



Hello everyone,

We are really enjoying working with you to provide lots of opportunities to come into school. This week's highlights include the **SEND focused coffee morning** (led by our inclusion team and supported by Mrs OBrien from Pupil and School Support and Mr Ur-Rehman from the Developing Local Provision project), the **Year 5 reading workshops** in class, **Year 5 Chinese New Year assembly** (more about this next week!) and **family story time in the library**.

Thank you to all those who joined us for these events, your support is really valued.

Dates for next week are:

Thursday 16th February	- Author visit for Year 3
Friday 17th February	- 3.30pm finish for start of the half-term holiday
Monday 27th February	- 8.30am return to school
Friday 3rd March	- World Book Day (look out for next week's letter!)

At drop off and pick up times, we are continuing to work really hard to keep everyone safe. However, we are still really concerned about a small number of people who are driving extremely dangerously and illegally! **You are not allowed to stop and drop off by pulling onto the yellow zig zags or double park (parallel park) in the road** - this is illegal and risks the lives of pedestrians, including our children. We respectfully ask you to drive a few seconds further down the road to find a safe place to pull in and park so you can safely bring your child to the school gates, or to walk to school if possible. Thank you for your support, it really will save lives.



A reminder also, that **children must legally attend school during term time**. This is especially important as we still work particularly hard to help the children catch up on lost learning as a result of the pandemic. Requests for holidays or non-emergency trips abroad during term time need to be discussed with Senior Leaders and cannot be authorised—you are at risk of being fined by the Local Authority! **Already this year we have seen 6 of our parents fined!** Thank you for prioritising your child's education and sending them to school every day.

We are also excited to share with you that **next week we will be launching some new after school clubs** for the children to attend. These will begin after the half term holiday, and your child may choose to bring home a letter next week about a club they are interested in attending so please look out for it.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Cathy Grace, Headteacher

ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

Year 5 have been learning about Article 17 lately which states that children and young people should be able to access information, particularly from the media. They should be able to get information from many places, from their country and beyond.

In other words: **We have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe!** This is really relevant this week as it is Safer Internet Week which 170 countries are observing. Articles 19 and 34 also link to this right. Why not look them up?"



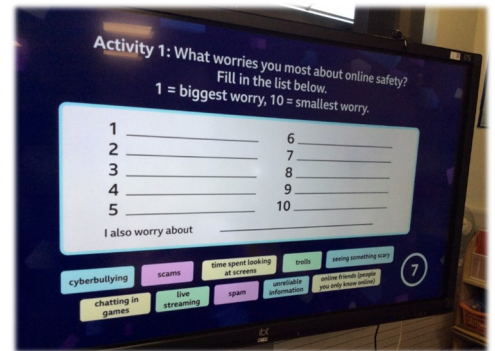
Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace
Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason
Assistant Headteachers -
Mrs Biddle-Rawbone and Mrs Mazar
Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali



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Year 3

This week in year 3, we celebrated **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 7th February 2023. The theme was "Together for a better internet". We joined in on the BBC online assembly on Tuesday looking at a **Gaming** theme. We were challenged to solve safety issues in our fictional 'Digital Defence Squad' game and unlock advice from famous gamers and cyber savvy celebrities. We enjoyed the assembly and designed a character for the new Digital Defence Squad.



Year 4

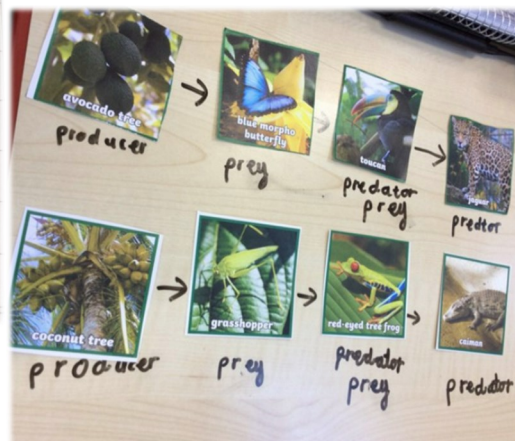
In year four we have been learning about **food chains**. We worked in our Kagan groups to construct a variety of food chains. We accurately identified the producers, prey and predators in several food chains.

- The plant is a **producer** because it provides its own food as it gets its energy from the sun.
- The caterpillars are **prey** because they get eaten by the bird. They are **herbivores** because they eat plants.
- The bird is a **predator** because it eats the caterpillars. It is also **prey** because it is eaten by the cat. The bird is a **carnivore** because it eats other animals.
- The cat is a **predator** because it eats the bird. The cat is a **carnivore** because it eats other animals.

Two examples have been done for you.
How many can you create?

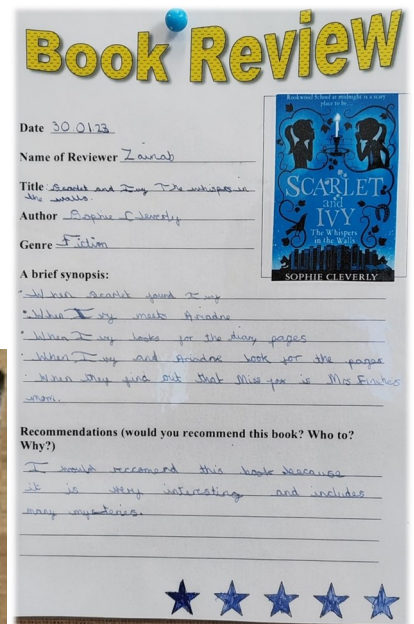
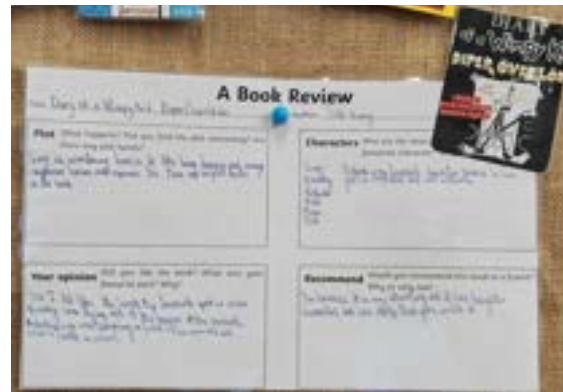
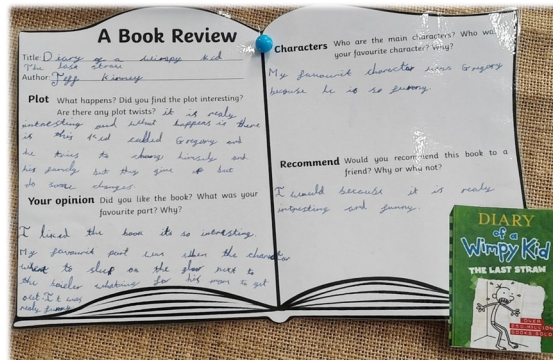
Keywords
producer → prey → predator
producer → prey → both predator and prey → predator

producer coconut tree	prey fruit bat	predator emerald tree boa	
producer coconut tree	prey grasshopper	both predator and prey red-eyed tree frog	predator jaguar
producer banana tree	prey caterpillar	predator honeycreeper	
producer coconut tree	prey grasshopper	predator red-eyed tree frog	
producer avocado tree	prey butterfly	predator toucan	predator jaguar
producer coconut tree	prey lizard	predator jaguar	
producer banana tree	prey agouti	predator jaguar	
producer banana tree	prey agouti	predator guaracha tree	



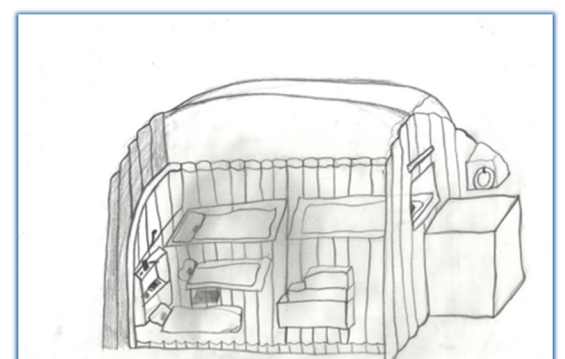
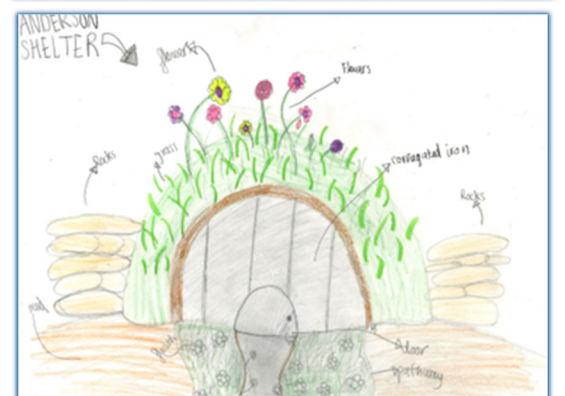
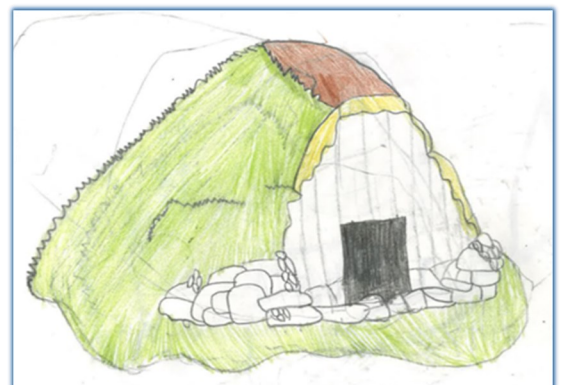
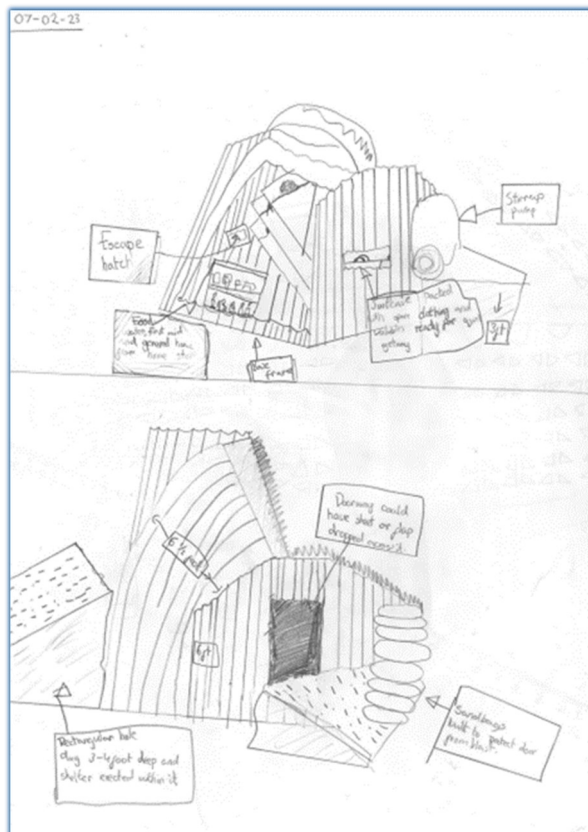
Year 5

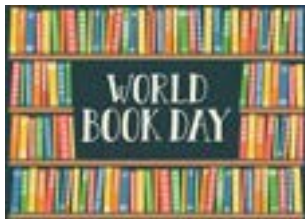
Year 5 have really taken on board **Reading for Pleasure**. There is a buzz about books and stories within the year group. Children are constantly discussing their favourite authors and their books. The popular books have a long waiting list in some classes. If children don't get the opportunity to discuss the book they are reading, they have taken it upon themselves to write a book review. Enjoy reading some of them!



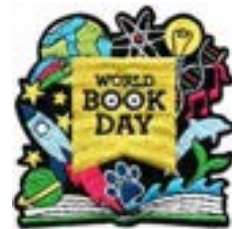
Year 6

Year 6 have been busy sketching **Anderson Shelters** in preparation for their D.T. lesson. Here are some of our fantastic sketches! Many annotated their sketches, making a note of the materials used. Some children focused on the interior of the shelter. Did you know that these shelters provided a safe place for people during World War 2?





World Book Day



World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March however we will be **celebrating on Friday 3rd March at Thornton.**

Children and staff can choose to dress up as their favourite character from a book they have enjoyed. **You are not expected to purchase a costume**, in fact, we would love to see your creativity in making your own costume using clothing and items you already have at home. There will be **'prizes'** for the most creative costumes.

Homework project: we would like you to work with your child over the next few weeks to create a 3D model of an significant object or character from a book they have read. This will be displayed



Reading challenge: help your child create a **'Reading River'** that shows all the different types of reading you have completed over the half-term holiday. Reading Rivers support children in not only recalling and reflecting on all the things they have read but also offers teaching staff insights into what children are reading for pleasure when not in school. Reading Rivers show the journey of reading over a set time, in this case, half-term. Essentially, it is a personalised list, in the shape of a river's journey, with all the things you read marked along it. As well as story or non-fiction books you might read, you may also include things from the following list of ideas:

- ◆ Newspapers and magazines
- ◆ Road signs
- ◆ maps
- ◆ Cereal boxes
- ◆ menus
- ◆ Instructions and manuals
- ◆ Online reading
- ◆ gaming menus,
- ◆ E-books or audio books.



The **deadline** for the homework projects and the reading rivers is **Monday 6th March**. All entries will be judged and the top three projects and reading rivers will **receive a prize!**

Science Week

We are excited to announce our upcoming science event of the year! **Science Week 2023 will officially begin on the 10th of March and end on the 19th.**

This year the theme is 'connection' and at Thornton we have decided to 'connect' with our sustainability

team to come up with some fantastic ideas for our allotment.

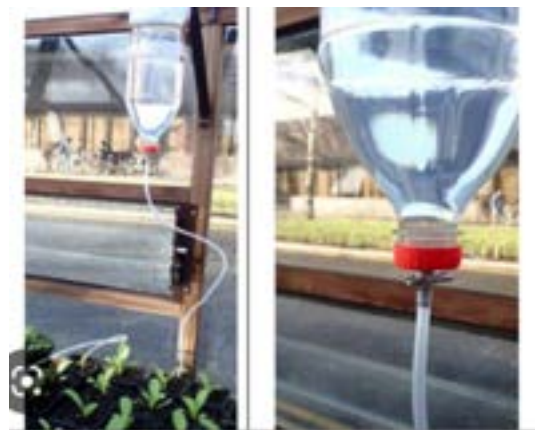
Over the years, we have been developing our local allotments on St Margaret's Road to create a safe space for our children to enjoy our local environment. This year, **we are in need of your children's fantastic models and ideas to help us create habitats and structures for growing crops and plants as well as ideas on how to build an irrigation system to water our plot.**

We would like you to join your children in helping them create structures out of scrap and recycling materials. We will be sharing a presentation on the Thornton website over the next week and sharing ideas over twitter. The Science week letter has been sent out this week.



• So, what is an allotment?

• Scan the QR Code to find out more!



ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

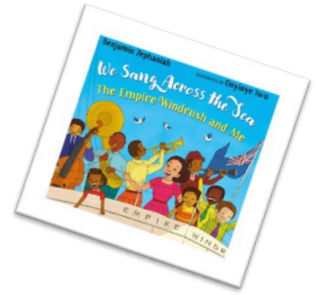
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

 **National Online Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday





'Author of the Month' February



Benjamin's biography

Scan to read!



Benjamin Zephaniah



Benjamin's poetry

Scan to listen!

Benjamin Zephaniah is an award-winning author and poet. His first book of children's poetry was called '*Talking Turkeys*' and was published in 1994. Since then he has written many more poems and in 1999 began writing teenage novels. In 2003, he was offered an OBE but refused to accept this and the word *empire* reminded him of slavery and the suffering of black people. One of his most recent books '*We sang across the sea, The Empire Windrush and me*' follows a Trinidadian woman who boarded the Windrush to pursue her singing dream.

Benjamin Zephaniah is not only a children's author but a poet. He has written many poems including '*The British*'. Scan the QR code to watch.



Fun Facts!

Benjamin was born in Birmingham in April, 1958. His father was a postman and his mother was nurse. Both were Caribbean immigrants.

Benjamin's poetry is influenced by the street culture of Jamaica. He first performed his poetry at aged 10, and by 15, he was quite well known in and around Birmingham.

Benjamin is an honorary patron (supporter) of The Vegan Society. He is an animal rights campaigner, a patron of vegan charity, Viva! (vegetarians' International Voice for Animals). Benjamin supports Aston Villa Football Club.

Benjamin belongs to the Rastafarian faith. This religion began in Jamaica in the 1930s. It combines some elements of Christianity with African beliefs.



Thornton Staff Book Review

A review of Percy Jackson: the Lightning Thief authored by Rick Riordan and reviewed by Mrs Farzana Bi.

The Lightning Thief is a light-hearted fantasy about a modern 12-year-old boy who is brought to a special camp for Gods-in-training. Percy Jackson is a boarding school drop out who discovers that he's a half-human son of Poseidon, the Greek God of the sea.

He sets out on an adventure with a satyr/protector and Athena's daughter to save his kidnapped mother, retrieves Zeus' stolen lightning bolt and prevent a deadly war between the Gods.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys fantasy, adventure and thriller genres. You will love this book!



Ready, Respectful, Safe.

Each week we introduce a different word associated with our school's expectations to reinforce our school's ethos, which is to be ready, respectful and safe.

This week's word of the week is: **'kindness'**

Kindness is a word linked to our expectation to be respectful, but what is kindness?

"If you are kind and show kindness you think about other. For example, you can give to charity to help others." Aasiya, 4MJ.

Next week Thornton will be showing kindness by collecting for the victims of the Turkish and Syrian earthquake. The money will be passed to the Disaster Emergency Committee collection <https://www.dec.org.uk/>.

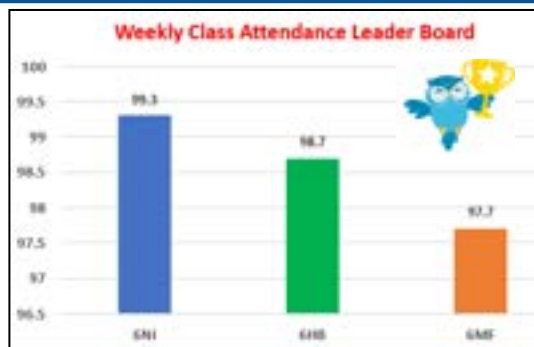
Mr Mason – Deputy Headteacher



School Attendance

Class Attendance

Well done to everyone in 6NI, 6HB and 6MF who achieved our school attendance target of **97%** and above last week:



Our school attendance for last week was 94.6%

Family Storytime

We are welcoming all our families at Thornton to join us for our story time workshops which will be taking place every Friday, during the Spring Term. The workshops will run from 3.45pm-4.15pm, in our school library. If you would like to join us, please collect a **FREE** ticket from our Reception Office. Tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Dates for the Spring Term:

Friday 10th February
Friday 17th February
Friday 3rd March
Friday 10th March
Friday 17th March
Friday 24th March
Friday 31st March

Parent Pay

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

Dinner money is £2.50 per day and £12.50 per week. Breakfast Club is £1 per day and 50p for any siblings. After school club is £2 per day and £1 for any siblings. Could you please ensure that all Dinner, Breakfast, and Afterschool club debts have been cleared at the start of each week .

SEND

Special Educational Needs & Disability

Coffee Morning

This week we hosted our first SEND Coffee Morning of 2023! Thank you to the parents that attended. Our visitors from the external agencies really enjoyed meeting you all!

Remember you can find out more information about SEND on the Local Offer website

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>



DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Term 1 Ends:

Friday 17th February 2023

Half Term holidays:

Monday 20th February 2023 to Friday 24th February 2023

Spring Term 2 starts :

Monday 27th February 2023

Term Ends:

Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term1 starts:

Monday 17th April 2023

KEEP CALM
AND
GET TO SCHOOL
ON TIME EVERY DAY

PE TIMETABLE

Monday 13th February

Year 4

Tuesday 14th February

Year 6

Wednesday 15th February

Year 3

Thursday 16th February

Year 5

Friday 17th February

**Swimming for classes
4RE & 5ST**

**Children in 4RE will need
to be in school for 8.25am**

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