



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

24th March 2023

What a jam-packed week we have had at West Thornton this week! We've had it all - school trips, world poetry day celebrations, parent workshops, not to mention a football match and a reading afternoon. Do read the rest of this week's newsletter to find out more about the week and talk with your children about what they have learnt and enjoyed the most.



Next week, there will be more events taking place; particularly events we would like you to attend and be a part of. On Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March, it will be parents' evening. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to find out how your child is getting on at school, how much progress they are making and what the next steps are for your child in order for them to reach their full potential. It is important that these meetings are attended. Please arrive slightly earlier than your appointment times so you can have a look at your child's learning. There will be stalls available at each site providing extra information and support to help you and your child. On Friday 31st March, there will be an Easter Bonnet/Spring Hat activity afternoon and parade taking place on both sites. Please read information shared in a letter sent out this week and contact the office if you're able to join in with the fun.

Lastly, as many of our friends and families have begun the holy month of fasting this week, we would like to say 'Ramadan Mubarak' to all of our staff and families who are joining in with this special time of year.



Attendance

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

Spruce Y2	97.9%
Cedar Y3	97.9%
Walnut Y3	97.7%
Cypress Y5	97.8%
Sycamore Y5	97.1%
Holly Y6	97.9%

Spotlight on Outdoor Learning

'Empty Classroom Week'

This week we have relaunched outdoor learning across the curriculum. Each year group has been busy taking their learning outside. The children have enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment and have been developing their curiosity through 'hands - on' learning experiences providing them with learning new things through their senses. Now the summer is here we will be adventuring outside!

Research has suggested that outdoor learning boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence and ability to work cooperatively with a positive attitude to learning.

Margaret McMillan "The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky"



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception



In reception this week, the children have been continuing learning about being sustainable. They have learnt what a composter is and how we can use it to recycle our food waste. The children have made a composter in class and in literacy have written instructions using time adverbials and imperative verbs. They have been extremely excited to keep adding their fruit peel from snack time into the composter!



In maths, the children have been learning about teen numbers. They have been placing the numbers in the correct order and have also been learning about place value. The children have noticed that each teen number is made up of one ten and then ones. They have been introduced to using Dienes equipment and have made teen numbers using ten sticks and ones.



In topic this week, the children have continued designing their bug hotel for their DT project. They have also been continuing to look at religions of the world and have looked at the similarities and differences between Easter and Eid. Lots of the children could see some similarities between the two, such as family and friends getting together to enjoy food, giving presents to each other and also going to places to pray.

Reception have continued learning outside and they have created their very own composter to make healthy soil so they can help the plants grow. They have also made a wormery for the worms to keep them safe.





WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year One

This week Year 1 have been having so much fun learning outside! In English the children have been continuing the story of Beegu, they have been writing about how she felt and looking at features of a diary entry! The children have been using our own feelings to show how they might have felt if they were in her shoes!

In maths the children have been looking at capacity and volume! The children enjoyed being outside to explore measuring a range of materials. They worked in groups and used mathematical language like 'full' 'half full' 'nearly full' 'empty' 'nearly empty'!



We have also taken the chance to work outside during our PSHE and science lessons where the children used their senses of sight and hearing to help them safely cross a busy road and find out what they could see and hear around the school.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Two

This week Year 2 travelled to London Zoo as part of their writing learning journey which they were very excited about. We were able to see a variety of different animals and observe them in their enclosures. The children discussed the reasons why some environments were humid and warm whilst others were cool and wet. Children were asked to think about their learning from previous lessons where they discussed the positives and negatives of keeping animals in zoos - did they still hold the same opinions or had their opinions now changed?



In maths, children have been learning about time, identifying the minute and hour hands and telling the time to o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. The children used clocks to help them identify where the minute and hour hands needed to be positioned for a given time.



In science, children have continued to observe the caterpillars that are growing in the Year 2 zone. As part of their learning they have been keeping a diary to document what they have observed and how the caterpillars have changed over time. Year 2 marked National poetry day this week which involved the children pairing up with another class in key stage 2. They thoroughly enjoyed hearing the older children read a variety of poems and were impressed with how fluently they were able to read.

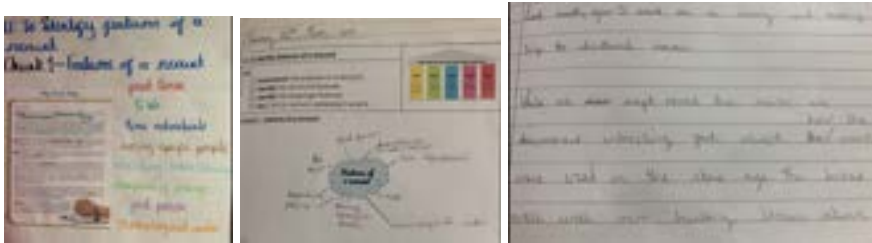


WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Three

This term, year 3 visited Chislehurst Caves. In English, they have begun to write a recount of the trip. The children identified the features of a recount, to enable them to begin an exceptional piece of writing. They ensured that their introduction included the 5Ws and was in chronological order.



In Maths, the children have now completed their lessons on fractions and moved on to finding the mass of objects, using grams and kilograms. They used scales to compare the mass of different objects and find the missing measurements by identifying the intervals. They now know that 1000g is equivalent to 1kg.



Year 3 have continued to enjoy using Purple Mash for their computing lessons. Their knowledge of coding is developing, as they are now able to input codes and create their own programs. In DT, they have begun to make their moving toy, using a CAM mechanism. The children took their time prior to this lesson, learning about different types of CAMs and then onto designing their toy before actually making it.

Year Four

In English this week, year 4 have been planning and writing up their final newspaper reports based on their core text, The Goldfish Boy. The children became newspaper reporters and interviewed each other to make sure they included key information about the disappearance of Teddy. They have created some excellent pieces of writing!



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In maths this week, the children have continued to work out fractions of whole amounts, in reasoning questions. They have worked through some tricky problems but worked extremely well together to solve them all correctly!

In science, year 4 have created their hypothesis for an investigation to find the best insulator for reducing sound. The children took their learning outdoors and tested their different materials to see which one would work best.



Year Five

What a busy week Year 5 have had!

Children have continued working diligently on their interviews in English. They have learnt to use open ended questions to generate further information and are enjoying role-playing where they are gaining a better understanding of how to give a response. In Maths, children have consolidated their knowledge of fractions, decimals, and percentages. There has been a lot of persistence displayed during learning with many now knowing how to convert the three concepts between each other. All children should be proud of what they have accomplished.

On Wednesday Magnolia, Cypress and Silver Birch travelled to South Kensington to visit the Science Museum which all were very excited about! The children were able to see a variety of exhibitions relating to space, energy, and the modern world. Perhaps the most thrilling exhibit of all was the interactive gallery Wonderlab! Here children took part in interactive and hands-on experiments including sliding down slides to explore forces and friction, holding their own weight using a pulley system, investigating with colour light mixing and travelling through the universe under a canopy of stars. It was a sensational day out for all involved!





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Six

In **Year 6**, the children have continued to write their versions of a story set in Spain, where the main character, El Caminante performs a dare-devil tightrope walk and nearly falls to his death. I am pleased to say, all the stories have happy endings!

In **reading** and **maths** the children have continued practising their techniques in answering SATs style questions. Most children have, by now, received their targets, which will take them up to SATs week. So if you have not seen your child's target sheet yet, please enquire, first with your child and secondly, with your teacher.

This week we have celebrated **National Poetry Day** with some collaborative work between classes. Here are some pictures of children from reception sharing some poetry reading time with children from year 6. Both ends of the school's age spectrum, enjoying poetry together.



Fabrizio's poem was written a few weeks ago, when the children in year 6 were asked to write a poem that included the theme of a lifesaving gas mask. The poem was set in the context of the First World War. So, as it has been National Poetry Day this week, I felt this poem deserved to be published.

My Loyal Defender

By Fabrizio Rebaza-D'Argenio

As I put on my gift from heaven

The green serpent follows me

Into the world of hell.

I try to escape.

My Gift embraces me like a baby blanket,



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Except, there is life and death at stake.

My enemy climbs from his ditch

And sees me floundering in the sea of fog.

He comes for me, but I resist

Thanks to my gift from above.

I run over the corpses and towards safety,

I hope that my prayers have been answered.

More green fog.

I hope that my holy protector will hold on

For a bit longer...

Reading

Over the last few weeks children in Year 2 who have completed the Little Wandle phonics program and those in Key Stage 2 have been enjoying new levelled texts. These have included lots of lovely stories, information texts, plays and poetry. It has been great to see so many of the children enjoying these new books during our whole class reading lessons.



Community

Parental Engagement Sessions



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you to all of you who attended our Parental Engagement sessions recently. It is great to see our school value of collaboration taking place. We would like to form a group in order for us to work together to spread more awareness of our events, activities and lessons in our calendar focusing on different aspects of our curriculum. We would like to begin by focusing on our RHSE curriculum and would very much like to hear your thoughts and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to take up this opportunity and be a part of this group then please contact a school leader or the school office on either site so we can register your interest.

Phrases of the Week



¡Feliz Ramadan! - Happy Ramadan!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Ishaan	Arya	Adona	Nihal	
Julia	Alejandro	Powell	Skyler	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Anmol	Imani-Giselle	Riaab	whole class	Daxa
Jessica	Arham	ShrishaIini		Samuel
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Nathan	Sophia	Dharaa	Joshua	Aathiran
Nandini	Jewel	Cairo	Aarohan	Maiza
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Zayaana	Yasmine	Reggie - Jay	Amir	Zain



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Elijah.B	Cheri	Uri	Isabella	Rafael
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Shrija	Kayden	Jayden	Samuel	Mohammad
Kishiwaleh	Ayushi	Aland	Naaba	Deon
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Nishinth	Abu bakr	Laura	Jordan	Hashir
Noorjahan	Delilah	David	Cyrielle	Akshita
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Theo	Emanuel	Mishan	Zara	Kaue
Alia	Delani	Akos	Lamenu	Sanchana
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Alaela Cherry			Keeyan Fir	



WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL



EASTER TREATS

31 MARCH 2023

MAINS

**BBQ Pulled Chicken Burger (Halal)
OR Southern Style Vegetarian
Burger OR Spring Vegetable Pie**

SIDES

**Chips, Bunny's Favourite (Carrots)
and Baked Beans**

DESSERT

Mini Egg Chocolate Cake





WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Holiday Activities and Food

***FREE for families in receipt of FSM**

**Join us for some Fun
Arts and Crafts, Cooking,
Nature activities, Sports**



**11th / 12th / 13th / 14th April 2023
9am - 1pm**

Good Food Matters

**Mickleham Way,
New Addington, CRO OPN**



**For more info and to book please email:
angela@goodfoodmatters.org.uk**



GOOD FOOD MATTERS
GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY