



THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thornhill Road, Islington, London N1 1HX
Tel: 0207 607 4162 | E-mail: thornhill@thornhill.islington.sch.uk
Website: www.thornhill.islington.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss Jenny Lewis

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to full school opening! The school building again resonates with children's laughter, friendliness and warmth, just like it should. Thank you for the continued support and trust you have given Miss Lewis and all the staff at Thornhill Primary School during these difficult times.

It's hard to find original phrases to sum up the past year: challenging, worrying, frustrating crop up regularly when we are thinking about the issues that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented to us. But we have also seen excellent examples of togetherness, inventiveness, community spirit and above all human compassion. The Thornhill team continued to work tirelessly during these ever-changing and challenging times, developing creative and inspiring learning techniques to ensure that the children at Thornhill continued to receive an outstanding education, despite the difficulties imposed by home learning.

Throughout the lockdown, the Governing Body has continued to regularly meet remotely with Miss Lewis and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that we provide support and strategic leadership so that the school can maintain its provision of a broad and balanced curriculum that is essential for our children's learning. A specific focus has been placed on the ongoing risk assessment and the development of our accessible home learning programme. We are truly proud of the achievements made by all Thornhill staff, pupils and the parent & carer community. Together we are Thornhill Primary School, and our values are evident in all that we do.

Spring term saw the return of our exciting and creative 'Enrichment Fridays' via specially prepared online meetings, established live PE assemblies, Maths & English, Science, French and themed Foundation topics to list just a few. Thanks to your hard work, Thornhill achieved an outstanding 95% pupil engagement. To enable remote learning to be truly accessible to all pupils, the school delivered over 62 on-line devices and offered remote learning packs, pens, pencils and physical education packs to each pupil in need, so that all our children could participate in their learning experience. We are aware that the online systems have sometimes been challenging to use, and that you have had to support your children under very difficult circumstances. What you have achieved is truly exceptional.

Recently five new Governors joined the Governing Body, so we extend a huge welcome to Rachel Fenn & Antonia Millard who are Co-opted Governors; Praful Nargund who is a Local Authority Governor and finally Janine Paver and Karen Barry who are both Parent Governors. Between them they bring a wealth of additional expertise to The Governing Body, including legal, educational, operations and online communication. We hope you'll get the opportunity to meet them in person soon when we are able to socialise again.

In the coming months, as we anticipate the return to some form of normality, we can reflect on the huge successes that we have all created together. We will also focus on supporting the progress and attainment of all of our children: academically, socially and in other aspects such as their mental and physical well-being. We should all take immense pride in the strength of the Thornhill community and the dedication of school staff, parents and carers who work tirelessly to deliver and support a broad and balanced learning. We continue to see excellent examples of children's education featured on our Instagram, School Newsletter and Website, along with creative and inspiring features such as the library poetry competition.



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As we move into spring with warmer days and increasing daylight, we have so many reasons to celebrate our fantastic Thornhill community which has continued to thrive despite the upheaval that the last year brought us all.

On behalf of the Thornhill Governing Body

Ylva Bäckström

Ylva Bäckström
Chair of Governors



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