

Hello everyone

We were delighted we could end the term in such a lovely way today with a truly **special nativity performance by our Year 3 children**. It was heart-warming to see so many proud faces on stage and in the audience, as well as to hear such fantastic singing. All the hard work and effort that went into such a joyful performance certainly paid off! A very BIG thank you to all the Year 3 children and staff, well done!

Thank you also to everyone who supported the **Christmas Fair** on Saturday. It was great to see so many people enjoying themselves and having fun. The **Christmas lunches** were a big success this week with classes sharing a delicious traditional Christmas lunch, pulling crackers and telling terrible jokes— thank you to our catering team who did an amazing job! A visit from **Santa** today made the party day extra special too! Please read on to find out more and see some photos of these special events...

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 **Wednesday 4th 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

OUTRIGHT 2022-23 CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO HEALTH

WOW! A big thank you and well done to all the students for their thoughtful outright projects. This year the campaign was about children's right to health. It was a delight to look through all of the work. Pupils were very creative and produced some wonderful projects, which included 3D models, comic strips, short stories and posters about health. All of the projects were shown to staff and pupils as part of a showcase of work. A big thank you to parents for their support.



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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Christmas Lunch

This Week we had our annual Christmas lunch across two days and it was a great success! A BIG thank you to everyone who joined us for the festive food and fun at lunchtimes!

The dining hall was transformed into a winter wonderland which was filled with banging crackers and lots of excited chatter.

A **special big thank you also to Darren, our Head Chef, and his team** for providing a delicious Christmas meal, and making the many festive boxes for the children



Christmas Fayre

Our wonderful annual **Christmas Fayre** was held last week on Saturday . The halls were filled with music, delicious food and fun activities for the community to enjoy. The children enjoyed meeting Santa in his grotto, visiting stalls. Thank to all the staff that helped organise the Christmas Fayre.



Year 3 Nativity

This week Year 3 performed the nativity play to parents. They have been working super hard over the last couple of days to practise all their nativity songs and to learn the script. It has been really tough but through perseverance and a positive growth mindset, we got there in the end! There are some brilliant performers in Year 3, and it was lovely to see them shine on stage! Thank you to all the children and staff in Year 3 for all the hard work you have put in to getting the nativity together.



Christmas Jumper Day

It was lovely to see so many of the children and staff wearing their Christmas jumpers for the 'Save The Children' charity. Your generous donations on the day have helped us to raise **£118.10**.
Thank you for your support!





Thornton Times Table World Cup 2022

The Champions are crowned!



We are excited to announce that after a hard-fought final head-to-head match that **5TR have been crowned the 2022 Thornton Times Table World Cup Champions**. **6HB** were very worthy runners up amassing huge totals on the way to the final. The performance of both **5ST** and **6NI** are also noteworthy. **5ST** eventually finished in third place in the competition, whilst **6NI** were placed in fourth. Both of these classes topped their groups and amassed sizeable scores through the competition.

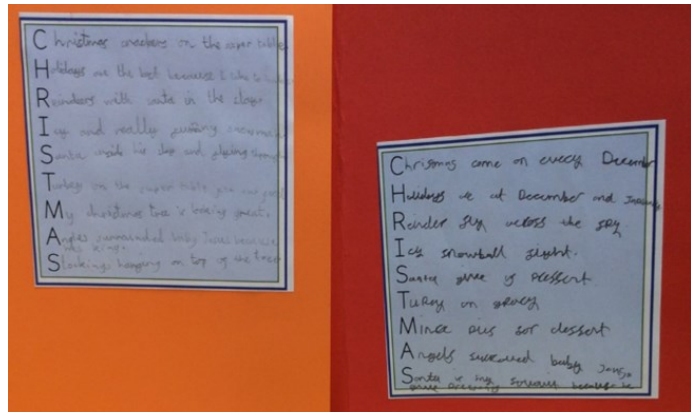


I would like to thank all the pupils who have taken part across the school. Participation through the competition been just over **96%** compared to **81%** before the competition begun. Whilst our accuracy in answering questions has also improved from **92%** to **95%**. Remember, Times Table Rock Stars will remain available throughout the Christmas holiday, so if your child/ children have some free time please encourage them to practice their times tables.



Year 3

This week in Year 3, the children made **Christmas cards**. In our English lesson the children were asked to write an acrostic poem about **Christmas**. The children thought about words or short phrases that begin with the letter on the side of their page to create fantastic sentences. The poem was then glued in their card ready to be presented to that special someone!



Year 4

To conclude our **Groundbreaking Greeks** topic, we created brochures advertising the city-state of Sparta. Children in Year Four had to pull together learning from English, History and Art in order to make a leaflet. We used persuasive language to 'sell' the idea of this sometimes brutal civilisation in ancient Greece!



Come to Sparta. It is an exotic city-state with an outstanding landscape. Its beautiful location is nestled on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea. It is also located on a valley on the banks of the Eurotas river. Sparta is well-known for the lands of Laconia and Messenia. Visitors have approved this destination and have recommended it to be a place worth visiting. The climate is perfect for exploring. This western city-state is very mountainous. Another reason to visit is, it is a place near the equator yet you will feel appreciable. Please visit and enjoy this exotic location as this is a historical site which awaits your arrival! We hope you



If you visit Sparta, you will notice that the army is unbelievable. From the age of seven, male children are taught to take part in war. They are also taught to read, write, fight and think. While girls also attend school (Agoge), they are not expected to fight. Although meals in Sparta were rations, since you get to enjoy them more when you are hungry. It is traditional but unexpected. 300 Spartan soldiers hold hundreds of Persian forces. With an army this powerful on your side, you are sure to feel at home and safe. Even though in the Peloponnesian war against Athens, Sparta emerged triumphant but sadly the empowered might took control of Spartan territory. Most historical sites are left in ruins. Like the landscape, the climate is reassuring. Located near the banks of the Eurotas river is Sparta which controls Laconia and Messenia.



Year 5

Year 5 have been working on **their calendars**.

Pupils chose an image they liked which would be suitable through the year and decorated it.

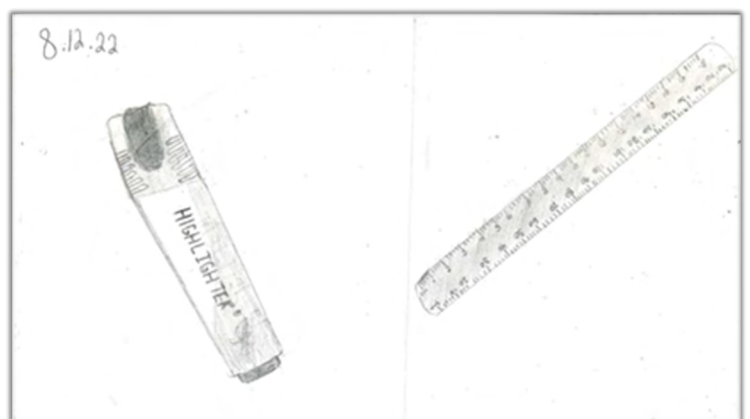
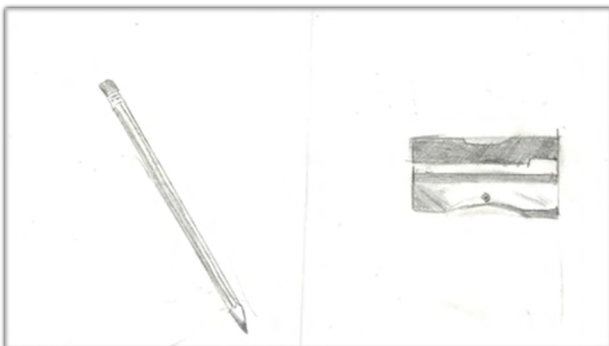
Backing paper and a laminating pouch added that extra dimension and really set them off!

A loop on the back and they will be ready to count down to moving to Year 6 in the New Year .



Year 6

For the Art lessons this week, Year 6 have been looking at **still art**. First, children experimented with different **tones and shades** to make an object look 3D in their sketch. They used different materials to help them create different shades and tones. Children used chalk, pencils and graphite sticks. This was linked to the art in their text 'The Viewer'. Children then had a chance to draw different items in the classroom. Please take a look at some examples:



Food Bank Donation

HUGE THANK YOU to families and Staff members who have generously donated to our school charity '**Helping Hands**'. We have been fortunate enough to help our vulnerable families with food parcels and toys for the children through your kind donations this year. A special THANK YOU to a mystery donation from a very kind gentleman who donated chocolates and sweets to our families!

Thank you for all your donations we have donated to As-Suffa Food Bank .

We are now a registered organisation with As-Suffa food bank, if you require any support with food parcels which will be delivered to your home address, please email s.devi@thornton.bham.sch.uk:



AS-SUFFA

The As-Suffa Food Bank project was initiated in 2016 to supplement our Homeless project. From our experience of feeding the homeless, we discovered that families were also visiting the Homeless provision, as they didn't have enough food at home. This stirred us to provide emergency groceries to service users who although have accommodation are still experiencing hardship.

The As-Suffa Food Bank ran twice a week from our site in Birmingham. However, due to COVID-19, parcels are now dropped off to our service users. All our food parcels are sufficient to feed an average size family for one week. To redeem vouchers, service users must visit the As-Suffa site and collect their food parcels or be referred by a charity or Birmingham City Council.

Alternatively, we offer a drop-off service, which is particularly useful for individuals with childcare needs, mobility issues, or those who are unable to visit the food bank. Our parcels include non-perishable goods like pasta, UHT milk, canned soups, etc.



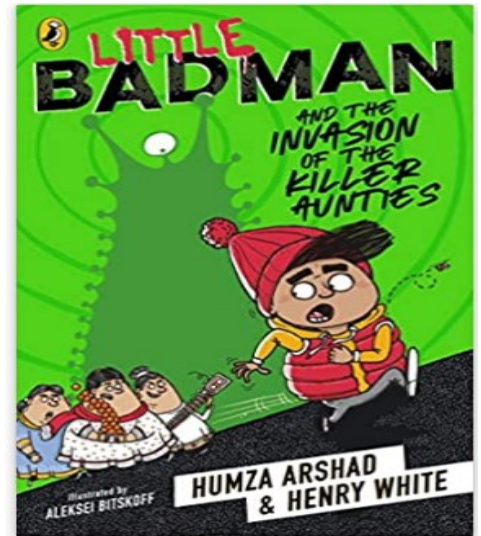
Thornton Staff Book Review

Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties by Humza Arshad and Henry White

Humza Khan, is an eleven-year-old rapper and tells the story of a very different final year of his primary school.

Suddenly, teachers begin to disappear one-by-one (and all the pupils are happy to begin with!) but strange things start to happen as the teachers are replaced by aunties!

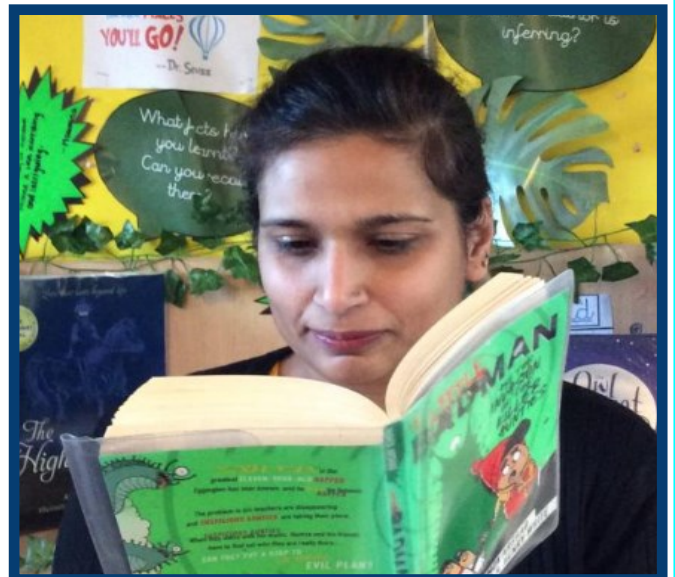
It isn't too bad at the start, as the aunties keep feeding the children delicious snacks.



Humza and his best friends Umer and Wendy hunt for the truth. As they begin to investigate the real reason to why their teachers are disappearing.

Little Badman has many 'laugh out aloud' moments and is a great book to have as a shared class read!

Reviewed by: Mrs Bibi (Class Teacher)



ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Autumn Term 2 Starts: Monday 31st October

Autumn Term 2 Ends: Friday 16th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January

Spring Term 2023

Teaching Training Day: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Spring Term 1 Starts for pupils on:

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Spring Term 1 Ends: Friday 17th February 2023

Half Term holidays: Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February



School Attendance

Class Attendance

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



Golden Ticket Initiative

The Golden Ticket attendance initiative was introduced again this academic year for all pupils. Everyone had an opportunity to win a **Golden Ticket** to see a performance for **Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk** pantomime.

Wow! We currently have 188 children have achieved 97% and above attendance for the Autumn term! Look out for the invitations next term...

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have worked in partnership with the school to ensure their child is in school everyday and on time.



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 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! **Remember—Please ring the school office on 0121 327 0824 our lines open from 8am .**

Our school attendance for last week was 89.01%

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.

PE TIMETABLE

Monday 2nd January

Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd January

Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 4th January

Year 3

Thursday 5th January

Year 5

Friday 6th January

Swimming for classes 4RE & 5ST

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

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, Afterschool clubs debts have been cleared at the start of each week .



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