



Blackthorn Class Newsletter

Summer 2026

Welcome

Welcome to Blackthorn Class!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer holiday. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child back to Blackthorn class!

We are a fun - loving class within the investigators department following the informal pathway. We follow the leader's curriculum, based on stimulating and engaging learning challenges, whilst meeting our pupils individual EHCP areas. Investigating learning challenges through modelled play, sensory stories, pre phonics and communication sessions, continuous provisions alongside focused adult led tasks.

All pupils within Blackthorn class have sensory impairments and require sensory integration throughout the school day. Our pupils benefit from using tactile strategies alongside visual and auditory cues. We use musical references to provide predictability and understanding of routines and ensure cues used within Blackthorn class are not dependant on visual strengths.

Throughout the year, please keep us updated with any new interests, experiences, skills or achievements your child has made through our Evidence for Learning app. These observations are a wonderful way for us to celebrate their progress and interests together and help us to build on their learning in school.

We look forward to working closely with you and making this a happy, exciting and successful year for your child!

Joy Ward
Class Teacher

Our Team

Now to introduce you to our fabulous team...

Joy is your class teacher supported by Nancy leading on a Friday alongside our wonderful TA's



Joy

Class teacher
Mon- thurs am



Nancy

HLTA/ Classroom support



Anete

Classroom Support
Mon/Tue



Sharon

Classroom Support-
Wed- Fri



Evie

Classroom
1-1



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Pre- Phonics

Each morning, we take part in our pre-phonics session. This term we will be working on *General sound discrimination-Animals sound and Environmental sounds.*

This includes listening and responding, Intensive Interaction, using switches and mark making activities we then apply our learning through play sessions at the end of the week to recap on our learning.

These are 20 min Sessions.

We have started a core word of the week—along with a story linking to it.

We have a Letter of the week Continuous provision exploring one letter sound a week. Matching pictures to objects and using switches to listen to the sound.

Hydro & Rebound

Our Hydro and rebound sessions are now on a Friday and run on alternate weeks please send in your child's swimming kit on the day, along with a towel and swim pad. We will work on a rota to ensure all pupils get a session,

PE will be Tuesday mornings– Focusing on 'Moving my body and Ball skills'.

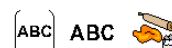


Thinking and problem solving

During cognition sessions we are developing our thinking and problem-solving skills. We follow a play-based learning approach, we explore continuous provision through tuff trays linked to learning objectives.

We are focussing on early number skills this half term.

My Communication



This term in our Communication and Language sessions, we are excited to explore the theme Traditions tales- Fairy tales and myths. Through this engaging focus, children will delve into stories that feature Explanations, Recount, Poetry

We have a wide variety of methods of communicating in class and this is modelled by staff throughout the day. This includes Intensive Interaction, PODD, Makaton switches and tactile signing.

We continue to push our love of reading in class during our daily tactile/sensory story sessions and reading for pleasure.

We will also introduce our Letter of the Week, which will help reinforce letter recognition and phonetic sounds. Each week, a Core Word will be highlighted, encouraging children to use it in various contexts, using their preferred communication styles. In our pre-phonics sessions, we are working on sound discrimination.



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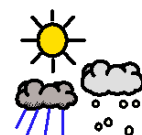
Snack time

If you wish to send in a snack and juice for your child, please do so, you can do this daily or send enough for the week which we will store in their box or fridge.



Weather

Please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing for the weather, especially as the weather can be unpredictable at this time of year.



PSHE

This term our topics will be focussed on Autumn 1- Families and people who care for me.

Autumn 2- respectful relationships

EFL

Don't forget to check Evidence for learning to see photos of your child's learning. We would love to see what you get up to at home, don't forget you can upload photos to the portal.

If you need help accessing this, please get in touch with your class team for support.

Community and the wider world

This term, during our community and the wider world sessions our topic is 'Myself' through engaging activities, We will explore sensory stories, continuous provision and adult focused session linked to feelings, emotions, ourselves and our bodies, helping the children to develop their understanding of who they are and what makes them unique.

For our Geography link we will embark on an exciting journey to explore the natural world using all our senses. Our focus will be on noticing and naming key features in our immediate environment, such as trees, grass, and stones.

Alongside our topic, we will also explore a variety of celebrations, traditions and special events, including Harvest, Halloween, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. These experiences will provide opportunities for the children to learn about the world around them through stories, songs, sensory activities, creative experiences and play.