



THE THORNHILL VOICE



WELCOME TO THE THORNHILL LIBRARY

"We want to bring the fun back into reading for pleasure, not just to pass a test. Our new library is place where we share and review books, explore different experiences and enhance our imaginations, get better at reading, build our confidence and resilience, celebrate our authors, poets and actors, and create our own stories."

Headteacher Jenny Lewis was full of smiles as she cut the ribbon to open Thornhill Primary School's new library, marking the end of a long journey, with a two-year fundraising campaign to raise the money to convert an unused part of the school into a fabulous new reading space. Thornhill's Foundation, set up by a group of parents and the senior leadership team to help fundraise towards big projects for the school, took the lead and ran an incredible campaign over two years, raising just over £170,000 to help the dream come true. Parents, grandparents, neighbours, Islington residents and everyone who supported a child at a fundraising event, whether it

was running 5k or selling homemade lemonade – everyone gave a little and together raised a lot.

Support also came from grants, including the Richard Reeves Foundation and Garfield Weston, and larger donations from private individuals and organizations such as Islington Square, Hamptons International and Third Space. Their help meant that in addition to building the library, there was also funding for our new school librarian Cler Lewis. Cler is trained in many different pursuits, not only a fully-qualified librarian but also a yoga instructor, mindfulness teacher, and she even helps run a food bank. Cler brings a warm calmness to the library, decorating it for different topics, suggesting new purchases, as well as helping promote a love of literature amongst the pupils. When she first arrived, she exclaimed "These children really love reading, I've never seen anything like it!".

Jan Kattein Architects worked closely with Thornhill pupils, who were given materials to design their own 'dream libraries'. This helped to define the design brief and is one of the reasons we now have such an exciting reading space. Since opening the new library has become a focal point for literature and learning at the heart of the school. Not only a place to read and borrow books, it is a place to fire imaginations while providing a quiet refuge to read, think and study independently. There is not one pupil who hasn't snuggled up in the tunnel with a new book to delve into.

And so to everyone who has been a part of the campaign we want to say a huge 'thank you'.

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Chief editor: Helen Sanderson, Lofting Road, London, N11HX

Ask the kids: What do you like about the new library?

"It has got fun and funny books to read."

"You get peace and quiet"

"There are places to hide and how quiet it is. I also like that you can go during playtime!"

"I like the design and I like how there are so many amazing books."

"You get to choose a book and then you can snuggle up in a nice cosy corner and read."

"The books are really interesting and it's really fun just sitting down reading in peace and quiet."

"I love reading new books in a really comfy library with my friends."

"I like the tunnel because I like to snuggle up and read my books."

"You have multiple choices of books and they have heated floors if it's winter."

"I like how there's little huts at

"I like all the places you can sit and read. There are lots of quiet spots."

the top where you can read and at the bottom where you can just get a book because the books are right next to you."

"You can read quietly with no distractions."

"First of all, I like how it's not just books, it's a little bit exciting with the little orange places. Also, the library has an excellent, wide range of books, so pretty much everyone can find something they like."

"Picking my new book up."

EXCLUSIVE!

LIBRARY DAY



A Year 1 and a Year 3 child reading in the new library on Library Day.



After the ribbon-cutting, our leadership team, sponsors, and Foundation tried to resist climbing into the library tunnel!



Ken Wilson-Max paints "Astro-Girl"

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Library Day was a huge success as the children were able to dress up as their favourite book characters and celebrate all things literary. We had author visits, workshops and opportunities to read and write galore.

Ken Wilson-Max visits and live paints

The children's author and illustrator, Ken Wilson-Max, visited us for Library Day. With Nursery and Reception, there was an incredible performance of his books *The Flute and The Drum* with live music by Ms Grant and Ms Hudson. Even the children were dancing to the beat! To add to this, he painted a new Thornhill creature- "The Flurilla", a hybrid Flute and Gorilla. Throughout the day, he answered questions about his inspirations and career path and painted our favourite book character "Astrogirl" for us. The whole of years 5 and 6 were wrapped up by his brush skills and enthusiasm.

The Thornhill Bookmark Competition

Every child designed their own bookmark in the hopes of being the creator of the new Thornhill Bookmark. Every child will receive the winning bookmark and hopefully no one will lose their place in a story again!

Paul the Poet led KS1

Our resident poet, Paul Lyalls, produced an incredible poem with years 1 and 2 all about reading and books. It features in the video, so make sure to check it out.

Book Design Workshop by Kate Slotover

The incredibly talented graphic designer, Kate Slotover, made an excellent video about how to design book covers. She showed us giant books, tiny books, books with ears and even books covered with grass. The children were inspired to create their own and in year 4, they even stretched to designing covers for

stories that they had written themselves.

Newspaper

We all became journalists and produced this very newspaper. The Thornhill Voice was born!

Scholastic Author Workshops

Every year group were able to watch workshops put on by their favourite authors and practise their book creating skills. Year 3 loved hearing Jeff Kinney's (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) advice on being funny while year 6 were able to find out some top tips from Malorie Blackman.

At the end of the day, Ms Watkins created a fantastic video to commemorate the day. Watch it if you want to bring back the memories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZygNu8x7gxQ>