



Hello everyone,

I cannot believe how fast this half term has gone by! The half-term holiday is next week and is for one week only. **All children must return to school on Monday 1st November between 8.30am and 8.45am.**

The school gates will close just after 8.45am and any late arrivals must enter using the main gate on Thornton Road and report to Reception.

Don't forget that the children have been set some fun challenges in their '**Creative Homework**' to begin over half term. These activities will give the children a head start in exploring their new topic ready for when they return to school. Details can be found stuck into their homework planners. There is also chance in the holiday to brush up on maths skills using Times Table Rock Stars and MyMaths, and further develop reading fluency using ReadingPlus (logins are in homework planners).



Please continue during the holiday to let the school know if your child tests positive for Covid-19. You can do this by emailing covidinfo@thornton.bham.sch.uk.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the **first ever virtual 'video-link' parents' evening.** Your comments are really helpful and will support us in planning future parents' evenings in the Spring and Summer Terms. Feedback told us that 89% found it easy to book an appointment, 65% joined the appointment easily, but 62% thought the 5-minute time was too short. We were delighted that 99% thought the school is taking satisfactory measures to help keep the children covid-safe.



And finally, please make sure you have put the date for our next **outdoor coffee morning** in your diary – **Tuesday 2nd November 9-9.50am.** This will be held in the outdoor classroom in the playground on St. Agatha's Road, and the focus will be on mental health.

Have a great holiday everyone and stay safe!

Cathy Grace, Headteacher



Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason

Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Biddle-Rawbone, Mrs Mazar,

Mrs McPherson, Miss Loach

Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali



Thornton Road
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Forest School Experience

A number of Year Four children were recently lucky enough to be invited to a Forest Schools Experience at Blue Coat School in Harborne. After the mini buses dropped us off, we met Charlie and Helen, who looked after us for the day along with other members of staff. We divided into two groups for the morning, taking part in either fire-lighting activities or woodworking, where we made our own pendants. We needed to use our teamwork, determination, perseverance and enthusiasm to complete these classes as at times, they were really difficult! We stopped for a lovely lunch where the staff and Blue Coat children alike were friendly and very complimentary about our children. Before we left, there was just enough time to play a fun puzzle game where we were challenged to cross a bridge together without enough beams!

It was such a valuable experience for the teachers and children. There was even talk about Thornton being invited to future events at the school. On behalf of the teachers, we'd like to say a big well done to the children who did an amazing job of representing the school!

Mr Jones, Mr Bates and Mrs Thompson

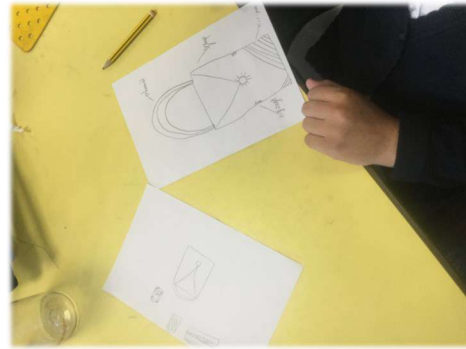
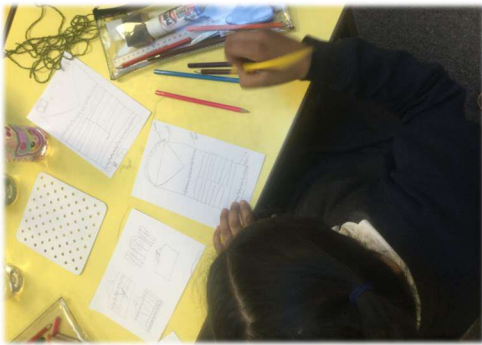
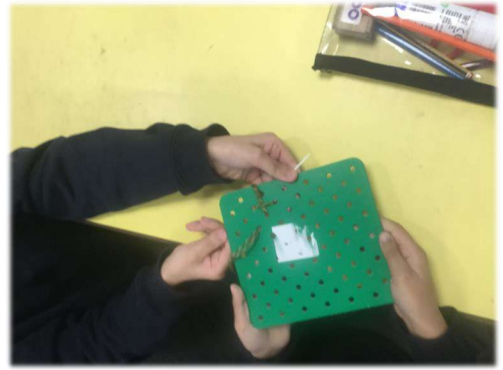


YEAR 3

This week in year 3, we have been writing information reports on the Stone Age. The children have included all the facts and details that they have gathered over the last few weeks, and they have learnt some interesting facts!

Children have really enjoyed learning about the lives of the Stone Age people and comparing their lives to our lives today. Ask your children some questions about this time period - I am sure they will enjoy being historians and telling you all about 'The Stone Age'.

We have finished this topic working on a textile design and technology project where pupils have designed and made their own material bag. Here are some photos of the children carrying out their sewing project.



YEAR 4

Year 4 Ancient Egyptian Day

On Thursday 21st October, Year 4 had a very exciting end to their first half term. Children and staff dressed up in ancient Egyptian costumes and took part in a variety of creative activities. The children tasted a typical ancient Egyptian diet and rated the food out of 5 stars. They wrote in Hieroglyphics and worked collaboratively to decorate a sarcophagus. They even learnt about the process of mummification and mummified a tomato. It was a great experience for all the children and it was so wonderful to see all the different Egyptian costumes!



YEAR 5

This week in Year 5, the children have been learning how to play an instrument. They have used Charanga and Garageband (an app on their iPad) to use their listening skills to repeat and clap out the beat and then play tunes on the piano whilst following musical notations. We have some budding young musicians as you can hear if you scan the QR code.

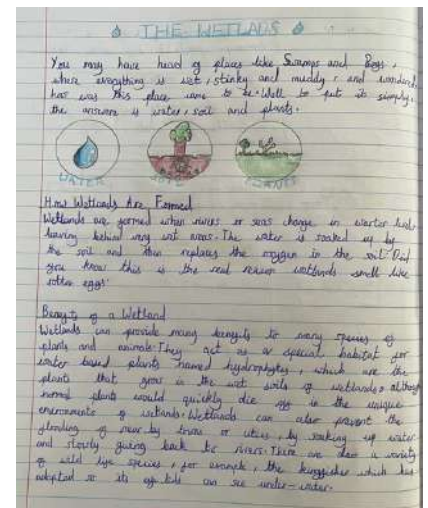
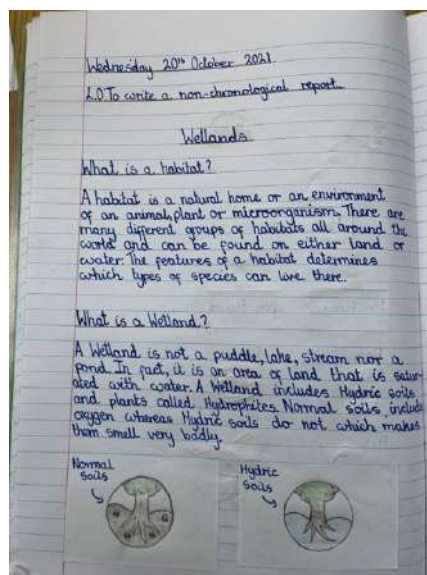
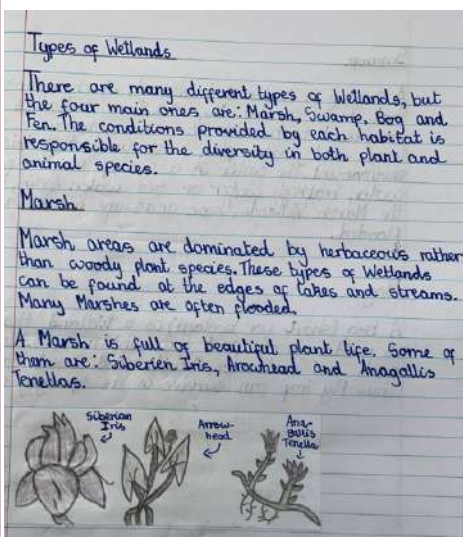
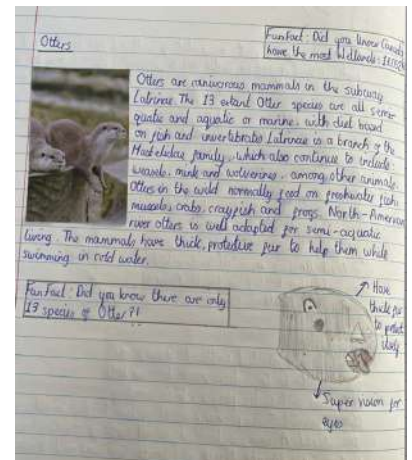


We have also been listening to music from a variety of genres. Last week was Bollywood with Jai Ho! and this week Funk with James Brown (I feel good!).



Year 6

This week we have linked our science to reading, writing and spoken language. We looked at Wetland habitats and the organisms that have adapted to survive there. We used our research to write a non-chronological report which we presented to others in the classroom. Here are some good examples.



Year 4 Virtual Exhibition



We would like to invite you to Year 4's first virtual exhibition of their work. We have been creating sculptures inspired by ancient Egyptian artefacts.

We have researched artefacts, drawn from observation and manipulated and moulded clay to construct our own sculptures.

Please scan the QR code to see photographs that the children have taken of their own work! Make sure you like the sculpture by clicking on the heart



Hafsah k 4SH

Aiman



Canopic jar head

Anah M



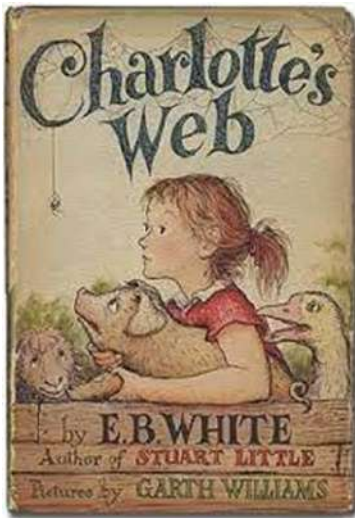
Ana N M 4SH



Umaiza



Thornton Primary Teacher's Book Review.



My favourite book as a child was Charlotte's Web. Once the author (E.B White) had introduced 'Wilbur', a character in the story, I wanted a piglet of my own. Most children at the age of seven would have been happy with a pet cat or dog. After reading Charlotte's Web, I would have been thrilled with having a piglet as a family pet.

Read this book and see where the author takes you, or see if 'Wilbur' captures your heart like he did mine.

Mrs. McPherson



A book that I have been enjoying recently, is Room 13 by Robert Swindells. It is a tense tale of a school trip into terror. While visiting Whitby, the children encounter vampires and must summon all their bravery to save their friends. I admired the main character of Felicity because she was so determined and resourceful.

Ms. Evans

School Meals

From the **1st November**, our caterers, ABM will be serving a new Autumn menu. There are lots of new dishes for the children to try this term. The menu is available to view on our website under the Parents' tab.

Please take a minute to take a look at the menu and discuss it with your child. This week we have offered the children samples of the upcoming menu which the pupils have enjoyed and are looking forward to next half term



Please be reassured that all meat served at the school is Halal. You will find our supplier details on the website too.

School Attendance

We are pleased to announce we will be continuing to use the Class Attendance Reward as it was a great success last academic year to help improve the whole school attendance. The classes who achieve the target of 97% and above will receive a certificate.



100% Class Attendance Weekly Reward

Classes who achieve 100% will be rewarded with a £25 gift voucher for the whole class.



Best Class Attendance Reward

At the end of Autumn Term 2 (December), the class with the best attendance will be rewarded with a £50 gift voucher to spend on a VIP experience in school or new classroom resources of their choosing!

Well done to the following classes who achieved our school attendance target of **97%** and above last week:

Year 3

3EB
3DR
3SQ

Year 4

4MJ

Year 5

5TR
5ZY

Year 6

6NI
6MF

Our whole school attendance for last week was **96.7%**

Golden Ticket Initiative

How will the Golden Ticket Attendance Initiative work?

Thornton Primary School will be introducing the Golden Ticket attendance initiative again this academic year for all pupils. Everyone has an opportunity to win a **Golden Ticket** for an amazing and fun attendance treat!

Autumn Term Bronze Award – Pupils need to achieve 97% above to qualify

Spring Term Silver Award – Pupils need to achieve 98% above to qualify

Summer Term Gold Award – Pupils need to achieve 100% for the for the whole academic year to qualify.

Good Luck Everyone!

Attention all Year 6 Parents! Secondary Transfer 2022

Time is running out to apply for your child's secondary school for September 2022. The deadline 31st October 11.59pm is fast approaching.

If you haven't already done so, please visit the link below to apply for your chosen schools:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you need help please call the school office, we are happy to help you.



Reporting Absences to school

If your child is absent from school please call before 9am to let us know the reason. Please provide school with as much detail as possible about your child's absence. If you need to discuss your child's symptoms with the school nurse please request a call back from the nurse.

Thank you very much for your support. We are proud to work with you to fully support your child's attendance. Remember...everyday counts!

Please ring the school office on 0121 327 0824 our lines open from 8am .



School Meals

School Meals

Changing from dinners to sandwiches? or vice-versa? We are sorry but you can only change at the start of each term and not mid term. Please call the office at the beginning of the term if you wish to change your child's dinner preference so that we can make the necessary changes to our records and inform the school kitchen.

Payments

Could you please ensure that all Dinner, Breakfast and Afterschool club debts have been cleared at the start of each week. If you are having any issues with payment please contact the school office for support. As we are approaching the end of term, please clear all your dinner debts before the holidays start.

Dinner money must be paid in advance and is £2.40 per day and £12.00 per week.

Breakfast Club must be paid in advance and is £1 per day and 50p for any siblings.



Coffee Morning

Thornton Parent's next coffee morning will be held on **Tuesday 2nd November** in our outdoor Classroom (St. Agatha's Road playground) .

Come and joins us for coffee and a chat as we are really looking forward to seeing you. Remember to wear something warm!



PE TIMETABLE

Monday 1st November
Year 4

Tuesday 2nd November

Wednesday 3rd November
Year 3

Thursday 4th November
Year 5

PE KIT

Due to the cold weather please send your child in a thicker tracksuits on PE day.

Safeguarding

If you have recently relocated outside of the area and are looking for a school closer to home, it is very important that you complete an **In-Year Transfer form**. You can get this form from the school office, and this must be signed by the Headteacher. Please keep school informed when you are offered a place at another school. Thank you.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022



Autumn Term 1 Dates 2021

Teaching Training Day: Thursday 2nd September 2021
Teaching Training Day: Friday 3rd September 2021

Term Starts: **Monday 6th September 2021**

Term Ends: **Friday 22nd October 2021**

Half Term: **Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October**

Autumn Term 2 Dates 2021

Term Starts: **Monday 1st November 2021**

Term Ends: **Friday 17th December 2021**

Christmas holiday: **Monday 20th December to Monday 3rd January**

Spring Term 1 Dates 2022

Teaching Training Day: **Tuesday 4th January 2022**

Term Starts: **Wednesday 5th January 2022**

Term Ends: **Friday 18th February 2022**

Half Term: **Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February**

Spring Term 2 Dates 2022

Term Starts: **Monday 28th February 2022**

Term Ends: **Friday 8th April 2022**

Easter holiday: **Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April**

Summer Term 1 Dates 2022

Teaching Training Day: **Monday 25th April 2022**

Term Starts: **Tuesday 26th April 2022**

Teaching Training Day: **Thursday 5th May 2022**

Term Ends: **Friday 27th May 2022**

Half Term: **Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June**

Summer Term 2 Dates 2022

Term Starts: **Monday 6th June 2022**

Term Ends: **Thursday 21st July 2022**

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