



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

25th November 2022

Rehearsals are now fully underway for our Winter Singing Concerts with children and staff getting fully in the festive spirit! We look forward to welcoming you at the end of term to hear the children sing.

On Wednesday, the Year 5 and 6 members of the JLT met with Louise Esterhuyzen, the participation manager for Chartwells, our school caterers. They discussed what they enjoyed about the school dinners and also gave their opinions on how they can be improved. The JLT members each asked their classes for their opinions in the week before and all of these were fed back to Louise. Louise is now going back to Chartwells and is sharing our suggestions with the catering team. JLT will be meeting in the last week of this term so watch out in future newsletters to see what ideas they have and how you will be able to support!

Attendance

Well done to our attendance superstars this week:

	Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
EYFS	Pine 92%	Ash 98%
KS1	Elder 96.5%	Aspen 94.5%
KS2	Blackthorn 98%	Holly 96.7%



Curriculum Focus

Reception

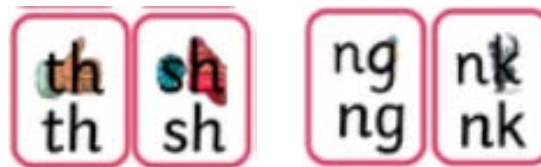


This week in reception the children have been continuing exploring their core text 'Here We Are'. They have learnt to name animals this week and have used the text to write a list. The children have worked very hard on applying their phonetic knowledge. They understand the reasons for lists and know that you must start a new line for each animal.



In maths, the children have been learning to estimate. They have been looking at containers of objects and making sensible guesses as to how many are in. They then used their knowledge of counting to check their estimation.

In phonics this week reception have learnt four new digraphs; sh, th, ng and nk. They have applied them in words and have practised blending new words with these digraphs in.



As part of our topic lessons reception have begun to practise their Christmas concert songs. They have been working hard on learning the words and actions and are excited to perform on Friday 9th December.

Year One

This week in Literacy in Year 1 we have been thinking about characters' feelings and using this to help us record their inner thoughts. Such as in Little Red Riding hood when Grandmas is about to be eaten by the Wolf she would be thinking. *'Please don't eat me!' she thought to herself.*





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We have also been learning about onomatopoeia which is used to describe how things sound such as crash, bang, thud, flop, wallop, squeak.

In maths we have been partitioning teen numbers into tens and ones using the part part whole model and a tens frame. We started the week by investigating bundling so we then knew that we had a ten we don't need to count them all individually we can just count on from ten to get to the teen number.



In Geography this week we have been identifying human and physical features of our local area. Human features are things that have been made by humans such as homes, shops, railway stations and tracks. Physical features are things that occur naturally such as ponds, streams, hills etc We sorted the images and discussed our reasons why.

Year Two

In maths this week Year 2 have been continuing to consolidate their learning about money. Beginning with their knowledge of the value of different coins. Then they made amounts of money in pounds and pence. Finally they practiced making the same amount in different ways.

In English the children reviewed their five senses; taste, smell, touch, sight, sound. Then they used three of them to describe the dark. Then they looked at what makes a good list poem. Then at the end of the week they wrote their own list of poems about the dark.

In RE the children have been learning about what Christians believe and explained why they celebrate the festivals of Christmas and Easter. This week all of the teachers have been so impressed with all of the children as they have also shown great resilience when completing their assessments.

Year Three

Year 3 has had an interesting week. In English they started their new core text Rosie Revere. They generated questions and role played a press conference in which they had the opportunity to gather more information about Rosie in preparation for writing their Newspaper article in a few weeks time. They finished off the week by turning the replies from Rosie into direct and indirect speech.

In Maths, the children had their penultimate lessons on addition and subtraction using the formal written method. Towards the end of the week they started their learning on multiplication and division starting with identifying multiplication facts within the 2 times tables.

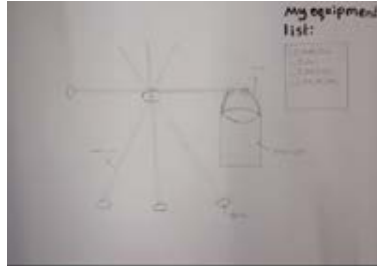
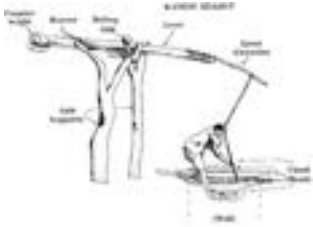
In Science the children enjoyed carrying out their experiment to see whether the size of the magnet affects its strength. The children worked well collaboratively and recorded their results



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systematically using a tally chart ready to present it through a chart next week. In DT children entered the design stage of their process to make a shaduf, discussed the materials needed and drew what they hope to achieve with clear labels.



Year Four

In year 4, children have been applying the skills they have learnt in maths to solve real life problems. They had to read the question carefully before deciding which operation to use to solve the problem. The problems involved adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers and children have shown their calculations in a variety of ways such as with the column method, picture methods and using bar modelling or part-whole models.



In English, the children have been learning about the language and structural features of persuasive speeches by studying the examples of great orators. They had the opportunity to listen to and analyse speeches by Greta Thunberg and Martin Luther King. The children looked at similarities between the speeches such as the use of repetition, facts and rhetorical questions for emphasis as well as the tone and body language of those delivering the speeches. The children also looked at the differences between the two speeches in preparation for their own persuasive speech on climate change in the coming weeks.

In DT, the children have been learning how to do a variety of stitches such as running stitch and blanket stitch. The children went on to decide which stitch would be best to use when sewing pieces of fabric onto t-shirts to upcycle them.

In science, the children carried out an experiment to find out which chocolate would melt the fastest, white chocolate, milk chocolate or dark chocolate. The children made regular observations and recorded what they saw. They found that the white chocolate melted the fastest, which many of them had predicted, and this was due to the fact that it had a high cocoa butter content and had no cocoa solids.



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Year Five

This week, year 5 have been extremely busy showcasing all the skills they have learnt across reading, writing and maths in their assessments. They showed a real determination to complete their papers to their very best potential. In DT, children have worked really hard to evaluate their plans and begin making their prototypes of a puppet. In science, children have also enjoyed exploring different types of materials to create a suitable survival kit for those that are homeless during the winter period.

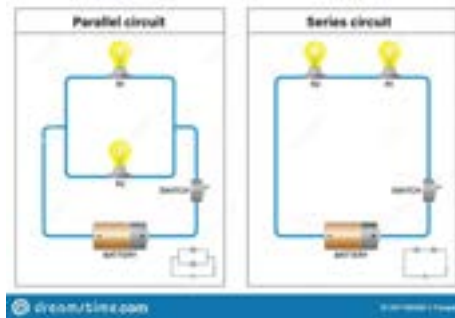
Year Six

In Year 6, the children have all been busy honing their skills, in many areas of the curriculum, but particularly in writing. After spending a number of weeks crafting sentences, they are now ready to put their ideas together and write a story based on our core text, *Stella by Starlight* (written by Sharon M. Draper). Collectively, we are excited to read the final outcomes for these stories, as we have some fine writers.

In history, the topics are closely matched to the themes of *Stella by Starlight*, as the focus is on the Civil Rights Movement. This week our focus has been on Martin Luther King Jr. and his valiant efforts to end segregation and lead his people to the promised land of equality between black and white people. The children have been reminded of our earlier look at protest, particularly peaceful protest, which Martin Luther King advocated all his life. The children paid particular attention to his, "I have a Dream" Speech.



In science, the children have continued to explore the components of a circuit. The work has included making predictions about what will happen if the certain aspects of a circuit are changed. For instance, what will happen to the brightness of the bulb if the voltage is increased? Or which one of the following circuits will work?



And finally, even though it is only November, we can let you all into a little secret: we have started practising our Christmas songs!

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre? - What do you do in your spare time?

En mi tiempo libre juego al fútbol. - In my spare time I play football.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Reuben	Jansi	Leksha	Kyarah	
Ava M	Ryan	Christaleen	Thenila	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Hoorain	Florjan	Shahid	Rohaam	Harish
Adil	Romero	Zion	Izabelle	Isabella
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Anabiah	Stephen	Niyah	Jessington	Dhanvi
Yaqub	Kyla-Shae	Hasan	Emily	Danilo
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Leilani	Dzani	Hareem	Taha	Melaine



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Alyan	Cheri	Aneeyah	Aashiny	Jumana
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
		Mohamed	Joswin	Daythan
		Maliyah	Minal	Rebeca C
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
	Ayra	Sreekrishna		
	Ibrahim	Shaniyah		
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Mohamed	Aryan	Kyra	Lucas	Yasin
Vivaan	Niyam	John	Hakeem	Sanchana
Spanish	KS1 Music	KS2 Music		
Lilybelle Holly	Faaiz Palm	Oliver J Acer		