

Hello everyone



We have had a really busy and exciting week in school this week as we head towards the Christmas holidays!

We started the week with a fantastic production of 'The **Amazing Flower Challenge**' in school performed by the Primary Theatre company. This was a reward for **all the children who achieved 97% attendance during the Autumn Term**. Well done to the 267 children who won a the Bronze Award and a golden ticket to attend the performance, we are really proud of you! Let's see how many children can win the Silver Award for attendance in the Spring Term...

This excitement was followed by the sound of 480

little reindeers on Tuesday and Wednesday as children and staff pranced their way into the hall to share a **Christmas dinner**! A really **BIG thank you to our chef and his brilliant team** for cooking a delicious meal, **and also to all the Lunchtime Supervisors** who did a fantastic job in making sure the lunchtime went so well!



We are ending our week with a heart-warming **nativity performed by Year 3**. All their resilience, teamwork and aspiration has led to a truly fantastic experience that has been enjoyed by each year group across the week, and will be enjoyed by Year 3 parents and carers **tomorrow morning (9am)**. We are all really impressed with the effort everyone has put into the nativity, and all that hard work has definitely paid off—**Year 3, you are awesome, thank you!** We are also planning to have a lot of fun in our class parties tomorrow morning, and, hopefully, we may have a visit from a special guest if his reindeers land safely on the roof!



On behalf of the Governors and staff at Thornton, I would like to wish everyone who celebrates a very merry Christmas, and to all a peaceful and happy new year. We look forward to seeing all the children in school on **Tuesday 9th January from 8.30am** for the usual early morning catch-up work. All pupils must be in school by 8.45am for registration. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a great holiday!

Cathy Grace, Headteacher

Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace

Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason

Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Biddle-Rawbone and Mrs Mazar

Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali

Thornton Road

Ward End,

Birmingham B8 2LQ

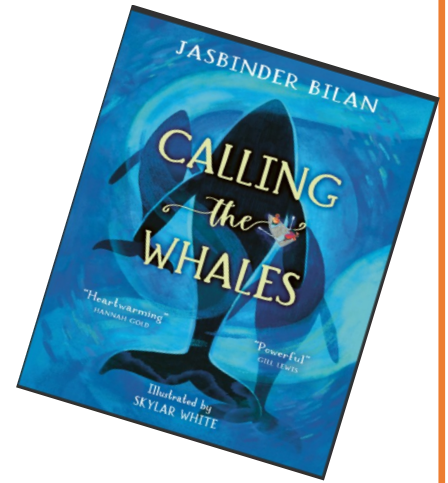
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'Author of the Month' December



"Wherever you live, and whoever you are, you can have adventures. Keep your eyes open and your imagination alive — there are stories all around."

Jasbinder Bilan

Jasbinder Bilan is an Indian born British author and teacher. She won the Costa Book Award prize for children's literature for her magical novel *Asha and the Spirit Bird*. This story was inspired by her manjee (grandmother). She also spoke to her mother about growing up in India and what it was like growing up on their farm. Jasbinder studied black and white family photographs and imagined being there. She believes that all of this helped her to create a strong setting for the story of *Asha and the Spirit Bird*.

Fun Facts!

- When asked about her book *India Incredible India*, Jasbinder said that if she could travel into the past she would go to the ancient Indus Valley in Gujarat, where things like dominos, dice and buttons were invented.
- She has always had a close connection with nature and her happiest times are when she is walking along a beach or through a forest.
- Jasbinder is a member of Authors 4 Oceans, which campaigns to clean our waters of plastic.
- As a child, she loved spending time in Wollaton, a place in Nottingham, where she allowed her imagination to run wild. She made up stories as she wandered the grounds with her dog Jasbinder





School Attendance



Class Attendance

Congratulations! Well done to **3SQ** who achieved our school attendance target of 97% and above last week.



Our school attendance last week was 91.7%

Best Class Attendance

A huge congratulations to **4SH** for achieving the best class attendance for the whole of the Autumn Term. **4SH** class attendance was a brilliant **97.6% attendance!** They achieved the school attendance target of 97% and above. They had a surprise visit from Mrs Grace and were rewarded with a £50 voucher to spend on new classroom resources.

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 a school first aider please request a call back. 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

Changing from dinners to sandwiches?
or vice-versa?

Please make this change at the start of each term and not mid term. We would be very grateful if you could 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. Thank you.



Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason
Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Biddle-Rawbone and Mrs Mazar
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PE TIMETABLE

Monday 8th January

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 9th January

Year 3

Wednesday 10th January

Year 4

Thursday 11th January

Year 6

Swimming for Class 4RE

Friday 12th January

Year 4 & Year 6

Swimming for class 4SH

Parent Pay

Could you please ensure that all Dinner, Breakfast and Afterschool club debts have been cleared at the start of each week. If you need any support with payment please contact the school office for support.

Dinner money and Club money must be paid in advance via Parent Pay, thank you.

Dinner money is £2.50 per day and £12.50 per week.

Breakfast Club is £2.50 per day and £1.00 for any siblings.

After school club is £4.00 per day and £2.00 for any siblings.

A late pickup charge (£4) is made for any pupils picked up after 4pm.



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