

Issue 73 July 15 2020

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Thornhill Family

We are all back at school post lockdown and I am very proud of our Thornhill children, who have shown themselves to be exceptionally adaptive and resilient. The children have been marvellous at change and have adapted to every situation positively. Our little Reception children have grown in self-confidence and are happy to leave their parents at the gate and walk into school on their own.

Staff have been exceptional and as already communicated with you, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the children remain up to speed with the curriculum requirements. Assessments have also revealed that the eLearning platform has been sound and catered for the educational needs of the children.

As parents, you have played your part in helping and assisting your child through the eLearning platform and for that I sincerely 'thank you.' You have also adapted to the 'new normal' of dropping and collecting your children from school timeously and playing your part in the COVID-19 protocols, which are in place.

All in all, a positive, effective and efficient movement has been made between the physical and virtual classroom and this pays testament to everyone involved.

The way we all look at learning has changed and I am sure that blended learning will continue to evolve and grow within each year group, as we continue moving forward through the 2020 academic year.

During and post lockdown have taught us that we should not only look for the problems, but more importantly new ways of being able to carry the expectation of all we do. So, let us stop and say a big 'Thank You' to everyone involved in positively contributing to the success of our children's learning to date.

## Staffing

I would like to welcome our School Nurse, Ms Masedi Joseph to Thornhill on a part-time basis. Ms Joseph has been a good addition to our staff and her experience is invaluable. We hope that she enjoys her stay with us at Thornhill.

## Traffic Control

This is again a plea to all parents, please be considerate when you park your vehicle, so you do not park in front, or opposite any of the home owner's gates, school gates, or block the road for other parents. Further to this, **please obey the 40 km/h speed limit.** Please be mindful of children and considerate of other parents, who are dropping off their child. When parking, where possible, please reverse park your vehicle, so when you have collected your child, you are able to see any children / parents. Please listen to both the guards and our traffic controllers, as they are placed there by the management of the school. Remember, at all times, you are and remain an example to your child. Lastly, please ensure you leave no valuables in your vehicle. We do have security in and around the school, but you need to play your part as well.

Please ensure you are all (Mum and Dad) registered on SIMS, so that you receive all the eNewsletters and updates. Please share this information with your child, so they remain informed as well. Take care and be safe. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands, sanitise and social distance.

I leave you with these words **"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, then nothing can stop you."** Anonymous

**I Greaves**

Headteacher

# News from the Library

Even though pupils are not coming into the Library to borrow books, we are continuing lessons in the classroom, reading our favourite stories and working on literacy skills. Throughout lockdown, pupils joined the “Extreme Reading challenge” and contributed a photograph of themselves doing some extreme reading. Each class created a slide show of it’s members reading up trees, whilst doing handstands, even reading to pet chickens!

We have completed the inter-house quiz in Library lessons, including rounds in general knowledge, pop music, memory skills and solving puzzles. It has been an exciting close contest and the results are as follows:

4th	Notwane	840
3rd	Shashe	895
2nd	Limpopo	903
1st	Chobe	920

There are still some fabulous books offered for free for all reading ages, so until we can loan our books to our pupils again, they should continue reading for pleasure from the sites on this link:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WLLcXK\\_DHXWgfAxlGre9Jez-25mebkjr-o1x1hWkag/edit](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WLLcXK_DHXWgfAxlGre9Jez-25mebkjr-o1x1hWkag/edit)

Also, here is a link to sites that provide informative and excellent reading about current affairs and the world around us. Encourage your children to expand their view of the world with these sites written specifically for Primary school readers

<https://www.dogonews.com/>  
<https://newsforkids.net/>  
<https://www.timeforkids.com/>

You are braver  
than you believe,  
Stronger than you seem  
and smarter than you think. AA Milne

How brave our little Reception children have been, who arrived back at school, with masks on and very large eyes waiting at the gate to have their temperature taken, sanitise their hands, walk through a shoe bath and wait for their teachers to collect them.

They quickly adapted to social distancing, sanitising and having a plastic screen between their desks.

Being back at school with their friends and lots of fun activities quickly outweighed all the above.

The children have loved being back in the classroom spending a fun, happy, busy morning back in the environment they so enjoy. Here are some quotes from the children after lockdown:

'I missed playing with my friends, I had nobody to play with.' Zingisa

'My Mommy taught me lots of things at home.' Ryan

'My Mommy made me an office to do my work.' Rumaisa



Our Thornhill children sat their DELF examinations at the end of 2019. We have received the results and the children performed superbly once again:

#### Delf Prime A1.1:

Sahara Podiephatshwa, Kese Ramsden, Sandra Ukeje, Afroze Amin, Gokul Kanak, Munopa Maunga, Srivats Sivaramakrishnan, Farah Kader, Nabeel Khal, Shamit Kumar, Rayhaan Khonat, Shaan Haddad, Hamza Hoosan and Faizan Osman.

Congratulations to the following high achievers, who scored 85%, or above in this category:

Sahara Podiephatshwa, Kese Ramsden, Gokul Kanak, Munopa Maunga, Farah Kader and Shaan Haddad.

#### Delf Prime A1:

Morgan du Toit, Joshua Thomas, Akhlaaq Khan, Kao Jahaziel Jacobs, Mahira Khan, Hrithika Patel, Maya Bayad, Mahira Khan, Anushka Arora, Marko Popovic, Magnus Macharia, Abigail Jamu and Siyanda Courage.

Congratulations to the following high achievers, who scored 85%, or above in this category:

Kao Jahaziel Jacobs, Mahira Khan, Hrithika Patel, Maya Bayad, Mahira Khan, Anushka Arora, Marko Popovic, Magnus Macharia and Siyanda Courage.

#### Delf Prime A2:

Nikoleta Popovic, Simphiwe Charama and Zoya Modarissi.

Congratulations to Zoya Modarissi for achieving over 85% – a phenomenal achievement in this difficult category.

Well done to all the children who sat these examinations, which are externally set and marked.



The children are back in Standard 5! Post 'Lockdown' at school has seen many changes in the way we interact with each other at school, however, as Superman said, "There is a superhero in all of us, we just need the courage to put on the cape."

In Std 5, we have discovered that we can all be superheroes in our own right. So we would like to share our Superhero steps with you.

Step 1: Wear your mask - after all, a superhero has to protect his/her identity.  
Step 2: Wash your hands and sanitise - with all the bad guys we are fighting we would not want to make the good guys sick by spreading more germs.  
Step 3: Keep your distance - as a superhero you need to learn patience and keep an eye on things from a safe distance.

In Std 5, we are very excited to share our dance that we worked on in our individual classes, that proves that we can reach a common goal without close interaction.

To all superheroes... let us UNITE.

# Std 4S Life After Lockdown



The children have probably adapted to the 'new normal' much faster than I have and they remind me that they would rather be at school than being at home doing Google Classroom.

I am proud of the way in which they have arrived back to the classroom and got on with the daily life of school. Yes, they can't hug their teacher or friends, can't come up to the desk for help and they can't do afternoon activities, but they certainly can spend time together chatting about their lives and what is going on at school, just at a distance. They have adapted to using a mask and washing and cleaning their hands often and it has become second nature. They hand in work differently and marking takes a little longer with books going into 'quarantine' but we are making the classroom work and we are up to date with work being completed.

Std 4M children squeezed themselves into the shoes of learned professionals by becoming the professors of entomology, who carried out research about various types of bugs. The presentations were spectacular and very informative. The research project started during the lockdown period and as a result, parents' support is evident and appreciated. Interesting facts were clearly elaborated. The photographs shown were randomly selected, but the work produced by most students was remarkable. Most students were confident to share information with their classmates.

This week we completed our Matisse Artwork and the children also presented their orals as Professors of Entomology at the Thornhill University. Thank you everyone for all your hard work.

# Std 4T Fantasy Writing

In Std 4T, one of the themes we have covered in English, this term, is Fantasy writing. The children enjoy this topic and their Creative writing is wonderful.

## The Magical Journey

Extract by Raeesa Hoosan 4T

A long time ago, before the world was very old there was a rain forest bigger than the Amazon rain forest! There were lots of creatures, fairies and lots of creatures that anyone could think of. It was a very beautiful place but nobody could ever discover this rain forest. This rain forest was on an island where nobody could ever find.

Then one day me, Raeesa and my two friends Zahra and Maleehah, my best friends were going on a flight with our parents. Then we flew into a giant storm! Below us was the ocean.....

## Super Boy and Talking Dog

Extract by Kulani Tibone 4T

Super Boy planned something with Talking Dog to take down the tornado, once and for all. They wanted to power up their freeze breathe. They came to the tornado but Nordan was controlling the tornado. So they were still going to use their power but they had to destroy Nordan first. Super Boy had an idea, he was going to split up from Talking Dog. He said that Talking Dog should freeze the tornado then he would take down Nordan. Nordan saw that Super Boy wanted to defeat him.....

## The Magic Kingdom

Extract by Reneilwe Kebonang 4T

When they were done setting up they heard footsteps coming from the stairs. They knew it was him because they peeked through the door. They waited for him to enter the room and when he did they waited for him to come close to the pot. Leah pulled the string and the net that has sticks fell on top of him. Then they locked the door and told him that if he didn't leave the kingdom, they were going to expose him. So the Transformer decided to leave the Kingdom. A few days passed and everything was back to normal and they lived happily ever after.



We started off the second term in a completely different way. It was a learning experience for all! But clearly, once we had all settled in and got used to the whole online teaching platform, came all the positives. This type of learning is definitely the way of the future.

For our Std 7 children, Google Classroom proved a way to develop independence and responsibility. They had to learn to work by themselves and take the initiative to do all the required tasks. It required a lot of discipline and self-motivation, but the rewards were there for all to see.

There was a development of a new type of creativity. Poems and songs were written about new experiences that all the children were experiencing. Personal writing and sharing feelings became part of the lockdown way of living. Children, who in a classroom setting had sometimes struggled to find relevance to writing, suddenly found themselves freely able to write in a new way. Characters from much loved books were given an update and the pupils wrote on how they were able to deal with Covid-19.

There was a new expression in Art lessons. Children had to use items from home as their stimuli. Their whole grocery cupboard took on a new look with some up to date labels. Dressing up as a famous work of art. The Mona Lisa, was something that could not have been done at school.

Without distractions from others, new levels of concentration were found and Maths exercises were often done with ease. Practical work in Science took on a new meaning. Instead of laboratory work, bread, yoghurt and cheese making was done in the kitchen and we hope that families enjoyed the final products. Growing mould on bread might not have been for the whole family, but this kind of hands on work in Science makes for much better understanding. Parallels were made between the Corona pandemic and Spanish flu.

Coming back to the physical school building has not been the end of Google Classroom as much homework is now done using it. At school, the pupils have adapted very well to the new rules and regulations and they now automatically follow most things – the new normal! The whole focus on hygiene has been good and many of the usual winter coughs and sniffles have not materialised. The children are learning to be prepared and the skill of advanced planning is a worthwhile life skill. Classroom assemblies have taken place and once again this has offered new opportunities for far greater pupil participation.

Whilst at the beginning of the year we certainly did not anticipate the way we would now be learning, we can say that the children have benefited from attaining a whole host of new life skills.



July 15 2020  
Thornhill ICT Department



@ThornhillPrimarySchoolBW

#ThornhillBW252

/thornhillprimary

