



Scan for
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18/12/2020

Hello everyone

Firstly, I want to say a very well done to ALL our amazing children who have really shone in school this term. They have coped brilliantly with our new routines and rules to help keep everyone safe, and I have been really impressed with the reminders they now give one another and staff (!) to ensure we all super safe. The children have been full of enthusiasm and have displayed a real eagerness to learn which makes teaching them an absolute pleasure. We all think, as parents and carers, you should be immensely proud of your children's resilience — we know we are!

Secondly, on behalf of all the staff and Governors, we would like to send you our warmest wishes to you all for a safe and peaceful holiday and New Year. We are very much looking forward to recharging our batteries over the coming fortnight in readiness for an exciting Spring Term. Please ensure that you take care and continue to follow the government guidance so that we can ALL return safe and well on Tuesday 5th January. As usual, we have signposted you to Covid-19 guidance in this newsletter and on our website.

And finally, please continue to check your emails and text messages for our communication, and if you haven't downloaded our School Comms app yet please use the details in this newsletter to help you.

Thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas to all those who will be celebrating, and a peaceful New Year to all!



Mrs Cathy Grace, Acting Headteacher

Christmas Jumper Day

We have raised £269.97

for the Save The Children Charity. Thank you to all the parents and staff for helping us raise money for the charity.



Christmas Dinner

This week Mrs Grace organised our first socially distanced annual Christmas dinner across two days. The dining hall was transformed into a winter wonderland and the children enjoyed the meal with lots of excitement.

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.

Acting Headteacher - Mrs Cathy Grace
Assistant Headteachers - Miss Loach,
Mrs Biddle-Rawbone, Mrs Mazar

Chair of Governors—Mr Amjid Ali
Vice-Chair of Governors—Johur Uddin

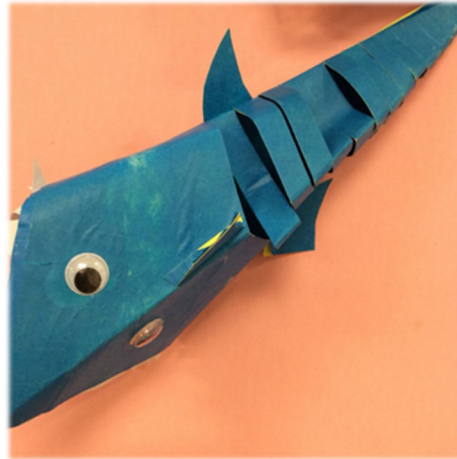


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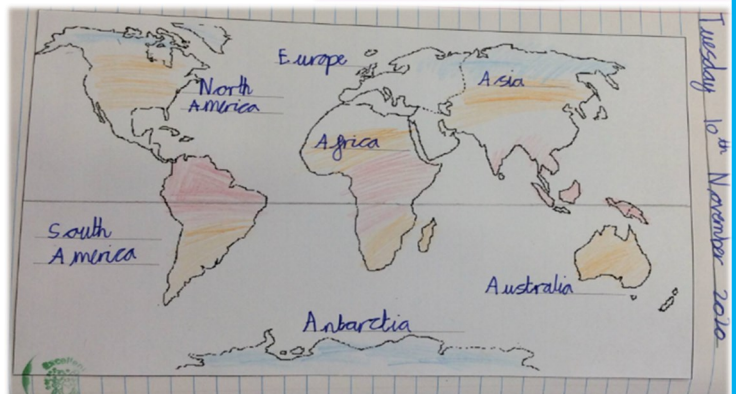
Year 3

This term, the children in Year 3 have been learning all about predators. Some of the children have made some fantastic predator models at home.

Miss Brown and the Year 3 Team were impressed with their creativity!



In topic, we looked at the continents around the world and found out about different predators that can be found there. We also learned that there are many local predators around us in the UK. We also looked at how climate change has affected the predators and their habitats.



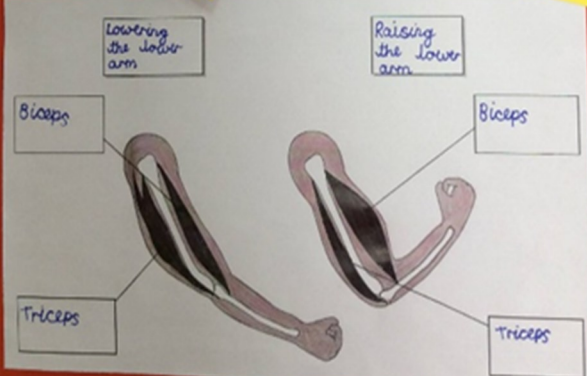
LO: To identify that humans and some other animals have muscles for support, protection and movement.

Core skill: I can identify different muscles in my body.

Depth task: I understand that muscles are needed to make bones move.

Greater depth: I can explain how muscles work using my model.

Thursday 26th November



In Science, we have been looking at the human body. We found out about how our skeletons work and made a song using all the facts we knew. We also made sock puppets to show the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates. At the end of the term, we watched a live Science virtual talk, where we found out even more impressive facts about our favourite predators!

Friday 27th November 2020

am am am am am am
claws claws claws claws claws
My cat has got sharp claws.

Habitat

- snow and ice
- minus degrees
- cold
- live alone
- Arctic
- Alaska, United States, Denmark, Norway, Canada, Russia

Appearance

- Sharp claws to kill animals and grip ice
- Black skin underneath their fur
- Fur to keep them warm
- White fur
- Strong, fast and swim well

Diet

- Fish and seals
- Wait at the breathing hole
- Carnivores
- Blend in the snow to catch
- If hungry, they eat whales or walrus

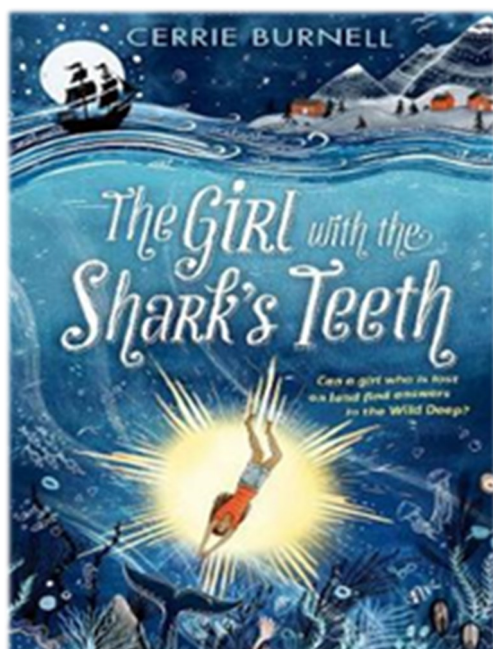
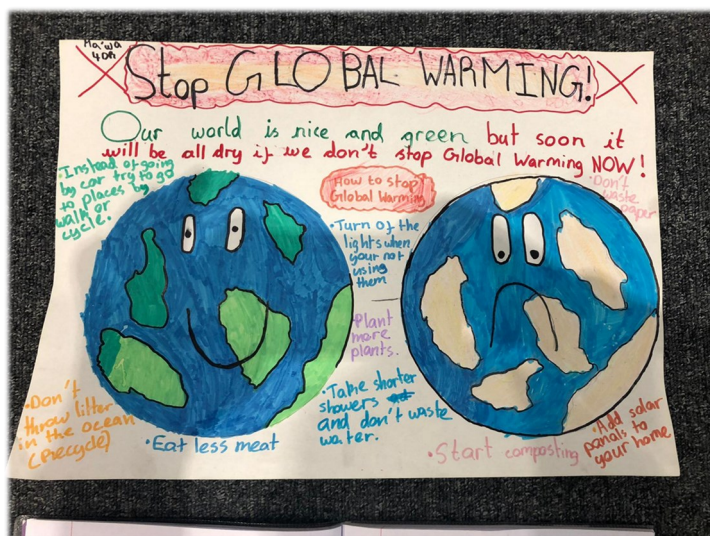
Year 4

It's been a fun and fascinating half term in Year 4! We've dived down deep and pulled out lots of learning in relation to our Blue Abyss topic. We learnt about which creatures inhabit which layers of the ocean as well as researching man's quests to explore the fathoms of the world's oceans. This informed our Science, where we unravelled how to classify different creatures both on and off land. Each class even became parents of brine shrimp babies and found out what conditions they need to survive and thrive.

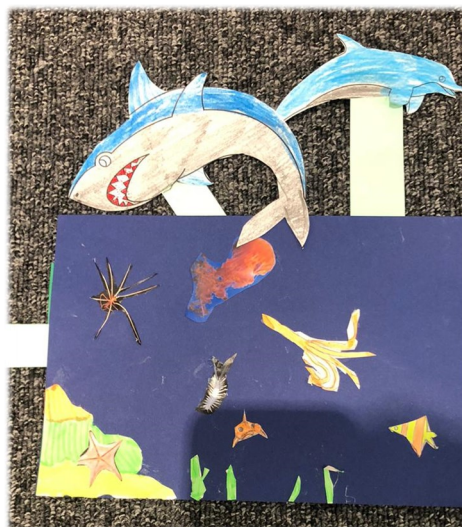


In Design Technology we looked into constructing our own moving product, using our emerging knowledge of levers and linkages to make an ocean scene with functioning parts.

Not content with our first attempts, we even found time to modify, innovate and recreate the same model with improvements!



In our English lessons, we applied this knowledge to write our own retelling of Cerrie Burnell's "Girl With The Shark's Teeth," weaving settings and speech about a young girl, forced to rescue her mermaid-protecting mother from a troublesome trio of brutes. This world of wonder also crept into our Maths as we rehearsed our multiplications, solving worded problems with a nautical twist to them!



Thank you to all the children and parents for their amazing aquatic insights this half term. We cannot wait to see what learning journeys we go on as a year group when we step foot back in time into Anglo Saxon Britain.

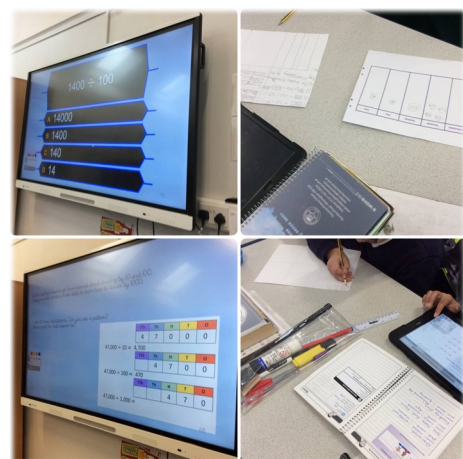
Miss Hughes and the Year 4 Team

Year 5

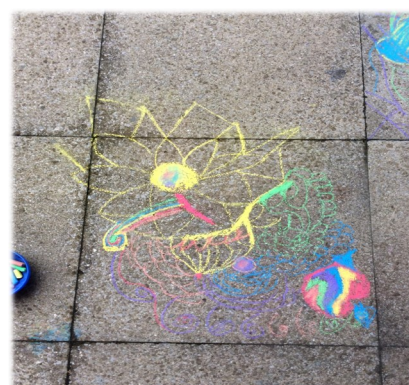
How is it the end of Autumn term already? Wow! Well you know what they say, 'time flies when you are having fun!' Having fun is exactly what Year 5 have done this term!



This term was especially exciting as Year 5 were involved in many exciting activities in preparing for their Diwali assembly. 5ZY provided us with gorgeous Rangoli patterns, 5ST surprised us with their poetic side, 5BA didn't realise they had so many superb actors (some could definitely win the Oscar award one day!) and 5TR produced the magnificent diva lamps.



In maths we learned all about factors, prime numbers, division and multiplication by 10 and 100, as well as area and perimeter. Do you remember the factor bug Year 5? Make sure you keep learning the times tables, you need them everywhere in maths as you noticed when finding factors and in calculating area too. Also, the Year 5 teachers thoroughly enjoyed reading some lovely stories the children have written this term. It is clearly evident that there are some aspiring authors in Year 5.



All the children enjoyed our topic on Earth and Space in Science so much that I'm sure we will have some astronauts in the future.

Creating Craters was the highlight of this topic! They enjoyed making and testing their own rockets in Design and Technology as well.



Thank you and well done Year 5 for such an eventful and memorable Autumn term. Keep up the hard work!

Don't forget to continue logging on to Reading Plus, Times Tables Rockstars and My Maths.

Mrs Ahmed and the Year 5 Team



Year 6

Hello to all,

Year 6 have had a wonderful second half of autumn term- it was jam packed with both work and fun!

In English we were fascinated by a book called 'The Viewer'- a story about a boy called Tristan and the mysterious adventure he goes through whilst rummaging through a sinister box. The children used this story as inspiration to write a monologue and a newspaper article as part of the writing sequence.

Our Science focus for this term was 'Light' and the children enjoyed learning all about light and shadows. We enjoyed completing experiments where we measured how the distance of a light source affects the size of a shadow. They also really enjoyed constructing their own periscopes.

Our Topic was all about 'Tomorrow's World' and the children had the opportunity to look at retro games (parents might be able to recognise some!) and learn about how technology has developed over time. We also went on a Virtual tour of the Science and Technology museum...cool!

In our art work, we had fun discussing and creating some fantastic work using the different shading techniques that we learnt about. We had the opportunity to recreate work from 'The Viewer' and complete a still life drawing based on scientific objects.

We even found time to launch our UNICEF campaign and managed to complete activities relating to climate change. We learned about the consequences of not recycling and the long term effects this has on the environment. We had to channel our inner plastic bottle and imagine the journey it could go through by writing a monologue.

Believe it or not, we also managed to fit in an assessment week! Well done, Year 6, we are really proud of you!

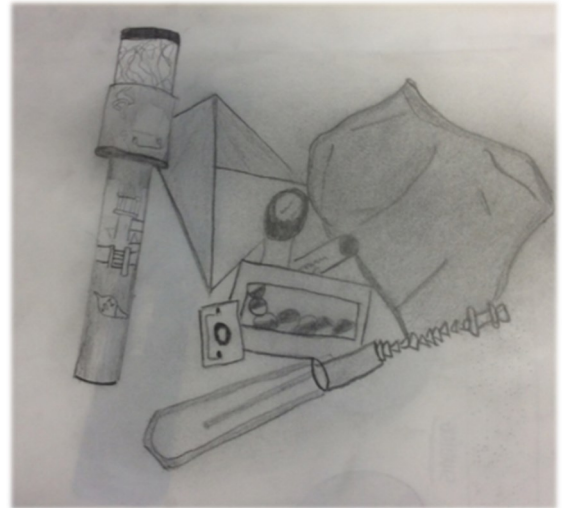
It was lovely to see everybody arrive in their wonderful colourful jumpers on Christmas jumper day.

Overall, a very productive half term!

A big well done to all of the children and staff.

Happy holidays and remember to keep safe. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mr Iqbal and the Year 6 Team



Calling all Thorntonian writers and illustrators!



Story Starter: The Story of The Trees

Once there was a man who inherited a house with chests full of gold and silver.

He had spent almost all of it when he came up with an idea to make more money. But he could not do it alone.

He told everyone to meet him on the edge of the wild woods and he would let them know his plan.

He wanted everyone to help him chop down the trees, so that he could sell the timber, clear the land and make a direct road to the next village.

He was just about to chop down the first tree when a boy stepped forward and said:
"Stop! My Nan says you shouldn't chop that tree down because ..."

The winner will have their idea/picture used within the story and it will be read out during:

**National Storytelling Week
30th Jan - 6th Feb 2021.**

OVER TO YOU!

What does the boy say?

Your job is to give a reason for not chopping down the tree. It could be because it provides something or it holds a special memory- it is your choice!
You can write a paragraph or create a mind map of ideas.

You can also:

Make or draw a tree which Pyn will be able to use when telling the story.

Think about:
What environmental reasons you could give for not chopping down a tree?
Memory tree: Can you share a memory of a tree?



Materials you might use to make a tree:

Wooden Spoons
Cutlery Recycled Materials
Magazines
Natural Materials from the Garden.



DEADLINE:

**All entries to be handed into your teacher by
Friday 8th January 2021
Good luck!**

PE TIMETABLE

W/C 4th January

Monday 4th January
Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January
Year 5

Wednesday 6th January
Year 6

Thursday 7th January
Year 4

Friday 8th January
6NI

E-Safety

Did YOU know that it is your duty as a parent to remind your child that not everything you read or see on the web is true, and not everyone online tells the truth.

More than ever, internet users are required to wade through a lot of noise, distractions, and opinions that flow freely online. Children need guidance to learn this skill.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is **£2.40 per day and £12.00 per week**. Please use ParentPay every Monday to pay for your child's meal in advance. Thank you



Attendance

Well done to the following classes who achieved our school Attendance target of 97% and above:



Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3AH - 98.8%	4GJ- 97.7%	5ZY- 98.00%	6HB – 97.2%
3MJ - 99.3%			
3SQ- 98.3%			

100% Class Attendance Award

Congratulations to Class **4AB** for winning the £25 gift voucher to buy new classroom resources.



Last week our whole school attendance was: 94.7%



Best Class Attendance for Autumn Term 2

Huge congratulations to Class **3SQ** for winning the Best Class Attendance for Autumn term 2. They have been rewarded with a **£50 gift voucher** to buy new classroom resources.

Attendance Celebration

Attendance celebrations have been postponed to next term. The dates and times will be announced at the start of next term for the Golden Ticket initiative and the Magic 20 Raising Attendance and Punctuality.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2021

Teacher Training Day: Monday 4th January 2021

School not open to children

Term Starts: Tuesday 5 January 2021

School open to all pupils

Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Teacher Training Day: Monday 22nd February 2021

Term Ends: Thursday 1 April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Teacher Training Day: Monday 19th April 2021

Term Starts: Tuesday 20 April 2021

Teacher Training Day: Thursday 6th May 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021

Term Ends: Wednesday 21 July 2021

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Mrs Biddle-Rowbone, Mrs Mazar

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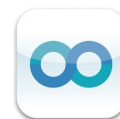
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Schoolcomms App

And a final thank you to all those parents and carers who have already installed our new communication app. If you haven't done so already, all you need to do is:

1. Go to App store and search for **Schoolcomms** app and install it
2. On the login page, **scroll down** and select **Don't have an account, Sign Up.**
3. Type in your email and mobile number - These **MUST** be the same as the Primary Contact details already provided to school

The **Schoolcomms** system will send a pin code (takes up to 20 seconds to receive) and this needs to be added to the app to complete the installation



COVID update – PLEASE HELP!

As we are now approaching the Christmas holidays, any bubble closures may result in children and staff having to self-isolate over the Christmas holiday. We need to try to avoid this if we can. Staff and children have worked so hard and really deserve a restful holiday.

Please can we ask that parents and carers are extra careful and follow these rules

- If your child is feeling unwell, please only send them in if they are well enough to attend.

- If they have any COVID symptoms, you **MUST** keep them off (and any other children in your household) and book a test immediately.

- Inform school immediately if the child or anyone in the household has symptoms.

Not following these rules might mean children and staff might unnecessarily have to miss out on seeing family or being able to go out over the holiday period.

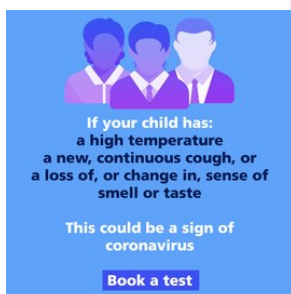
Thank you for your support with this.

Reporting a positive Covid-19 test result to school

If your child, or someone in your household receives a positive Covid-19 test result during the Christmas holiday, please let the school know immediately using the school email address

covidinfo@thornton.bham.sch.uk

Thank you



Christmas Gingerbread Men

Ingredients

350g plain flour, plus extra for rolling out

2tsp bicarbonate of soda

2 tsp ground ginger

1 tsp ground cinnamon

125g butter

175g light soft brown sugar

1 egg

4 tbsp golden syrup



Method

1. Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar.
2. Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in clingfilm and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.
4. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/1/4in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.
5. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations.

DON'T FORGET TO TWEET YOUR CREATIONS @Thornton0wls



Email Us

