

The Thornton Times

www.thornton.bham.sch.uk



30/01/2026

Hello everyone,

Again, we have a very busy and productive week at Thornton. Following on from our success in the **National Trust's Blooming Spaces competition**, which we shared with you early this term, a **landscape design and gardening workshop was held on Tuesday** for the pupils in Year 5 who had entered the competition. This event was organised and funded by the National Trust, and was the first part of our prize for winning the competition. Below you can see a professional landscape artist's interpretation of Zainab's (5ST) winning design. More prizes and workshops will follow in the coming weeks, so we will keep sharing these with you in the newsletter.



Today, marks the next round of our intra-class **Times Tables Rockstar competition**. The round will last from today, **Friday 30th January until Friday 6th February**. Time will be provided in school to compete. However, our winners in the past have always been pupils who have taken the opportunity to add to their school at home. As usual, we will be announcing the best performing classes in each year group and giving a prize to each top scorer from each class.



Here are a few important dates for your diary about events coming up in school:

Wednesday 4th February — Year 5 keeping safe workshops with PCSOs

Tuesday 10th February — Safer Internet Day online assembly for ALL children

Thursday 12th February — Year 3 workshops with our favourite illustrator KOrky Paul!

Friday 13th February 8.45-9.30am — COMPASS online safety workshop for Y5 parents/carers

Friday 13th February — Year group online safety assemblies with COMPASS

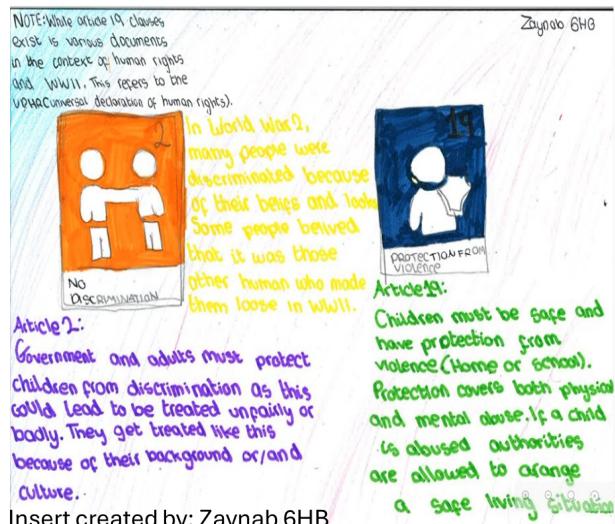
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February — February Half Term Holidays

Monday 23rd February — All pupils return to school from 8.30am and by 8.45am at the latest

Have a great weekend everyone! Mr Mason, Deputy Headteacher

ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

**2 The article for this week is based on Article 2: No Discrimination.** This is linked to the Holocaust as many Jews suffered discrimination when they were sent to die by Hitler into the concentration camps. The article gives children the right to be free from discrimination regardless of gender, sex and age. Article 2 also links to Article 19 which is protection from violence. Children have a right to be free of violence and to be protected from harm. Linking this back to the Holocaust, many children were subjected to violence and harsh treatment.



Insert created by: Zaynab 6HB

Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace

Deputy Headteacher - Mr Mason

Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Biddle Rawbone and Mrs Mazar

Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali

Vice Chair of Governors—Mr Subat Khan



Thornton Road

Ward End,

Birmingham B8 2LQ

0121 327 0824

enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk

X @ThorntonOwls

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been getting **creative with press block printing**. Children designed their patterns and selected one of their ideas to turn into a final print.

To add colour and depth, the children used pastels to create vibrant backgrounds in their sketchbooks. They then carefully printed their chosen designs over the top. The results were fantastic, and the children were proud of the artwork they produced.



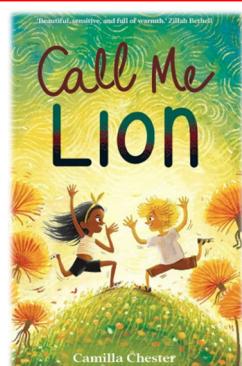
Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring the novel **Call Me Lion** by Camilla Chester.

The story follows a boy called Leo who has Selective Mutism.

Inspired by the story, our Year 4 pupils have each written their own version of Leo's letter, expressing how much he enjoys spending time with his new neighbour and explaining Selective Mutism in a sensitive and understanding way.

We are incredibly proud of the empathy and maturity the children have shown through their writing. Below are a few examples of their wonderful work.



Dear Richa,
It's quite peculiar to write dear Richa but all letters intend to start this way.
I wanted to share with you why I'm always quiet because I don't want you to get suspicious. I want you to understand me. I know we just met but we might be in the same class, class next year. You may not know how much fun I've had inviting your incredible mom on the trampoline but I couldn't express myself. I have Selective Mutism.

I have a condition called Selective Mutism that means I can't talk to certain people when I wish I could but my SM inhibits me from talking. I am very chatty, even though I can't talk at school or anywhere in public. My vocal cords work perfectly but the words get stuck when I try speak. My SM fills my head with bad thoughts. It feels like a bully inside my head. It's like a bully saying 'Worst and'

Dear Richa,
It is a bit odd to write Dear Richa but that's how I start all my letters.
I thought it was urgent that you understand why I don't speak much. Now that we are neighbours we might even go to the same class next year. Besides, you may not have noticed that I love playing with you but I can't express myself. I feel amazing jumping on the trampoline with you copying every pose. I don't wanna be unfriendly. I hope we become friends one day, although my Selective Mutism stops me from talking to you.

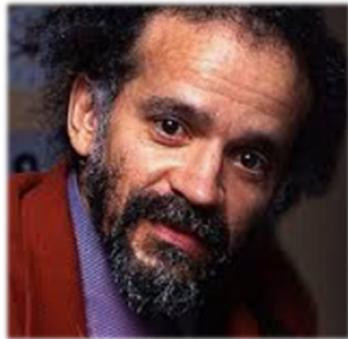
I have had a condition called Selective Mutism which means that I can't talk to people that I choose. My SM does, I hopefully wish one day I can beat it and talk to other people confidently. It's not fair that I can't choose the people I want to really talk. It's not fair at all. I'm very chatty at home all the time. I talk I don't really talk in public or at school or at dancing class. My vocal cords work perfectly fine but all the words get stuck in my head. My SM stops me from talking to other people. It's like a bully saying 'Worst and'

Dear Richa,
It feels very strange to write to Dear Richa but all letters start this way.
I want to tell you something that why I don't speak because I want you to understand me. We might be in the same class next year and now we are neighbours. You may not noticed I love playing outside in the trampoline and didn't want you to think I am being unfriendly. I really want us to be friends although I can't speak because I have something called called Selective Mutism and it can't stop me.

I have a condition called Selective Mutism which means I can't speak in public I desperately want to talk but my SM stops me. It is not fair that I can't choose who I speak to. At home I am very chatty, although I can't talk at school in public or outside. When I talk, it's sometimes gets stuck in my throat. It's always reminds me that it started in reception and it has been same ever since.

Year 5

This week in Reading lessons, Year 5 have been exploring the **poetry of John Agard**. When we first read "The Hurt Boy and the Birds," we discussed what metaphors are and picked out some examples from the poem, creating sketches to show our understanding of what the poet actually meant. Here are a selection of ours that we hope you will enjoy.



THE HURT BOY AND THE BIRDS

The hurt boy talked to the birds and fed them the crumbs of his heart.

It was not easy to find the words for secrets he hid under his skin.

The hurt boy spoke of a bully's fist that made his face a bruised moon – his spectacles stamped to ruin.

It was not easy to find the words for things that nightly hissed as if his pillow was a hideaway for creepy-crawlies – the note sent to the girl he fancied held high in mockery.

But the hurt boy talked to the birds and their feathers gave him welcome –

Their wings taught him new ways to become.



Year 6

Pupils in Year 6 have created some wonderful work during their **Topic lessons on WW2**. Pupils had the opportunity to research about the Blitz and then create a comic strip explaining why the Blitz had taken place and the impact it had on British civilians. This then helped pupils answer key questions to why another wave of evacuations had to take place in Britain. Pupils mind-mapped their reasons.



Work created by pupils from 6ZB





School Attendance



Well Done to **3ZY**, **5ST** and **6ZB** for achieving our school attendance target of 97% and above for last week!

Golden Ticket Initiative

Autumn Term Bronze Award – We are pleased to announce that the Golden Ticket Bronze Reward will be a Lego themed building workshop taking place in school on Tuesday, 3rd February. This is for the pupils who have achieved the golden award by achieving 97% and above for the Autumn term. The invitations have been sent out today!



Our school attendance last week was **94.0%**

PE TIMETABLE

Monday 2nd February

Year 3

Tuesday 4th February

Swimming for 4TW and 4AA

Wednesday 5th February

Year 4

Thursday 6th February

Year 6

Friday 7th February

Year 5

National Story Telling Week 2026

Next week is National Story Telling Week. This fantastic annual event is a joyful celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world; they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy; they help us to relax and escape, and they can help develop essential literacy skills. At Thornton, we will be participating by asking the children to bring in their **favourite story book and cuddly toy from home**. Teachers and children will be sharing their favourite story books with each other and participating in book talk. Children who do not bring a book from home, can chose a book from school. See below the day for your child's story telling session :

Monday - Year 4 and Year 6

Tuesday - Year 5 and Year 3



Compass
Birmingham
Mental Health Support Teams

THORNTON PRIMARY

Coffee Morning Workshop

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

8:45-9:30

ONLINE SAFETY

How to encourage safety online with children?

Practical tips to ensure children are safe online.



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

0121 327 0824

enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk

X - @ThorntonOwls