



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

27th January 2023

“What an amazing group of children you have! So calm, kind and respectful. We’re pleased to see you following the rules and enjoying your time with us!” These were just some of the comments shared with children and staff as Year 1 came to the end of their trip to the Tower of London this week. Thank you to all the members of staff and parents who helped make this trip possible.

There have been many more wonderful achievements this week. One of our pupils has had the chance to be a part of an art project held at the Natural History Museum. Etana in Year 4 displayed values of empathy and appreciation by helping create wildlife artwork, to help raise awareness of the threat to nature and our environment. She met famous artists and singers during her time at the museum and was thankful to be a part of such a special event. This event is so unique and important, it has been mentioned in the news! [Nature Artwork Project](#)

Children have continued to work so hard this week as we approach the end of the first month of the year. Have a lovely weekend and see you all on Monday.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes who had attendance above 96% this week:

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Y1 Fir 96.2%	EYFS Ash 96.9%
Y2 Spruce 97.6%	EYFS Willow 97.8%
Y3 Walnut 96.4%	Y1 Elm 96.2%
Y4 Beech 97.2%	Y2 Aspen 98.3%
Y4 Acacia 96.4%	Y3 Chestnut 98.3%
Y5 Magnolia 97.3%	Y5 Hawthorn 97.6%
Y6 Eucalyptus 97.4%	Y6 Acer 98.1%



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week reception have been busy continuing their learning about habitats. Following our trip to Wandle Park last week, they have been recounting their experience and using their knowledge of habitats to recognise the similarities and differences between contrasting settings.

During topic lessons the children have been exploring their second core text 'Why do we need bees?' Reception have found out about the amazing job that bees do of collecting nectar in their special tummies before returning to their hives to turn it into honey. After finding out about the process of making honey, the children were all very excited to taste some. Most of us liked the "delicious, sweet" taste.



In maths the children have revisited our learning of number bonds. They have used numicon to visualise the two parts of the number 5 and building on their knowledge of the part, part, whole model, reception have started to record number bonds as written equations. They have been working hard to consolidate prior learning, in addition to challenging themselves by finding number bonds to 10.





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Year One

This week in English, the children have been learning about the features of a written recount. After looking at a recount the children created a tool kit for recount writing that included time adverbials, pronouns, past tense verbs, emotive language and appropriate word choices, such as adjectives to describe. They then used this to write their own recount of their trip to the Tower of London. The children then looked back at their recount to check off the features they had used.



In Maths this week, year 1 have been learning about place value. The children looked at 2 digit numbers and partitioned them into **tens** and **ones** using a range of manipulatives. They drew the **tens** and **ones** into a part part whole model and recorded the numerals on a tens and ones grid. The children then compared 2 digit numbers containing the same numerals and explained which numbers were greater and smaller.

As part of the curriculum learning this week the children had the exciting opportunity to visit the Tower of London. They were in awe as they walked around the grounds and looked at the Crown Jewels as well as royal armoury and artillery. The children had great fun trying out the simulated bow & arrow and animated cannonball. They showed particular interest in the Yeomen with some even bowing to show their respect. All the children were well behaved and staff at the Tower of London commented on their outstanding conduct.





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Year Two

This week the children have shown our school value of resilience whilst they have been undertaking assessment papers in preparation for their Key Stage 1 SATs in the summer. The children have worked really hard and have shown great focus throughout the week. This week we also held a Supporting Reading at Home workshop where we discussed how reading is being taught in school and how best to support your child at home. We would like to thank the parents who attended.

In English this week, the children received a letter from their felt tip pens who had informed them that they had quit! The children have begun to write a persuasive letter in the hope that they will change their mind and return to our classes. The children have used a range of literary devices including alliteration, suffixes and emotion words to convey their feelings.

We have received some excellent homework from some of our children around our current Science topic of 'Animals including Humans' detailing a healthy eating plate and what the children need to ensure they are eating so that they have a balanced and broad diet in order to support them with their nutritional wellbeing.



Year Three

In English, this week the children have been critiquing their work by editing any mistakes and uplevelling any paragraphs to be even better. Before starting their new core text for Spring 1, the children were able to show their SPaG abilities with a focus on spelling and direct speech. The children were very intrigued to receive a letter claiming to chop down the trees. This allowed the children to understand the impact of trees and led to a discussion of how it made them feel knowing this. By the end of the week the children were able to express their viewpoint using emotive language about their new core text 'The Lorax'.



In Maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge around flexible partitioning and started a new sub topic in division of solving division with calculation remainders. This was the first time the children were introduced to remainders. The children learned two



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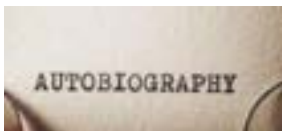
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methods of working out remainders: number line and place value chart. The children started off by using manipulatives to understand their learning, then they showed great understanding in their books. To end the week, they were able to use pictorial representations to understand scaling and solidified their understanding on the 3 times tables.

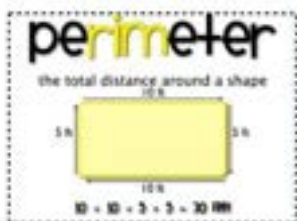
In Art the children have continued their exploration on how to create Bologan patterns. They chose their repeated pattern they wanted to use for their final outcome. This allowed the children to use oil pastels, PVA glue and apply a watercolour wash to show the pattern chosen. In History, the children were able to explore the different materials that were used to make shelters during the stone age. They were then extremely enthusiastic to create their own model of a stone age building.



Year Four



In English last week we looked at the features of autobiographical writing like using the first person, pronouns and fronted adverbials and this week the children have been putting that into practice. They have loved asking and answering interesting open and closed questions to help them write their own autobiographies; making their writing engaging for the reader by sharing their own thoughts and feelings.



This week in Maths the children first focussed on the units of measurement of millimeters, centimeters and meters and how lengths can be measured in different units of measurement. They then moved onto calculating the perimeter of shapes progressing from squares, simple rectangles and then more complex many sided rectilinear shapes. They discovered how important it is to work slowly and neatly, counting each side, writing the addition out in full, and once they have the answer, DOUBLE CHECKING the addition just to make sure they added everything up correctly.



In History the children have been learning all about the Roman occupation of Britain this term and, this week, found out about the changes the Roman Empire made to the country. This connects well with our class text in reading - My Story: Roman Invasion A British Boy AD 84 - which tells the story of Bran, a British Prince held hostage by the Romans as they move through England constructing their famous



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straight roads. The children have been gripped by his exciting story and have learned lots of new words from the book.

Year Five

In year 5, we have been working extremely hard to show positive learning behaviours in and outside our lessons. We have worked hard on using the zones of regulations to discuss how we feel and use the given strategies to regulate our emotions and become focussed and calm.



This week children have continued to work hard to use a variety of punctuation and language techniques in their sentences for effect such a semi - colons and show not tell to convey setting and the emotions of the main character(Leonard).

In Maths, children have continued to build upon their knowledge of fractions and converting between mixed and improper fractions to subtract and solve problems. They have become more confident at using two methods to find the difference between fractions in an efficient way.

In Geography, we have looked closely on the to locate on the map where The Windrush ship travelled before it reached England and the push and pull factors of the reasons why people migrate.

In Science, we have continued to build our knowledge of the solar system and understanding the unique properties of the eight planets which children have enjoyed and begun asking more questions as they explored.



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Year Six

In Year 6, the children have all been busy crafting a speech modelled on Neville Chamberlain's speech to the nation announcing that Britain was at war with Germany in 1939. Speeches are rather tricky for children to write, because it is not a genre of **writing** that they often encounter. For instance, they have to maintain formal language throughout and also have a sense of what sort of elements there would be to a speech of this time in history. If your child has the opportunity to listen to speeches carried out by Churchill and other politicians of the 1930s and 1940s, this would certainly help. Perhaps you could listen with your child and discuss the content, the message of the speech – pinch some phrases! Indeed, anything that will help them in their task of writing a good quality piece of writing.



In **reading**, we have looked at some really interesting and famous poems. One of them by Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum est" might be a piece of Latin that your child understands. The whole sentiment can be found on war graves or memorials, such as the one below. Do ask your child what the phrase means and if they can't remember, ask them to look it up!



Maths has been focused on converting fractions, decimals and percentages and despite the fact that this process might seem a bit difficult, most of the children have managed this topic in maths confidently.

I shall end, not with news, but a few reminders about our trip to the **Science Museum** next week. To get the most out of the trip, it is vital that you get your child to school on time. Each class has to be prompt, so the journey can commence as close to 9.00 as possible. Do remember, **sensible shoes, suitable coat, preferably a rucksack to carry their packed lunch** and their day will run smoothly.



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Inside the “Wonderlab”



Reading

It has been marvellous to see so many children, staff and parents engaging in a number of reading activities this week. Parents have read with pupils across both sites as part of our Reading afternoons. So many children and adults were enjoying reading for pleasure with one another and we are looking forward to seeing many more of you attend the next sessions available on the following dates:

KS2 Reading afternoon - Monday 6th February 2023

EYFS/KS1 Reading afternoon - Thursday 9th February 2023

Both sessions are available on both sites and take place at **2.55 until 3.15pm.**

As you know, we value reading at our school and are dedicated to ensuring that our pupils become better readers. We held a 'Supporting Reading in Year 2' session for parents and carers in order for us to continue our partnership and help pupils to achieve outcomes and be the best readers they can be. Thank you to those who were able to attend. Please let us know if you would like more support helping your child read at home no matter which year group your child is in.



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Community

We are all working hard to improve lunchtimes at West Thornton and we cannot do this alone. This week, many pupils had the opportunity to give their feedback on school meals so we can celebrate what is working well and focus on areas to improve. We would love for parents to be involved in our journey to making lunchtimes special for our pupils. Chartwells have invited parents to take part in a food taster session before the end of term. The session will take place on **Thursday 9th February 2.15 - 3.15pm** at **Rosecourt road**. More information about the event will be shared with you soon.

Phrases of the Week

¿Qué color de ojos tienes? - What colour eyes do you have?

Tengo los ojos marrones. - I have brown eyes.



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Maryam	Sufiyaan	Amelia	Param	
Zimal	Mirabel	Vicente	Eryn	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Elena	Romero	Whole class	Whole class	Whole class
Ikrah	Eva			
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Johan	Jahmeil	Kuba	Jessica	Dhunvi
Yaqub	Lily	Amelia	Daniel	Mandal



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Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
David	Samuel	Reggie- Jay	Tayo	Melaine
Ziyad	Hasveka	Abdul - Hadi	Sujibha	Aamir
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Lishana	Armin	Jayden	Pavith	Adlyn
Zahra	Shaniya	Janelle	Krystal	Ilyas
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Shiyanna	Matthew	Shaniyah	Kavilaya	Abel
Aaiza	Esther	Maaz	JJ	Corina
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sahla	Emanuel	Lucy	Mariam	Dishon
Layla	Adilon	Akos	Ayra	Kianna
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Rianna Larch	Leo Y1 Lime	Tatiana Y4 Hornbeam	Ayesha Y1 Elm	Kaue Y6 Acer