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# Thornhill enews



# Dear Parents and Pupils

The end of Term 1 saw us have our final assembly, where we bid farewell to Mrs Warwick. It was a lovely assembly and a fitting send off for her and we wish her all the best as she starts the next chapter of her career.

We also announced the winners of the 'House Points' for Term 1/2019 and the results were as follows:

1. Shashe
2. Limpopo
3. Chobe
4. Notwane

Congratulations and well done to our winners, Shashe!

## Pupil Achievements

Congratulations and well done to Morgan and Mahira on being selected as prefects. I know you will both give of your best in all areas of your school life.

Congratulations to Anoushka on retaining her 'Number 1,' status and being awarded a gold medal, when she attended the South African Nationals Judo Championships in the holidays. Anoushka has trained hard and has maintained an excellent standard, which has resulted in her being well rewarded.

Well done and congratulations to the following children, whose art was selected for the recent Cheetah Conservation art exhibition: Mahira (Stamps), Kevin (Stamps) and Amy (Bookmarks). These children were asked to design a stamp or bookmark using conservation as a theme and the aforementioned children's art was selected.

## Curriculum News

I recently attended an introductory course on Cambridge Global Perspectives. Cambridge Global Perspectives is a skills based curriculum running from Stage 1 Primary right through the primary and lower secondary checkpoints, IGCSE to AS Level. It has been available at Cambridge Primary and Lower Secondary levels since 2018. It aims to develop transferable skills such as critical thinking research and collaboration.

It has 6 main skills or threads: Research, Analysis, Evaluation, Reflection, Communication and Collaboration. These start very simply at Stage 1, Std 1, and build in complexity through the various stages to Stage 7 (Lower Secondary). It is delivered through a series of Challenges which can have any form of content, but do dovetail with the existing Primary and Lower Secondary curricula quite nicely. It is not the content that is important, but the skills they develop during this process. There are, as ever in all courses, many important opportunities for incidental learning.

Cambridge's rationale behind this new curriculum is as follows:

- Develops learners' ability to think critically about a range of global and local issues where there is always more than one point of view
- Learners study topics they are interested in, for example, energy, food, sports or technology
- Topics are only a vehicle for developing skills: learners are not assessed on knowledge of these topics

It is a very interesting approach and while the skills it promotes are not really new, it does provide a very useful framework to deliver and measure student's progress in these key skills. **Mr Warwick**



# Online Hoaxes

Taken from Don't fall for it: a parent's guide to protecting your kids from online hoaxes by Joanne Orlando

It's a parent's responsibility to protect their children from harm, no matter where that threat of harm comes from. But what if the threat is a hoax? We've seen recently a rollercoaster of panic from parents trying to protect their kids from a supposed online threat known as the Momo challenge, that has for months been debunked as a hoax. Yet the panic from parents continued, as did reports in the media and even warnings from celebrities – all of which could have been avoided if parents had done a few simple checks before raising the alarm.

Hoaxes that threaten your kids one day, and turn out to be fake the next, are mentally and emotionally exhausting for kids and adults. So how can you as a parent protect your children (and yourself) from falling for these hoaxes if you don't even know whether something is not a genuine threat in the first place? There are tools and tricks you can apply to help you spot a hoax.

**1. Investigate: See if it's real** - Information about any so-called challenge is often shared on social media, where fake news and misleading information is rife. If you are concerned about a hoax it's important to investigate, by using a reputable news website or a reliable fact-checking site such as Snopes or FullFact. Both are good fact-checking resources that gives readers evidence-based analysis (Snopes and FullFact have both published content on Momo). Even a simple web search of the name of any supposed threat can help you. Add the words "hoax" or "scam" to your search queries and you will very quickly see if there is any real evidence to support the claims of harm you may be hearing about.

**2. Help your child investigate authenticity** - Use the opportunity to educate your child about these online challenges. When you hear about one, go online with your child and investigate. This is the perfect opening to help your child understand fake content online. Explain why someone would want to start a hoax to scare people (for example, to achieve fame).

**3. Explore alternatives for viewing** - You may be concerned about your child using online video streaming services such as YouTube or Facebook, where they could be exposed to any hoax video. As an alternative, look for other ways for your children to view their favoured content. Many of the popular shows that kids watch online also have their own apps with pre-screened videos: eg. PBS kids videos and Disney Channel app.

**4. Avoid causing unnecessary alarm** - It's important to be careful about sharing news articles that perpetuate a hoax or myth with other adults. Before sharing potentially wrong information, do some internet research of your own to check out the accuracy of any threat.

**5. Be a critical, alert consumer** - We live our lives on the internet, and there is a mass of misleading online information designed to manipulate our thinking. It's important to read and stay up to date about how the online world operates, and to be critical of what you view and read online. Ask yourself some basic questions such as, who is going to benefit from this online post/article or what is the underlying purpose of it and is the author/creator trying to sway my thinking, and why?

**6. What if you think a threat is genuine** - Facebook, YouTube and other social media platforms have options to report anything you think may be a serious threat. The online space is always changing. Keeping you and your kids safe online involves being aware of emerging and new safety issues, and committing to a bit of research before you panic.

Please follow us on Twitter as well @ThornhillBW252

**I Greaves**

Headteacher



## The Mythical Unicorn

An Adventure for  
the Three BFFs.

The following pupils recently had their books published at the Honeycomb Hub and we celebrated it in our assembly. Well done and congratulations to all the following children:

Janavi Joshi 1N  
Freddie Hatton 3W  
Kyra Brasem 4T  
Logan Meyer 4M  
Ameeca Van Wyk 5G  
Annika Smith 5V  
Shaila Thomas 5V  
Ewan Meyer 5V  
Joshua Thomas 7S

You can find their books in our library!

Alinia  
Amazing



Written & Illustrated  
by  
Annika Smith



# Eco Brick Challenge





# Softball Girls

Strongly the Sun's harsh rays shine,  
Strongly Mrs Smith's roar soars through the sky.

Strongly the girls bat and throw,  
Strongly hoping to get 3 in a row.  
Strongly sliding, mostly crashing into bases,  
Strongly hoping the ball misses their faces.  
Strong is a bat – but strongest of all,  
Is a bunch of girls playing softball!

Written by Nikoleta Popovic, as part of her English curriculum requirements.





# Netball

Our U9 netball camp could soon become an annual event and this year's camp was held on Saturday, 18 May.

Similarly to the previous year, the camp was divided into two sessions: A theory part, where the children watched videos and discussed netball guidelines and rules with Mrs Graves.

Following this, was the practical part on the netball courts. This was the main session of the camp and Mrs Jongman assisted with the coaching. The girls were split into two teams and each team spent an extended time working with a coach with focus on positions, ball handling, passing and movement across the court.

In the last 30 minutes of the camp, the two teams played a match against each other, as exposure to the pressures of a game situation. The children loved the challenge and demonstrated an understanding of what they had been learning.

The camp ended with each child getting a 'goodie' bag and a netball manual to take home. Thank you to Mrs Graves and Mrs Jongman for taking the time with our U9 netball girls and we look forward to watching the players growth over the coming season.





# Hope in Tennis

Hopefully your backhand is a weapon,  
Hopefully your forehand will always spin.  
Hopefully the shots u aim at lines will  
always be called "IN".  
Hopefully your cross - courts always  
hit their mark,  
Hopefully your drop shots aren't  
too short.  
Hopefully your lobs will always be  
out of reach,  
Hopefully your smashes find the court.

Written by Nikoleta Popovic, as part of  
her English curriculum requirements.





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Thornhill ICT Department



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