **Russell Boorman**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions:

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