



# The Final Paper Edition

*Making Thornton history*

**Friday 23rd October 2020**



## Paperless

***(Newsletters will now be sent via Email)***

Acting Headteacher— Mrs Cathy Grace  
Assistant Headteachers—Miss Loach, Mrs Biddle-  
Rawbone, Mrs Mazar  
Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali  
Vice-Chair of Governors—Johur Uddin



Thornton Road  
Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2LQ  
01213270824  
[enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk)  
Twitter— @Thornton0wls



Hello everyone,

The past 8 weeks have flown by, and the children have continued to impress us week on week with their enthusiasm to come to school to learn. We are all really proud of them, particularly their **resilience and positivity!** They have adapted really well to our new routines and ways of working, and have taken their responsibilities to keep themselves and others safe really seriously.

A **huge thank you** to our amazing staff team who have worked tirelessly this half-term to support the children, both pastorally and academically. It has certainly been a challenge for **teaching staff** to continually revise the planned lessons to ensure we begin to fill in the gaps the children have as a result of lockdown, and they are doing a fantastic job! A special shout out to our brilliant **site team** and **cleaners** for continuing to put the health and safety of the Thornton Family first: outstanding work from Mr Corbett and his team! This thanks is also echoed for our dedicated, caring **first aiders** and **school nurse** without whom I don't know what we'd do! Similarly, the **lunchtime supervisors** and **before and after school provision staff** have been great at taking care of the children, and our **catering team** have been awesome, particularly providing meal packs for isolating children. The **school office staff** remain at the heart of our school and have, as usual, kept everything running so efficiently from keeping us in paper towels to supporting our drive for excellent attendance! And finally, a sincere thank you to **SLT** and the **Inclusion Team** for continuing to ensure that safeguarding is our number one priority (as well as everything else you do!).

A number of parents have complained to me about receiving parking tickets outside school this week when dropping off or collecting their children. To clarify, these were issued by local law enforcement officers not the school. They, like us, have a duty to ensure everyone is safe. We feel very passionately that **our children must be kept safe at all times**, as I know you do, and that is why we will continue to encourage everyone to abide by the law and keep the roads safe outside school. A massive thank you to everyone who is supporting us with this - your kind words each morning and afternoon are very much appreciated!

As I mentioned last week, school will only be closed for ONE WEEK for the half-term holiday. This means that **ALL children should return to school on Monday 2nd November** at the usual staggered start times. Please note, the school office will be closed over half-term. If parents/carers have any COVID related communications to make with school during the half-term break, especially positive test results, can they please email [enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk)— Mark it Covid-19 in the subject line. Thank you.

On behalf of all the staff and Governors, can I thank **you for helping us make sure the children had a really positive first half-term**. I am super proud of our Thornton Family! I hope you manage to relax and enjoy some family time together next week. Take care and stay safe!

**Cathy Grace, Acting Headteacher**

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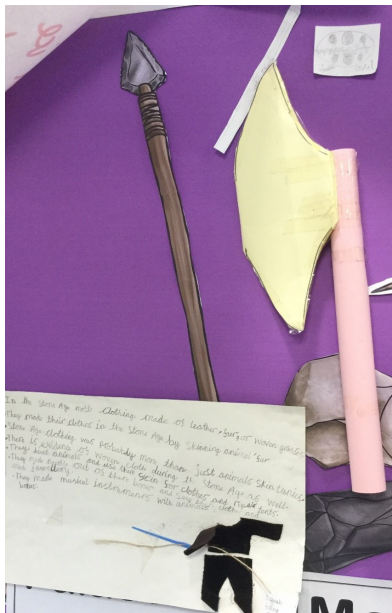
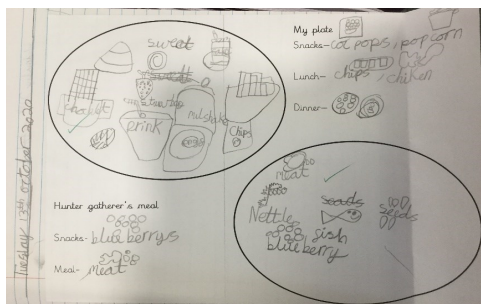
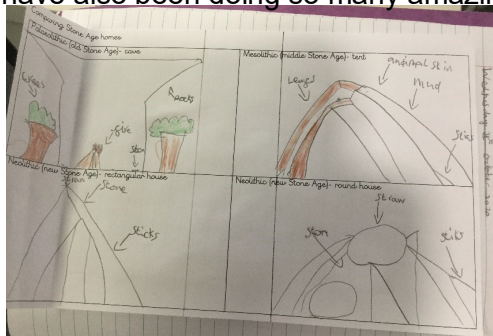
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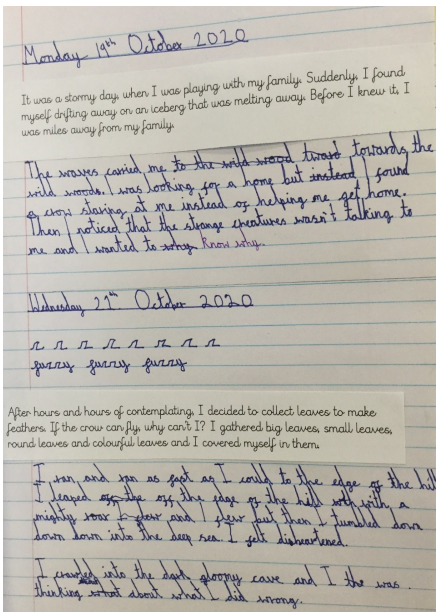
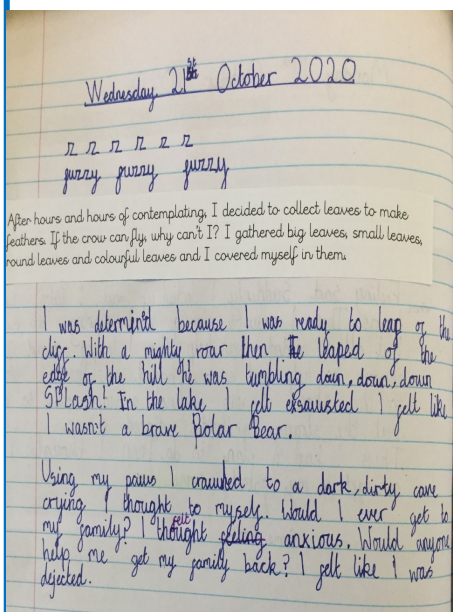
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## YEAR 3

During this half term, Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age. In the history lessons we have researched Stone Age animals, what people ate in the Stone Age and where they found shelter. Children have also been doing so many amazing things at home!



In English, we have been looking at a beautiful book called Leaf, which is about a polar bear who has lost his family. The children have been rewriting the story from the polar bears perspective.



During Black Culture week, we have created our own art piece, based on the artist Frank Bowling! We have learnt that not all art looks the same!

**Miss Brown**  
**Head of Year 3**





## YEAR 4

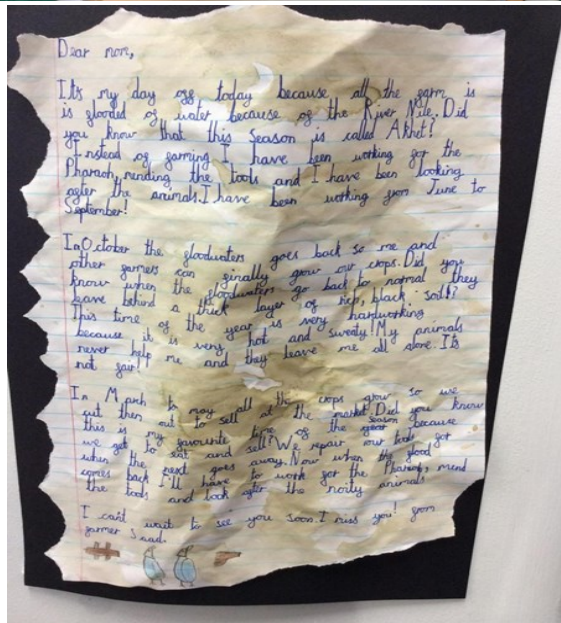
During this term, Year 4 have been working hard to cover many areas of the curriculum. In English lessons we have focused on the picture book 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx'. Marcy goes on an Egyptian adventure to save her father and Year 4 wrote their own Egyptian adventures. In maths, we have secured our knowledge of place value and have been using column method to add and subtract 4 digit numbers. Throughout our topic lessons, we have researched the ancient Egyptians and discovered many new facts about their gods and goddess, the role of a Pharaoh and the gruesome process of mummification.

This week, we celebrated Black Culture week and focused on the graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Taking inspiration from Jean we created our own graffiti art, using different materials, whilst listening to jazz music. We've ended the first term with an Egyptian themed day. All the staff and children dressed up as ancient Egyptians and we wrote in hieroglyphs, made Canopic jars and even mummified a tomato. We even managed to create a virtual Harvest assembly. Children from each class worked hard to memorise their lines.

I hope you all have a lovely half term spending time with your families and loved ones. Make sure you come back to school ready to learn all about our new topic Blue Abyss.

## Miss Hughes

## Head of Year 4



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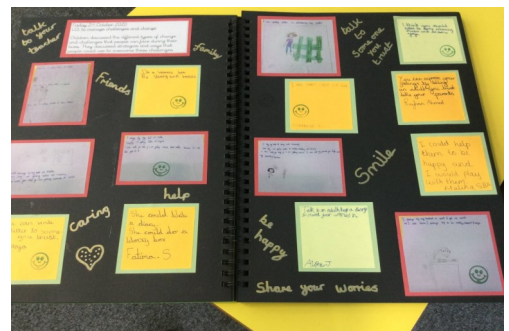
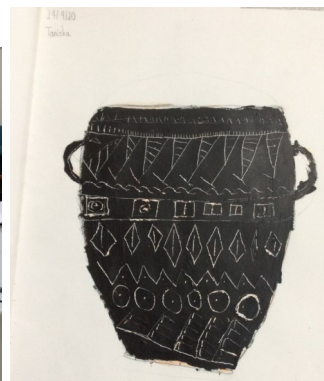
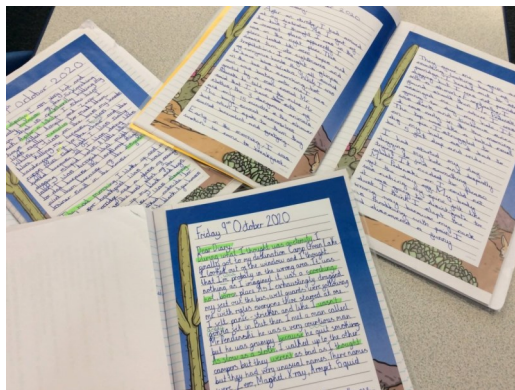
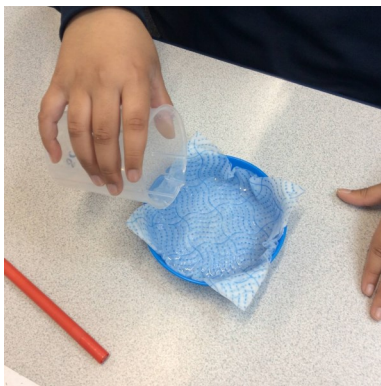
# YEAR 5

I can't believe that we have already reached the end of Autumn Term 1! Despite the changes to their daily routines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the children have made a tremendous effort to adapt themselves to the new school life.

I am really pleased with how hard the Year 5 children have worked. They have made fantastic contributions to produce some amazing pieces of work. In English, Year 5 are currently reading the novel *Holes* by Louis Sachar and based on this novel they have produced some marvellous pieces of writing such as a diary entry, a letter and a retell. What I love about Year 5 is that they are always ready to take on a mathematical challenge! So far, we have looked at place value, addition, subtraction and statistics. Get your brains working Year 5, multiplication and division are up next! It doesn't stop there, we have some aspiring scientists as well. Ask them any question about Properties and Changes of Materials, and they will tell you all about it! Interestingly, we have also discovered some budding artists in our year group. They have produced an incredible collection of Art and D.T work ranging from vases to clay pots with intricate Ancient Greek patterns.

I would like to thank Year 5 for an incredibly fabulous first half term! I am confident that the next half term will be even better!

**Mrs Ahmed**  
**Head of Year 5**



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# YEAR 6

The Year 6's have had a wonderful and packed first term! We have enjoyed looking at World War II. The students have found the topic of World War II very interesting and have asked insightful questions. They have produced great quality work including a retelling of Rose Blanche, creating Anderson Shelters in DT and writing a non-chronological report in Topic. We also performed role-play, enacting scenes from a child's point of view during evacuation.

I enjoyed learning about the Blitz.



I have enjoyed the Topic of World War II and particularly enjoyed building the Anderson shelters.

I found the topic interesting because I learnt facts about evacuation.



A big well done to the Year 6 pupils for the dedication they have shown during their tests.

**Mr Iqbal**  
**Head of Year 6**

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VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM

## LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

# HIGH

**Social Contact**

1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.

**Weddings and Funerals**

Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.

**Overnight Stays**

Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.

**Working from home guidance**

Work from home where possible.

**Shopping and Retail**

Open.

**Leisure and gyms**

Open.

**Hospitality**

Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.

**Entertainment and tourist attractions**

Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.

**Education**

Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.

**Healthcare Services**

Open.

**Residential Care**

Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.

**Travel and Transport**

May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.

**Sporting Activity**

Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).

**Worship**

Open, subject to social contact rules.

**Childcare**

Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.

**Youth Clubs and Activities**

Permitted.

**There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:**



**Wash hands**  
keep washing your hands regularly



**Cover face**  
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



**Make space**  
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

**For more information and detailed guidance visit:**  
**[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)**

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## SCHOOL Attendance

Our new Class Attendance Reward initiative has been a great success in helping us improve the whole school attendance. Mrs Grace and Miss Loach have made surprise visits to the classes who have achieved 100% attendance.

A huge congratulations to Classes 3EB and 4AB for winning the £25 gift voucher to buy new classroom resources.

**Last week our attendance was 95.5%**

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

**3EB– 97.2%**  
**3SQ– 97.2%**  
**4SH– 97.3%**  
**4DR– 99.3%**  
**5ZY– 98.3%**  
**5TR– 99.3%**  
**6NI– 97.7%**  
**6HJ– 97.7%**



## Barnardo's launch new Covid-19 BAME helpline

- As you may have seen, Barnardo's has launched a vital new support service to make a positive difference to the lives of many Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, young people and their families impacted by Covid-19.
- This is a UK-wide helpline, funded by the National Emergencies Trust which will focus on issues specifically affecting children, young people and families from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
- The new service - 0800 1512 605 - is a freephone helpline and web chat facility for children, young people and families from those communities who are experiencing the long-lasting and wide-ranging impact of Covid-19.
- It will provide on-going support on a complex range of issues including mental health, bereavement, family break-down, neglect, back to school, parenting advice, counselling, family stress, discrimination, barriers to services and more.



## This year's Harvest collection

Please kindly contribute towards the food bank:

- Year 3 and 4 - canned food (soup/beans/custard/spaghetti etc.)
- Year 5 - pasta/spaghetti and rice
- Year 6 - toiletries (toothbrushes/toothpaste/soap/shampoo etc.)



*Please ensure that all items have a long shelf life and are within date.*

Thank you for your donations.

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