



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

24th February 2023

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week after the half term break. The children have been busy immersing themselves in their new core texts in English and preparing themselves for their final writes later in the term.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, the children have started their new topic learning journeys. For more information on all of the topics being covered this half term across the curriculum, refer to the Spring term 2 curriculum newsletters that children will have received this week. Alongside the newsletters all children have received knowledge organisers for History/Geography, Science, RE and DT. These contain all of the key vocabulary and "sticky" knowledge that the children will cover during the term. These are used during each lesson in class to help with recall and retention of key aspects of the curriculum. These are a very useful tool for children and parents to refer to when completing their homework each week.

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 **'Read for Pleasure'**! 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.



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



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Attendance

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

Year 2 Spruce	96.4%
Year 3 Cedar	99.1%
Year 4 Acacia	97.3%
Year 5 Silver Birch	98.7%
Year 5 Magnolia	99.1%
Year 6 Blackthorn	98.3%

Curriculum Focus

Reception

In Reception this week the children have been introduced to their new core text 'Michael Recycle'. Class discussions indicate that many of the children already have knowledge of recycling and the children have been excited to share what they know. You may have noticed how clean our playground has been this week! This is thanks to all of the children in Reception who participated in a litter pick on Monday.

In Maths the children have been using different methods to find one less than a given number. They have used practical strategies with manipulatives to visualise the concept of one less, before moving on to demonstrate one less pictorially. Some children have challenged themselves to find one less using a number line. They have been demonstrating their learning using the sentence stem 'one less than ____ is ____.'

Looking at the wider curriculum the children have been introduced to a range of religions and their celebrations. The children enjoyed talking about celebrations they have experienced and finding out about the celebrations of others. In addition the children have been expanding their



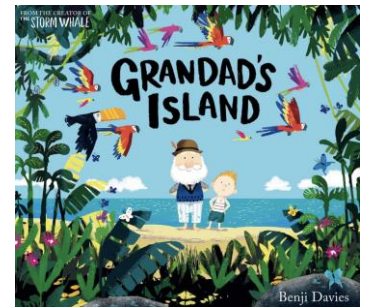
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knowledge of the natural world by discussing and creating pictures of the weather we experience in each of the four seasons.

Year One

In Year 1 this week we have started a new story called Grandad's Island. We used our prediction skills to imagine what the story could be about. We then thought of questions Sid might want to ask Grandad about his island. We had to remember to start them using a question word such as what, who, where or when and use a ? at the end of our questions.



In maths we have started to learn about measurement. We have looked at using non standard measures such as cubes, paperclips, feet and hands to measure items around the classroom and compare them. We learnt that to measure accurately you need to line the object up carefully and at the end of the measurement, make sure all the measures are lined up straight with no gaps and then count carefully where the object ends. We had lots of fun measuring and comparing the heights of each other in the classroom.



This half term in RE we will be learning about Christianity. This week we learnt about the importance of Jesus to Christians. We thought about how Jesus sets an example to Christians about how to lead a good life and how when we follow our school values we can also set a good example.

Year Two

In English Year 2 have been generating descriptive language including adjectives, adverbs and expanded noun phrases and applying this vocabulary to describe a setting and character. They have also been working hard at applying their Year 2 writer's toolkit to editing and some children have even begun to evaluate their vocabulary and uplevel it.

In maths the children have started a new unit all about shapes. They have worked hard to learn vocabulary including vertices, sides and faces to identify different shapes. They also went on a shape hunt to find what 2D and 3D shapes they could find in the learning environment.

In history they have continued to develop their knowledge about the history of the rights of a child by learning about Dorothy Buxton and Eglantyne Jebb who founded Save the Children. They collaborated in groups to look at different primary and secondary sources to learn facts about Dorothy and Eglantyne, then they summarised what their group had learnt and shared their findings with the class.



They
and
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Year Three

In year three, the children started the new term by being immersed into a jungle, as they entered their classroom, that had been transformed into a rainforest. This was to create an exciting atmosphere as they begin their new core text 'The Great Kapok Tree'. The children have now begun to start writing their narrative.

In maths, the children have started to look at length and perimeter. They are able to identify different units of measurement and work out the equivalent lengths. They are also able to calculate the perimeter of a variety of shapes.

The children have started Geography this term, the children were able to collaborate and recall the seven continents of the world. They then used this knowledge, along with images of different atlas', to locate and name some of the rainforests across the world.

In science, the children recapped their knowledge on 'Animals including Humans'. They were able to recall what they learnt in year two and then discussed what they would like to find out in year three.

In DT we are all very excited to learn about cam mechanisms and eventually turn our knowledge into making our own mechanical toys! So far we are exploring the ways cam mechanisms work and the parts we need to make your toy. Over the next few weeks we are slowly going to put together the parts we need to make our fantastic toys. We can't in year 3 wait to see our results!



Year Four



It has been a great start to the new term in year 4! The week began with wonderful lessons which immersed the children in our new core text 'The Goldfish Boy'. In a bid to better understand the main character, Mathew, who spends a lot of time looking out at his neighbours from a bedroom window, the children spent time looking at the local area from various viewpoints around the school and thinking about what people may be doing in their daily lives

The awe and wonder continued in the following English lessons as children investigated a mysterious box which contained secret objects. They were very intrigued and were curious to find out what was in the box and what special qualities each item had, this generated great discussion amongst the classes which meant that the children had a great bank of vocabulary to use when writing their own descriptions of a **mysterious box**.

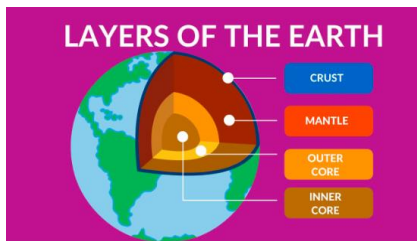


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In maths, the children have been learning all about fractions. They used fraction walls to help them compare fractions and investigate equivalent fractions. Children began to identify patterns between the numerators and denominators and some were able to use their times table knowledge as a more efficient method.

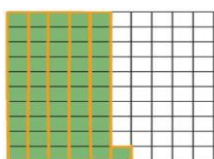


In geography, children began learning about natural disasters. They had great skill and confidence when using the laptops to use Google Earth to locate different countries in the world. They were very excited to locate countries which had some importance to them and find out where they are in relation to other countries around the world. The children also had the opportunity to use a globe where their interest and curiosity was sparked about places which they had never heard of. The children went on to find out about the structure of the Earth and information about each layer including the crust, mantle, inner core and outer core.

Year Five

Another great start to Spring 2 for year five because the children have embraced the new learning with enthusiasm and excitement.

This week in English the children started their learning journey into monologue writing. They explored and evaluated different ways people see our world based on the character Addie in our reading text 'A Kind of Spark'. They then went on to identify the difference between the three types of tense (past, present and future) before applying their new found skills in their own writing.



$$5 \frac{1}{100} = 5.01$$

Maths saw a twist from fractions to equivalent decimals where the children learnt how to change a fraction involving tenths and hundredths into decimals and vice versa.

We have started our new topic 'Windrush' by looking at the events that took place between 1939 when the Caribbean men and women volunteered to join the Royal Air Force and British

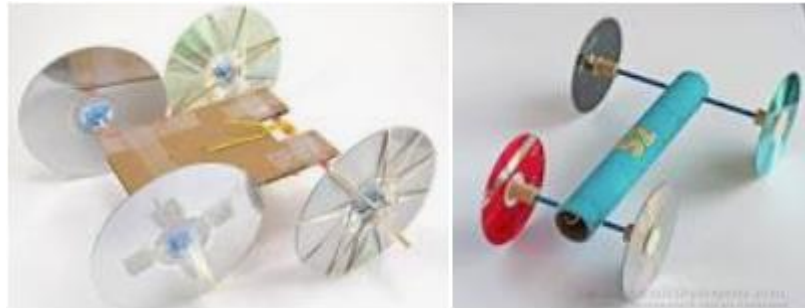


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Army to 1998 where the area in front of the Tate Library in Brixton was renamed 'Windrush Square' to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush.

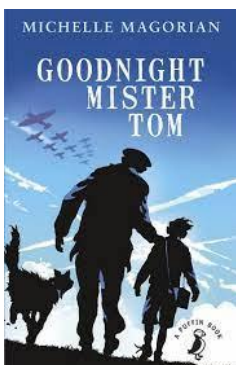
We made headway into our DT topic by exploring different types of rubber band cars and identifying the main parts of the vehicle. The children can't wait to make and race theirs!



Year Six

Year 6 have hit the ground running with SATs on our minds! We have introduced extra sessions of arithmetic, reading and SPAG into our timetables in order to make sure that we are SATs ready! These extra sessions aren't the normal lessons though- oh no! Teachers have been working hard to find fun ways to consolidate our knowledge and have been planning things such as a passive and active voice board game to improve our grammar knowledge, a scavenger hunt where we are looking for clues to answer some arithmetic questions and a round robin reading session where we all take it in turns to complete a text before answering questions on it. This has been happening alongside our usual lessons.

In English, we are finishing our look at Goodnight Mr Tom by writing our own version of part of the story. We have focused on the transition scene of moving from the train station, on to the train and then venturing off into their new adventure. In maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of measure and booking at converting metric measurements. We have also discussed how this country is a little bit odd in that we technically use the metric system but that there are many cases where we still see the imperial measuring system in use! Science has been all about light. We started our topic by trying to understand what light is and how it travels. We then had a go ourselves by making spinning colour wheels that we were trying to spin fast enough to combine the colours into the white light we are used to. It had varying degrees of success but was a lot of fun trying!



We would love to see as many parents that are able to attend the Year 6 SATs sessions. These will allow you to see what your child will be faced with during their SATs and you will be able to work alongside your child in understanding the types of questions and layout that will be seen in the tests. Dates and content are:



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Focus of session	Week/Date	Time	Location	Session Lead
Year 6 SATs Workshop (Reading) - parents and children invited	Week 2: Monday 27th February	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mr Owen and Year 6 Class Teachers
Year 6 SATs Workshop (SPAG) - parents and children invited	Week 4: Thursday 16th March	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mrs Gallagher and Year 6 Class Teachers
Year 6 SATs Workshop (Maths) - parents and children invited	Week 5: Thursday 23rd March	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mrs Gallagher and Year 6 Class Teachers

Reading

Well done Dhanvi from Ash class who got caught reading in a hotel in Dubai during the half term.



Enrichment

The children had a lovely time during nurture breakfast at Canterbury Road on Tuesday celebrating Pancake Day. They were all very excited to choose their own healthy fruit





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toppings and even created their own artistic masterpieces with them!

Art Club

Over the past couple of weeks, the children in the art club have been learning about patterns and how to use them in our paintings. This week they painted stars using watercolour paints and tape. They started by taping a star shape on their paper. They then painted a base colour and added a pattern on top to create very lovely pieces of art!



Community

Phrases of the Week



¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Thanushik	Seyon	Vicente	Daisy	
Khauban	Jakepaul	Adona	Nylah-Rae	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Khaliyah	Eisa	Keevah	Evan	Ayaan
Horrain	Norina	Shahid	Kirlore	Ishani



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Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Fiza	Joel	Aliane	Isiah	Caius
Fatemah	Baba	Sharick	Ahmed	Dhunvi
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Nithusan	Carlos	Kacy - Rose	Whole	Misha
Josiah	Diaa	Levi	Class	Denephia
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Vithushan	Enzo	Lilia	Ibrahim	Meryam
Divine	Mia -Rose	Sashagay	Minal	Daythan
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Israel	Abu Bakr Khan	Samuel	Jordan	Yasmin
Sahesha	Hajraah	Renad	Nithusiya	Maria
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Ilyas	Jaineel	Aryan	Manuel	Lara
Hani	Carolina	Bavanya	Gabby	Kymarni
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Rowan Hornbeam			Samuel Maple	Zayanna Cedar



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Parent Engagement Sessions

Focus of session	Week/Date	Time	Location	Session Lead
KS2 Reading Afternoon	Week 2: Monday 27th February	2.55 - 3.10pm	Both sites	Class teachers
Year 6 SATs Workshop (Reading) parents and children invited	Week 2: Monday 27th February	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mr Owen and Year 6 Class Teachers
Year 2 SATs Workshop	Week 2: Wednesday 1st March	9.00 - 9.30am	Both Sites	Miss French and Mrs Callaghan
Celebrate World Book Day and Read with your Children in class (all year groups)	Week 2: Friday 3rd March	2.50- 3.10pm	Both sites	Class teachers
EYFS & KS1 Reading Afternoon	Week 3: Thursday 9th March	2.55 - 3.10pm	Both sites	Class teachers
Inset Day School closed to all Children	Week 3: Friday 10th March	All Day	Both sites	
School Priorities Update	Week 4: Monday 13th March	9.00 - 10.00am	Rosecourt Road	Mrs Callaghan, Ms New and Mr Owen
KS2 Reading Afternoon	Week 4: Monday 13th March	2.55 - 3.10pm	Both sites	Class teachers



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Year 6 SATs Workshop (SPAG) parents and children invited	Week 4: Thursday 16th March	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mrs Gallagher and Year 6 Class Teachers
School Priorities Update	Week 3: Friday 17th March	04.30 - 5.15pm	Canterbury Road	Mrs Callaghan, Ms New and Mr Owen
Pastoral Meet and Greet/ Services Available in Croydon	Week 5: Tuesday 21st March	9.00- 9.30am	Canterbury Road	Ms Williams and Miss Liburd
Pastoral Meet and Greet/ Services Available in Croydon	Week 5: Tuesday 21st March	9.00- 9.30am	Rosecourt Road	Ms Williams and Miss Liburd
EYFS/KS1 Reading Afternoon	Week 5: Thursday 23rd March	2.55 - 3.10pm	Both sites	Class teachers
Year 6 SATs Workshop (Maths) parents and children invited	Week 5: Thursday 23rd March	3.30 - 4.15pm	Both sites	Mrs Hefetz, Mrs Gallagher and Year 6 Class Teachers
Parents' Evening	Week 6: Tuesday 28th March	3.40- 6.30pm	Both Sites	All class teachers
Parents' Evening	Week 6: Wednesday 29th March	3.40- 6.30pm	Both Sites	All class teachers



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WORLD BOOK day

3rd March 2023

MAINS

Witches Cauldron Pizza (Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub)

Bookworm Bites (Quorn Dippers)

Wizards Wedges (Potato Wedges)

Jack's Beans (Baked Beans)

Pen Licence Peas (Garden Peas)

DESSERTS

Magical Orange Pudding (Orange Drizzle Cake)

Eat me Custard

The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Shortbread

