



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank you for giving us some feedback around our enrichment offer at West Thornton. As a school, and as part of Inspire Partnership, we are wholly committed to providing memorable learning experiences for our children both in and out of the classroom. We regularly review our offer and make changes year on year to make learning as engaging as it can possibly be, wherever it happens. For your information, leaders and teachers are working with colleagues across our Croydon Hub to create an overview of our trips and visits to share with you, so that you can quickly see the educational visits and visitors that are planned to support learning across our curriculum. For now, let us tell you about some of the exciting things that have happened in the last week alone!!

As you can see from the picture below - Year 4 had some very knowledgeable visitors - The Romans! Children spent a whole day being fully immersed in this historical period through a number of hands-on activities such as re-enacting battles and participating in a Roman Feast! The wide range of artefacts and dressing up made sure that whilst we gained new knowledge and developed our historical enquiry skills, we also had lots of fun!

In Reception, children were joined by Ranger Stu. It was an opportunity for children from both sites to come together as they learned about different types of animals as part of Understanding the World. Children were very brave when they were introduced to Coconut the Tarantula and also enjoyed meeting Rambo the bearded dragon, Reggie the python and Vincent the armadillo.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL



In the last week there has also been a fascinating visit to our local Hindu Temple, and today Year 6 attended a workshop led by Transport for London. After the half term break, Year 2 will be visiting ZSL London Zoo to help prepare them for writing a balanced argument about whether animals should be kept in captivity or not. Year 3 will descend into the dark depths of Chislehurst Caves!

Please do let us know if you have any other ideas for enrichment activities - above all we'd like any experts in our parent community to come into classes and share your knowledge, skills and viewpoints on our upcoming topics. Therefore, do check the Curriculum Newsletters in the first week back and please - come and get involved.

This just leaves us to wish you all a lovely half term break. We hope the weather gets a little warmer so that you can get out and about. Please remember that reading for just 10-15 minutes a day with your child is the best kind of homework - and we'd strongly recommend that you use the fabulous resource that is Timestables Rockstars. We are currently the third highest achieving school in the whole borough of Croydon - and we'd like to come back to school and be number 1!"



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reading

World Book Day - Friday 3rd March 2023

In 2023, World Book Day is celebrating its 26th Anniversary and is sharing the message to all children '**you are a reader**'! At West Thornton, we will be using this special day to continue to promote reading for pleasure.



We would like to celebrate this wonderful day once more and to do so, children can do any of the following:

- ★ dress up as their favourite book character
- ★ wear their pyjamas and bring along their favourite bedtime story
- ★ bring in their favourite book
- ★ design a poster that shows their favourite book or author



During the day we will also be planning activities that will allow your children to get excited about their favourite books, hear some of the teacher's favourite stories and ensure there is time to share stories with their friends.

World Book Day is a fantastic way to engage young readers and even pick up some new book recommendations through discussions about costumes. You can find costume ideas on platforms such as Pinterest, worldbookday.com and your children!

The most important thing is that the day is fun and children have a chance to talk about what they're reading or have read. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on this when we come back to school after half term.

'The long-term value of these experiences for building a child's identity as a reader should not be underestimated' - National Literacy Trust 2021

Attendance

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



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
EYFS Pine 96.4%	EYFS Willow 96.4%
Y1 Elder 96.5%	Y1 Lime 96.2%
Y1 Maple 97.8%	Y5 Sycamore 98.4%
Y2 Spruce 96.4%	Y6 Acer 97.1%
Y3 Cedar 99.4%	
Y3 Walnut 97.2%	
Y4 Acacia 99.1%	
Y4 Yew 98.7%	
Y5 Magnolia 98.0%	
Y5 Cypress 98.3%	
Y6 Blackthorn 97.4%	
Y6 Eucalyptus 98.7%	

Curriculum Focus

Reception

In Reception this week the children enjoyed a visit from Ranger Stu, who brought their learning about wild animals to life. They bravely handled a variety of exotic creatures, including snakes, lizards, tarantulas and an armadillo. They listened carefully to important facts about the animals' natural environment, their feeding habits and how to care for them in captivity. This rich experience supported their publishing of fact files about both animals and their habitats.



In Literacy this week, the children applied their knowledge of what a good sentence looks like, using a writer's toolkit to help them remember their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They also learnt the importance of editing.



WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

In maths, the children have been learning about greater than and less than. They have used this knowledge to help them order numbers represented in different ways and have had the opportunity to revisit to place value. The children have been able to problem solve and prove answers to a problem by using a variety of manipulatives including cubes, numicon and counters.

In topic this week, the children have been producing their art outcomes, using their knowledge of printing and texture to create leaf prints using wax crayons and a watercolour wash, referring back to prior learning about the work of Birgit Koopsen as an inspiration. The children have also been introduced to the concept of Life Cycles, looking at caterpillars and butterflies and flowering plants.

Year One

This week in English we have been innovating the story "The Paper Bag Princess." The children started by thinking of different tasks for princess Elizabeth to command the dragon to complete to fire him out. The children came up with some very interesting ideas, such as flying the sky for twenty four hours or writing five story books. To make their writing more expressive the word "said" was banned and the children had to include synonyms such as yelled, shouted, whispered and mumbled.



★ Odd and Even Numbers Chart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

In Maths this week the children in year 1 have continued to explore the number system. During the week they sorted numbers into odd and even, this helped them with the next step in their learning as they learnt how to count in 2's from 1 to 50. The week ended with the children counting in 10's from 1 to 50.

As part of our curriculum learning the children continued to learn about Hindu festivals. This week the children read about the Hindu celebration of Diwali known as the festival of light. The children learnt that as part of the celebration Hindu's decorate their front doors with Rangoli patterns to welcome in the Goddess Lakshmi.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Two

This week in Year 2 the children have produced some amazing independent writing outcomes. They have written their own persuasive letter to the thief who broke into our classroom at the beginning of term to persuade them to return their precious Christmas presents which were stolen. The children have focussed on including a range of literary devices including alliteration, emphasis, descriptive language and suffixes. We are extremely proud of what they have achieved.

In maths, the children have continued learning about Fractions. This week we have been focusing on equivalent fractions and finding fractions of an amount. The children have applied their knowledge of division to help them.

Within the wider curriculum, children have been learning about why exercise is important for our bodies in Science and made predictions about what they think will happen to our bodies when we perform a series of exercises. In art the children have been printing, using rollers and ink to create symbols detailing children's rights. The children will be using these prints to create posters for our final outcomes sharing their opinion of the Rights of a Child.

Year Three

It has been another exciting week in Year 3 full of interesting knowledge that the children have enjoyed learning. In maths the children have worked hard and showed great effort and motivation towards their understanding of division. The children have realised the importance of learning their times tables to be able to follow any method of division. Please work with your child to make and learn tables.

Within publishing children

into a letter to try

Council to stop cutting down trees.



sure that they practise their 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 times

English this week, is well under way as the have put their environmental concerns passionate and heartfelt and persuade Croydon





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the wider curriculum subjects, the children's Bologan patterns in Art have taken shape and are nearly complete. In science the children have reflected on their learning on the topic of rocks. They used their knowledge organisers to reflect on their learning journey. Well done Year 3 on their progress this half term!

Year Four

This week in year 4 has been an incredibly exciting one! The children visited a Hindu temple in line with their learning around Hinduism. The children were given the opportunity to learn about religious celebrations and how Hindu's worship in a temple. They watched a performance using traditional instruments and were given a tour around the temple.



In relation to their history topic this half term, the children had a Roman day at school! The children and staff made a great effort with their costumes. They had a range of roman related activities such as shield making, created mosaic plates, answered maths questions written in roman numerals and watched an episode of horrible histories whilst enjoying their snacks. Each class had the opportunity to be part of an interactive Roman workshop where they learnt how to be a Roman soldier, how to win in a battle as well as some key words in latin!

In English this week the children have been focussing on how to improve their writing skills by looking at linguistic devices to engage a reader in a creative piece of writing based on a picture prompt.

In Maths, year 4 have consolidated their knowledge of working out the area and applied this knowledge to real life by becoming surveyor's and designing a Roman base camp.

Year Five

This week, year 5, have worked tremendously hard; publishing their narrative of The Windrush Child and completing their sculptures inspired by Basil Watson windrush sculpture that's situated at Waterloo Station.

Children have collaborated in both Art and English to critique each other's pieces of writing and sculptures by sharing next steps to improve their final pieces.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children are extremely proud of what they've produced and are excited to see their work displayed next half term, which you should be able to view at parents' evening.

In Maths children have continued to develop their knowledge of fractions and finding a fraction of a quantity using manipulatives, bar models and part whole models to represent their calculations.



Year Six

This week in Year 6, the children have been able to showcase their understanding of WW2 and their writing skills by starting a narrative based upon children being evacuated. They have been able to practise using cohesive devices within their writing to ensure it flows and choosing elements to 'zoom in' on and describe in detail. They were able to focus not only on the emotions that the evacuees had, but the emotions on those around them as well in order to make it an engaging and thought provoking piece.

Additionally, the children have begun their learning of algebra in Maths. They have shown our values of resilience and excellence when understanding the use of formulating expressions. The use of extending their knowledge of the four operations into formulas has been an exciting challenge for them.

One exciting part of the week was when all the Year 6 classes joined up at Rosecourt Road to listen to a TfL workshop. This exciting opportunity taught them about being safe when travelling to and from school next year.

Enrichment

Reading

Some fantastic work has been spotted in the year 4 home reading celebration books. Well done Year 4 for sharing your ideas so creatively it certainly makes me want to go and read those books.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Phrases of the Week



¡Buenas vacaciones a todos! - Have a good holiday everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Abinisha	Halla	Aryan	Nylah-Rae	
Sabarin	Thishaan	Fatima	Jewel	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Haris	Mateo	Tahreem	Mareya	Sierra
Starlin	Sinead	Adhithii	Yazdan	Vihaan
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Whole Class	Whole Class	Marian	Jessica	Whole Class
		Arleen	Sapna	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Petra	Dominykas	Arianna	Arham	Skyler



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eliza	Sophia	khadeejah	Manahil	Amelia
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Ajla	Shanaya	Antoni	Naaba	Elizabeth
Drisna	Rohaam	Josiah	Yasmin	Malachi
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Yusra	Serena	Elijah	Liam	Akshita
Jathanan	Ayrah	Calista	Kaaviyaa	Thanusshsan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Karisma	Angel	Abana	Isabell	Oliver K
Arjunan	Timothy	Jamie	Lilybelle	Danielle
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Chu Walnut	Ayesha Y1 Elm	Yasmine Y3 Cherry	Imani Elm	Sasha Hornbeam