

Hello everyone

We are so proud of our **#thorntonfamily's hard work and care** this half term and are super excited to share the following celebrations with you... On Thursday last week, Miss Devi, Mrs Bibi and me attended a prestigious event at Newman University. Miss Devi was presented with **The Birmingham Civic Society 'School Star' Award** by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Ken Wood. Thornton had been nominated for this award in recognition of **the wonderful community focused work we do!** It was a privilege to attend the ceremony, and the event was made even more special by seeing an ex-Thornton pupil on stage, with other students, presenting ideas so confidently and articulately in trying to bid for the Next Generation Award scheme funding.



Thornton has also been recognised by Music Mark for the following award: **Music Mark of Recognition for Schools 2025/2026—Dedication and Improvement**. This is very encouraging as we are trying hard to provide the children with even more opportunities to learn how to play a musical instrument, as well as strengthening our music curriculum, including extra-curricular opportunities.

**We have a new School Councillor and a new Eco-Councillor for each class! Congratulations** to the children who were elected by their class to represent them. We know they have a busy year ahead of them and look forward to following their journey. They got off to a flying start by putting the **Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP** in the hot seat this afternoon to ask him some important questions about how he is helping our community! I would also like to say well done to everyone who presented their ideas to the class as part of the election campaign in classrooms last week!

**Congratulations to Year 4** who successfully performed a great assembly to parents/carers about their recent work studying **Buddhism**. The children's confidence and talents shone through, well done!

Here are a few important dates coming up after the ONE WEEK half term holiday which starts today:

**Monday 3rd November — TEACHER TRAINING DAY—school closed to ALL pupils**

**School Council**

**Tuesday 4th November 8.30am — ALL pupils return to school**

**Eco Council**



**Wednesday 12th November—  
COMPASS anti-bullying parents  
assembly for ALL parents**

**Friday 14th November 9am —Y6  
Harvest Assembly for Year 6 parents/  
carers**

**Friday 21st November 9am— Y3 Road  
Safety Workshop for Year 3 parents/  
carers**

Have a great one week holiday everyone!

Cathy Grace, Headteacher



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

In Year 3 art lessons, the pupils created their final artwork using **charcoal to produce expressive lines and applied back-and-forth techniques.**

The teachers were very impressed with the range of tones the pupils achieved.



### Year 4

This week Mr. Ryall introduced our new history topic: **Ancient Greece.**

The children learned some interesting facts about how people lived thousands of years ago.

They enjoyed discovering that the Ancient Greeks created the Olympics and had many famous stories about their gods and heroes.

Everyone is excited to learn more in the new term!

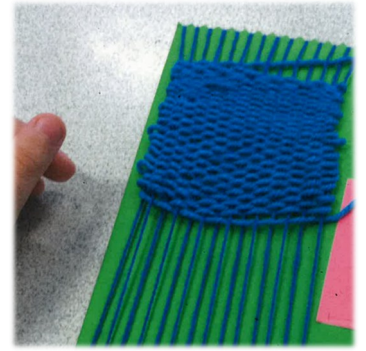




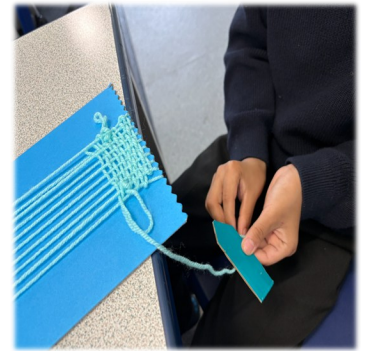
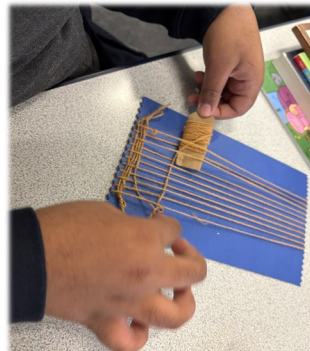
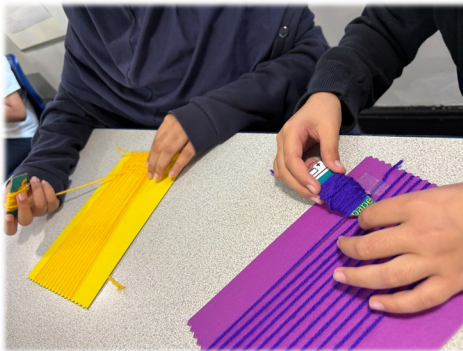
## Year 5



In Year Five, we've now finished our learning based around the **Anglo Saxons**. In one of our final lessons, we were challenged to attempt weaving. We discussed how important a skill this was to the Anglo Saxons, with families making their own clothing, despite the process being timely and skilled compared to our modern conveniences.



We've really enjoyed the artist aspects of our history unit, including those of us that completed Creative homework that emulated various Saxon skills. Here are some examples of our crafts, and we can't wait to show you what we get up to in our first Year Five Geography topic.



## Year 6

This week, Year 6 delved into the world of poetry, focusing on our poet of the term — **Rachel Rooney**. Known for her thought-provoking collections *My Life as a Goldfish*, *A Kid In My Class*, and *Hey, Girl!*, Rooney's work sparked deep discussion and creative thinking in the classroom.

Rachel Rooney, who lives in Brighton, spent many years working as a teacher for children with special needs while raising her three sons. Her poetry often reflects her continued commitment to children's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Summary

This is a short poem that offers a deep, empathetic look at the hidden reasons behind a child's aggressive or 'tough' exterior.

Tough Kid

It's tough being him.  
Everything's boring. Sad.  
Things drive him mad.  
And when they do - Watch Out!  
You're sure to get it.  
Oh...ouch...  
You did? Too bad.  
He's not scared of nothing.  
Nobody. Never. Ask.  
Which means that he is.  
Tough kid. Not tough enough.  
I know - I once met his dad.  
Rachel Rooney

Themes

The root cause of bullying.  
Appearance VS reality.  
Empathy and perspective.

Language

- Mood
- I sat scared of anything
- His dad
- Watch out!

Best Friender

I think the title Best Friender is the opposite of the poem's meaning.

You don't tell miss that she cheated. You take her side in that argument.

The poem is about potential friendships.

Conditional friendship.  
Fickleness.  
Power dynamic.

It is structured like a list of demands.

The poem is also about demands.

The person making the demands are making their friendship conditional.

Best Friender

She'll be your best friend if...  
you enter her side in the argument  
you don't tell Miss that she cheated  
you whisper to her the name of the person you secretly love  
you vote for her to be 'Team Captain'  
you give her the free ring on your phone  
you share your homework secrets with her  
you save her a space on the bench  
you'll be her best friend.

You see,  
that's how a new best friend works.

We are really pleased to be working closely with **COMPASS** again this year so we can make sure our children get all the support they need in school.

We have invited **COMPASS** to run some special **parent/carers workshops**, as well as workshops for our children. Please take a moment to see what is on offer and which of the parent/carers workshops you would like to attend across the year (you are very welcome to attend them all!):



| Date                                          | Parent/carers workshop                    | Pupil only workshop                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 12th November</b><br>8.45-9.30am | <b>Bullying</b>                           | Y5 Anti-bullying pupil workshops                          |
| <b>Monday 8th December</b><br>8.45-9.30am     | <b>Healthy Sleep</b>                      | Y4 Resilience pupil workshops                             |
| <b>Monday 19th January</b><br>8.45-9.30       | <b>Connecting with your child</b>         | Y5 self-esteem pupil workshops                            |
| <b>Friday 13th February</b><br>8.45-9.30am    | <b>Online Safety</b>                      | Online safety day workshops and assemblies for all pupils |
| <b>Tuesday 17th March</b>                     |                                           | Y3 Behaviours workshops for all pupils                    |
| <b>Friday 17th April</b><br>8.45-9.30am       | <b>Y6 SATs Anxiety</b>                    | Y6 SATs anxiety pupil workshops                           |
| <b>Monday 18th May</b><br>8.45-9.30am         | <b>Building Self-esteem</b>               | Y4 Building self-esteem pupil workshops                   |
| <b>Friday 12th June</b>                       |                                           | Y6 Transition pupil workshops                             |
| <b>Monday 22nd June</b><br>8.45-9.30am        | <b>Supporting your child with worries</b> | Y5 Worries pupil workshops                                |

## ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

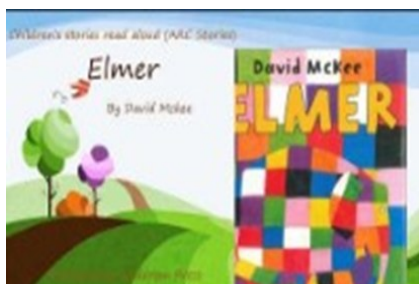
### INTRODUCING BLACK HISTORY



Black History Month takes place in October every year and is a celebration of key figures and events in Black history. Having begun in the USA, it has been celebrated in the UK since 1987, with the emphasis on celebrating particularly the history and contributions to society of people with an African or Caribbean heritage. Watch this short video that introduces Black History Month.

#### Article 2 (non-discrimination)

The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background. Read the story Elmer the Elephant (**scan the QR code**). Elmer didn't feel



that he wanted to be the same as the other elephants. Think of ways that we can celebrate our differences like the elephants do on 'Elmer Day' – talk about your ideas with an adult.





# 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.

Deadline: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

COMPASS  
Birmingham  
Mental Health Support Team

COMMUNITY EVENT

# Feel Good Fest!

A FUN DAY FOR THE FAMILY!

Location: Ward End Wellbeing Centre, 110 Stafeield Rd, Birmingham B8 2SX

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Time: 11 AM - 1 PM

**FREE** Event!

SCAN ME

## FIREWORKS - WE'RE HAVING A BLAST!

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November

**Mains**

Hot Dog Bangers in a bun  
Catherine Wheel Pizza

**Sides**

Spicy Potato Wedges, sweetcorn  
BBQ Beans

**Dessert**

Rocket Fizz Lollies

If you normally have a packed lunch but would like to order a 'Fireworks' school dinner, please book at reception or call the school office. (0121 327 0824)  
Thank You

**DINE**

## PE TIMETABLE

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Swimming for 4TW and 4AA.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 3

**Thursday 6 November**  
Year 5

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 6

**Our school attendance last week was 95%**

## School Attendance

### Class Attendance

Congratulations to classes **3SQ, 3ZY, 4TW, 4AA and 6NI** who achieved our school attendance target of **97%** and above for last week!

**BBC**

# 500 WORDS

Fun, creative story writing competition opens Tues 23 Sept - Fri 7 Nov 2025

No need to worry about spelling, punctuation or grammar!

You could have your story read out on TV by a celebrity!

Write a STORY you would love to read

Ages 5 - 11

Find out more and enter at [bbc.co.uk/500words](http://bbc.co.uk/500words)

**BBC BITESIZE FOR TEACHERS**

## Story Writing Competition

Love to write stories?

Enter a fun, creative story writing competition by visiting

[bbc.co.uk/500words](http://bbc.co.uk/500words)

All entries must be handed to Mrs Mazar by

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Good luck everyone!

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