



Thornton Primary School Prospectus



Welcome

from the headteacher

Thornton Primary School has been serving the local community in Ward End since 1930. Generations of families have entrusted the education of their children to the school which is very popular and oversubscribed in every year group.

In 2016 the children's playgrounds had a complete refurbishment, in order to create a safe and exciting place for the children to play and have their PE lessons. The school site will continue to develop with refurbishment to the school reception, outdoor space, corridors and classrooms continuing over the next few years.

At Thornton, we are very proud of the relationship that has developed between parents and the school. We welcome parents' views and support and have an open door policy. Parent workshops are a regular feature of our work and we also have lots of parent volunteers who support teachers in class. Regular coffee mornings for parents help me to get to know how parents are feeling about the school and there is also a parent group – The Friends of Thornton – who actively support the school in a multitude of ways.

A Pastoral Manager, Learning Mentor, Sports Coach and School Nurse provide enhanced support for pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare. These staff members help to ensure the overall health and well-being of all the pupils in school.

All our pupils have access to the latest technology: every class has fabulous interactive, touch screen computers and 15 i-pads so that technology is a high focus in class teaching. We also have a well-equipped ICT suite where children can develop their IT and computing skills.

At Thornton Primary School we pride ourselves on a friendly environment where all staff and pupils treat one another with respect and form positive relationships which ensure a happy and safe atmosphere. I have pleasure in welcoming you to Thornton and hope we will form a strong partnership in the future.

Sue Simmons

Headteacher





School Aims

1

To be an inclusive school, giving support to every child so that they reach their full potential.

2

To provide an inspiring curriculum, grounded in the basic skills of English and mathematics and enriched with first hand experiences, that will help children develop lively, enquiring minds; encouraging them to think for themselves and to develop perseverance, motivation, enthusiasm, initiative and creativity.

3

To foster excellent attitudes to learning so that children are confident, self-assured learners who are proud of their achievements.

4

To encourage excellent attendance and punctuality so that not a moment of learning is lost.

5

To ensure that bullying is frowned upon and dealt with decisively and swiftly.

6

To have an open culture which actively promotes all aspects of pupils' welfare.

7

To keep pupils safe and make sure they feel safe at all times. Ensuring that pupils understand how to keep themselves safe in different situations, including on-line, staying safe from abuse and exploitation, and trust adults in school to help them when they have concerns.

8

To ensure that pupils have an excellent understanding of how to stay safe online and of the dangers of inappropriate use of mobile technology and social networking sites.

9

To encourage pupils to lead an active lifestyle and ensure that they can articulate how to keep themselves healthy, making informed choices about healthy eating, fitness and their emotional and mental well-being, developing an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships.

10

To ensure that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development permeates all areas of the school's work and equips them to be thoughtful, caring and active citizens in school and in wider society.

11

To develop the school as a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Behaviour

We are proud of the excellent behaviour of our children and the support of our families is critical in maintaining such a high standard. At Thornton we aim to create a calm, caring environment where children can learn effectively. All children are encouraged to behave well through praise and example. Expectations are high and our Behaviour for Learning policy is clear and simple and is applied consistently throughout the school. The policy is based on rights - the right to teach and learn, the right to be respected and the right to be safe.

Responsibility for promoting positive learning behaviours is shared by everyone in the school community. Instilling positive behaviour for learning relies on clear lines of communication between all members of the school community. The relationship between staff members and pupils plays a critical role in the development and maintenance of positive behaviour. Staff/pupil relationships are based on respect and positive reinforcement, with all staff taking the lead in this. We encourage parents/carers to come and talk to us at any time if they are worried about any aspect of their child's behaviour. Staff will always share concerns with you before they escalate and ask for your support. We find that this often quickly resolves any minor issues that may be getting in the way of a child's learning.

Attendance and punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality is one of the keys to success at school. Everyone that comes to Thornton is expected to be at school on time every day and to achieve 97% attendance, including the grown-ups! We understand that everyone gets sick from time to time but minor coughs, colds or aches and pains should not stop anyone from coming to school. We only authorise absence from school for genuine illness or religious observance. We ask parents to notify us immediately

if their child is going to be absent from school as monitoring pupil absence is part of our Safeguarding process. The school has a range of rewards to encourage children to achieve good attendance and last year more than 150 children achieved 100% attendance for the whole year which is quite an achievement.

Requests for extended leave

Extended Absence in term time will not be authorised under any circumstances in line with Local Authority and Government guidance and you may be fined if you take your child out of school, especially if their attendance is below the school target. Please read our guidance on the school website if you are unclear about any aspect of how the school deals with absences from school.





Governors

The Governing Body of Thornton are a committed and supportive group who meet regularly to make decisions about how the school operates, how funding is spent and many other areas of the school's work. Members of the Governing Body have a wide range of skills that support the school's leadership in improving the school. The Governing Body is made up of:

- 2 parent governors
- 5 co-opted governors
- 2 staff governors
- 1 Local Authority governor
- The Headteacher

You can see who our governors are by visiting our website. When there is a vacancy on the Governing Body this is advertised in the school newsletter. You can often meet governors before and after school on the playground but if you wish to speak to a governor at any time then please contact reception who will ask a governor to contact you.

Friends of Thornton

We are very fortunate to enjoy the support of a parent group – the Friends of Thornton. They are a group of hard-working and supportive parents who work alongside the school to organise events and other kinds of support for the school. They share the same vision as the school leadership – that the children come first and we need to work together to ensure that the children get the very best out of their time at Thornton.

You can contact members of the group through the school reception or join in with one of their meetings that are advertised regularly in the school newsletter.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform every day. Parents can buy a range of items from the school which are branded with the school logo. Non-branded items can be bought from local supermarkets and uniform suppliers. Please do not send your child to school in trainers, shoes with heels or lightweight sandals without proper support.

Girls

- Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
- Navy blue sweat top or cardigan
- White shirt – formal or polo shirt
- Black, grey or white tights/leggings/socks
- Blue check dress in summer
- Black shoes – boots can be worn in winter but we recommend bringing shoes to change into during the day.

Boys

- Grey trousers or shorts
- White shirt – formal or polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt or jumper (v-neck or crew neck)
- Formal shirt and tie (year 6 only)
- Black or grey socks
- Black shoes

PE

- White T-shirt (long sleeve are acceptable as long as sleeves are close fitted)
- Navy/black shorts/cycle shorts/leggings (leggings must be close fitted)
- Pumps or trainers (non-marking soles for indoors please)
- Tracksuit for cold weather
- For swimming swimsuit, trunks (not long shorts), swimming cap and bath towel





School day

Being at school every day and on time is really important to a child's learning. We expect children to be on time every day and ask parents to make medical appointments outside the school day wherever possible. If children do have to go out of school during the school day then they must be signed in and out at reception. When appointments are in the middle of the day a child should come to school before the appointment and come back to school afterwards.

The school day starts at 8.45 a.m. for all pupils. Children come sensibly into school and go to their classrooms where teachers have activities ready for the start of the day. Formal lessons start at 9.00 a.m.

At lunchtime we stagger the times children come into the dining room and go out to play to ensure that they

have plenty of space to enjoy their break. Year 3 and 4 break for lunch at 12.00 noon and Years 5 and 6 break for lunch at 12.45 pm. This gives them both plenty of time on the new playground equipment and means they can play ballgames safely.

School finishes at 3.20p.m. for Reception, Years 1 and 2 and 3.30 p.m. for all other classes.

We ask parents not to take children home for lunch unless absolutely necessary. It is good for children to socialise with their friends at lunchtimes and they can enjoy the activities on offer both in school and on the playground.

Curriculum

At Thornton we follow the National Curriculum and we also enrich their learning through a range of visitors to school and educational visits. The first hand experiences bring children's learning to life and deepens understanding. We have a strong focus on English and mathematics which are the foundations for learning and they are taught every day. Other subjects are taught either in blocks, weekly or fortnightly depending on the theme being covered.

As far as possible we teach subjects in an integrated way so that children see the links between subjects. We pride ourselves on the high quality of provision for PE through our sports coach and offer children a wide range of experiences both in the curriculum and also by competing against other schools in the local area. You can read more about our curriculum by visiting our website.



Homework

Parents and carers are a child's first educators and we place a high value on the support they can give to their children. Our homework is in two parts:

Basic skills:

Learning number bonds, tables and reading every day is homework that children are expected to take responsibility for as early as possible. Children have a reading book to take home with a reading diary which we ask parents to sign when they have heard their child read. Children also have homework diaries which contain information pages to support parents with supporting children learning their basic skills. We also subscribe to a number of websites where children can safely practice their skills. You can find these listed on our website. All children have passwords for these sites and should keep them safe at all times.

Five ways to be smart:

Each half term teachers set five tasks that children can choose from to complete longer, extended pieces of homework. These are usually linked to the theme being covered and include research, art & design and other creative activities. Family members are encouraged to get involved in these and some of the work produced is outstanding. It provides children with an opportunity to choose how they demonstrate their learning and encourages creativity and independence.

Safeguarding & Pastoral care

At Thornton, your child's safety and wellbeing is one of our highest priorities. The Headteacher is the Designated Safeguarding lead and we also have three Deputy Safeguarding Leads so that there is a fully qualified person on site at all times. We also have a full time nurse, a pastoral manager, a learning mentor and a sports coach who make up our Pastoral Team. Team members work alongside parents and carers, teachers

and children to ensure that barriers to learning are overcome and the children lead healthy, active lives. We pride ourselves on our stringent Safeguarding practices which ensure that your child is safe and well cared for at all times at school. We encourage open relationships with families so that children thrive through this partnership.



Pupil Voice

Head Boys and Girls are chosen from Year 6 pupils and act as role models to all the children in the school. Pupils complete an application form to apply to become a senior pupil and they are interviewed by the headteacher. They are expected to have the highest standards of behaviour, uniform and attitudes to learning at all times. They meet regularly with the headteacher and have been involved in setting up the Peer Mediator group and choosing the new library design. They also regularly show visitors around the school and represent the school at other events outside school.

At Thornton we also have an active **School Council** who work alongside the teachers to ensure that children at Thornton have a say in what happens in

the school. School Councillors are voted into post by their classmates. As a group they organise fundraising events and other activities and also gather their classmates' views on proposed changes or issues in school.

Peer mediators are a group of around 30 Year 5 and 6 children who, alongside the lunchtime supervisors, support children to resolve issues on the playground. There is a rigorous selection process, run by the Head Boys and Girls, to ensure that the right children are chosen to do this important role. They have to demonstrate high standards of behaviour and a sensible, caring nature. They also support children who may be feeling lonely or left out on the playground.



Extra curricular activities

We run a wide range of after school clubs and activities on most days of the week. Letters go out regularly offering places at these clubs to different year groups. Because of the high numbers of pupils who want to attend, the clubs are often oversubscribed so you need to get your reply in quickly.

Children also represent the school in a range of activities, competing against local schools in sports such as golf, cricket, handball and football. We have been very successful and are very proud of the

excellent sporting behaviour demonstrated by our children at these events. We have also achieved the School Games Bronze award.

Year 6 are also offered the opportunity to take part in a two night residential trip to Woodlands Adventure Camp where they do a range of adventurous activities and also cook and clean for themselves, supported by the teachers of course!

Wrap-around care for your child

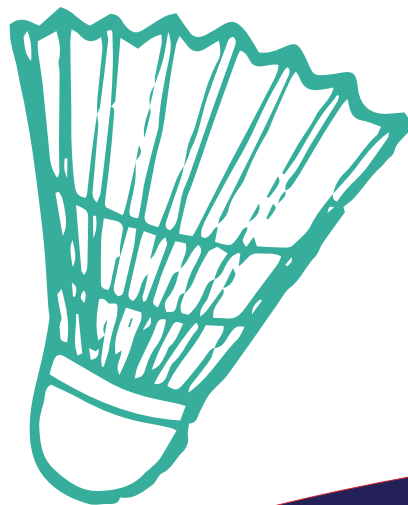
We realise that working parents need all the help they can get and our Little Hoots Breakfast and After School clubs give you peace of mind that your child is well cared for whilst you are at work.

At Thornton we provide low cost wrap-around care for your child. You can bring your child to Breakfast Club and After School club for only £3 per day, £1.50 for siblings, from 7.45 a.m. until 5.45 p.m. and parents can choose either before or after school care, or both, on any day(s) or the week.

We are very flexible and whilst we do appreciate knowing in advance that your children will be joining us we can usually accommodate your children at short notice.

Please let the school reception know as soon as possible if you wish your child to come to either club the next day.







Contact Details

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✉ enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk

🔍 www.thornton.bham.sch.uk

