




joyfulness
kindness
honesty
equality
resilience
loyalty
respect
forgiveness

Thornton Primary School
Thornton Road
Ward End
Birmingham
B8 2LQ

Tel: 0121 327 0824

Headteacher: Mrs Sue Simmons
e-mail: enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk
www.thornton.bham.sch.uk
 @ThorntonOwls

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Dear parents and carers

Update - Temporary closure of Thornton Primary School

I very much hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and continuing to stay safe. At the time of writing this letter to you, the government guidance has not changed and everyone who is not a Key Worker is required to **stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives**.

Currently, **our school leadership team is telephoning home and speaking with every one of our children at least once every two weeks**. These welfare calls are part of our duty of care to safeguard each and every one of our children, as well as being a lovely opportunity to catch up, reassure the children and share stories about what we've all been up to whilst confined to our homes. I have heard lots of lovely stories about our children helping each other, as well as parents and relatives, and about exciting things they have been learning at home. We would encourage you to share any great work the children have been doing at home using the school's twitter page (@ThorntonOwls).

When the school was forced to temporarily close at short notice on Friday 20th March, staff managed to put together home-learning packs for the remaining 2 weeks of the Spring Term. During this final week, we recognise that many children were unable to attend school and therefore did not manage to collect their pack. To help all the children, particularly those unable to take home packs, we created a page in the 'Children' tab on our website (www.thornton.bham.sch.uk) that signposts to some '**Great websites to use at home**'. These are being updated all the time so please keep revisiting this page to find new, free activities to try! The school twitter feed is also being updated daily and is packed full of fantastic learning opportunities, as well as updates from professional bodies, such as the government.

From the current government guidance being issued, we do not anticipate being back at school straight away for the start of the Summer Term, so staff have been working hard behind the scenes to create some special '**Home Learning**' pages on the 'Children' tab of the school website: have a look and see if you can find your child's year group page! On the 'Home Learning' page you will find a message from the teachers, a letter from the staff to you, and some links to copies of useful pages that can be found at the back of the children's homework planners (we realise that, unfortunately, quite a lot of children left their planners in school). **From Monday 20th April, you will be able to access weekly home-learning ideas for your child** on this part of the website.



We will continue to update these weekly until we are able to safely return to school.

Unfortunately, the children are not able to use BGfL 365 at the current time as there have been a few issues we are working hard to try and resolve. In the meantime, please use the home learning activities we will upload onto the website, together with the 'Great websites to use at home' and the ideas shared on the school twitter feed (this can also be accessed from the school website home page). Of course, the children can still logon using their individual logins to the websites school subscribes to such as Times Tale Rockstars, Reading Plus, Linguascope, MyMaths etc.

As ever, it is really important that any learning undertaken online must be done so fully supported by an adult to ensure e-safety. **We have shared links about how to work safely online on the 'Home Learning' and 'e-safety' pages of our website** which can both be found on the 'Children' tab.

At present, government guidance states '**many families with parents working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**' However, we recognise that some Key Worker parents will need school's support with childcare provision during these challenging times. If you are a Key Worker (as defined by the government <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>), please contact school using the school email address enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk so that we can arrange how we can support you.

And finally, on behalf of all the staff at Thornton Primary School, I would like to thank you for your continued support, your lovely feedback during phone calls home, and your kindness. It is so important that you are kind to yourself and kind to each other as we all join together to help one another through these challenging times. Until all of the Thornton Family are able to be back together in school safely, please continue to strictly follow all the government guidance and stay safe.

Kindest regards

Cathy Grace
Deputy Headteacher