



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

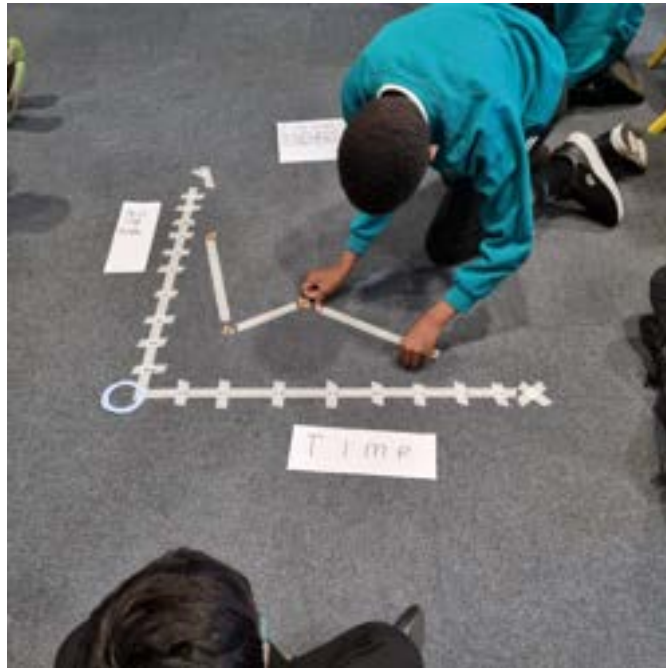
21st April 2023

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 Summer term 1 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.

We'd like to share some fabulous work from Year 5 with you: the examples below show some wonderful examples from the Class Home Reading Diaries, as well as some wonderful 'off the page learning in Sycamore Class, where children applied their knowledge of data to create line graphs with the correct axes! They had a lot of fun.





Wonderful 'off the page learning' in Maths at West Thornton this week.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes who had attendance above 96% this week:
Extra well done to both Walnut and Holly Class achieving 100% this week

Pine	96.9%	Oak	96.5%
Willow	97.1%	Elder	96.9%
Fir	98.0%	Elm	96.0%
Larch	96.8%	Cedar	97.8%
Walnut	100%	Acacia	98.7%
Hornbeam	98.1%	Silver Birch	99.2%
Magnolia	96.3%	Sycamore	98.1%
Juniper	97.8%	Acer	99.1%
Holly	100%		



Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week in reception, the children have been introduced to their new core text 'It's Okay to be different.' In literacy they have been writing about themselves and have written about the colour of their eyes and the colour of their hair. They have been comparing themselves to others and also discussing the differences and similarities between themselves and their peers.



In maths the children have been recapping doubling to support them with their learning this half term. They have been recalling what a double is and how to make doubles using numicon. They have been recapping writing double number sentences and have practised recalling their knowledge of doubling by playing doubling Bingo!



In topic this week, the children have been focusing on art. They have been learning about what a portrait is and have been experimenting with different sketching techniques. They have been looking in mirrors and using these to draw their own self portraits. Within the provision, they have been using loose parts and playdough to also create their own self portraits.



Year One



Welcome back Year 1! This week in English, Year 1 have been learning about the key features of instructions such as time adverbials, imperative verbs and short clear sentences and identifying these features in a variety of instructions. They have also independently written their own instructions on how to brush their teeth. Year 1 have also been counting in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s, in order to solve a variety of mathematical problems.

As for curriculum, Year 1 have been using Purplemash to create their own ebook! Pupils generated story ideas based on interests such as superheroes,





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the environment and life at West Thornton.
We're very excited to read their amazing stories!



Furthermore, in DT Year 1 pupils have begun their weaving projects. Pupils learnt about various weaving techniques and weaved their own prototype pattern using a variety of colourful paper strips. We can't wait for the finished project!

Year Two



Year 2 have returned to school enthusiastic and ready to start their final term of the school year. In English they were really excited by their new core text 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. On Monday they enjoyed learning about life in Trinidad and Tobago including listening to some Calypso music, trying some tropical fruits that grow there and learning about some games

that children in Trinidad and Tobago play. They then compared Trinidad and Tobago with England. Finally they read and have been retelling the story of 'Coming to England'.



In Maths the children have been learning about position and direction. They have enjoyed giving their friends directions outside telling them different paths to take around the playground. They have also shown great resilience when learning about different fractions of turns and anticlockwise and clockwise. While they found this quite tricky they have persevered and are now confident identifying these.

In DT the children have been excited to hear that they will be creating their own carnival headdresses inspired by Carnival in Trinidad. This week they have been looking at different headdresses and considering their features. They all agreed that while their headdresses must be bright and colourful they must also have a good structure to ensure that they last the duration of carnival.





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Year Three

Year 3's have had such an exciting start to the new term!

In English, the children were introduced to our new core text 'The Invisible'. They have been engrossed in embedding 'show not tell' to describe how the main character in the book is feeling, at different stages of the book. In the middle of the week, the children had an amazing experience of going on the cable cars. They had such an exciting trip, that they were raring to write their diary entries of their experience.



In maths, the children learnt how to add and subtract fractions. The children were so puzzled to learn how to simplify fractions and how this links to equivalent fractions. Then they learnt how to partition the whole

into unit and non-unit fractions. The week ended with the children practising arithmetic questions. They learnt to add and subtract numbers mentally by thinking about the place values. The children also compared units of measurement.

In RE, the children have started learning about what worship is. This week, they did this by finding out what was important to them. Learning in science involved finding out that we needed light in order to see things. They recapped what a light source is, also classified man-made and natural sources of light. In history, the children researched what life was like for a Victorian child.

Year Four

This week, year four children have been immersing themselves into our new core text 'Azzi In Between' by Sarah Garland. The story is about a little girl called Azzi, who had to flee her home and everything she knew to a place of refuge when a war broke out in her home country. One day, Azzi was living in her beautiful house surrounded by her loving



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family, the next day, she found herself in a strange country where she cannot understand the language. The children have been learning about Azzi's journey and about her struggle to adjust to her new life in England. They were able to put themselves into her shoes in order to consider how she must have felt. The children will use their knowledge for the character and generate descriptive language in preparation for the setting descriptions they will be writing next week.



In Maths this week. The children have been consolidating their learning on place value and decimals. They have been adding and subtracting different amounts and using this knowledge to answer questions about decimals.

In R.E, year four children have been learning about Judaism. They have been learning about how Jewish people prepare for Sukkot which is a seven-day festival. In preparation for this festival, people of the Jewish faith build a temporary dwelling called a Sukkah outdoors in which they spend time praying, eating and celebrating with their families. The children had a go at designing their own Sukkahs using different materials. They had to take into consideration the types of materials that would traditionally be used to build their temporary structures. The children will be building their own Sukkahs next week.





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Year Five

Another fantastic start for Summer One half term: children have returned ready and excited to take a six week journey through their new learning. What have you done to them?!

In writing we have started developing our new biography skills and we are particularly focusing on Sir David Attenborough. We have identified the key features of the text type and explored the impact these features have on the reader.



Maths has seen the start of statistics and our focus this week is line graph. We developed our understanding of the key features of a graph - quadrants, x-axis, y-axis, title and the origin. We did a little point plotting to ensure we understood the importance of intervals and increments.

We've also made a start on our new DT topic, Sustainable Energy - Wind Turbine. We researched what is meant by renewable energy and how one energy (input) is transferred into another energy (energy) to give a desired effect. An invaluable learning journey given the current climate.



Year Six



Although Year 6 are focused on their upcoming SATs (two more weeks! Keep revising everyone!), we have also been able to make some time for a bit of fun this week. It all started with a few lemons! We have linked back to our early topics of light and electricity and have conducted an investigation to see if we



could make a battery out of fruit! We looked into how batteries work and realised that we needed something acidic in order to provide enough power - or "juice" as we've been calling it- and so decided on using lemons. We then created circuits as we have done a number of times before, with one difference- this time we had a lemon instead of a battery! After a few failed attempts, most of us were able to get a small flicker from a bulb or a quiet hum from a buzzer.





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We then used this investigation in our English and have started to write explanatory texts that should allow anyone who would like to try it themselves to have a go! We are really focussing on using humour in our writing to show that we have an excellent control of the language we are using and that we are considering the impact our writing will have on the reader. We can't wait to share these with parents and family once we have finished.

Enrichment

After school clubs for Summer 1 will begin in week 3 (wb Tuesday 2nd May). Please keep an eye out for the sign up letter, which will be distributed on Monday. Sign up will be through Arbor as usual.

Community

A Tribute to Coral Caplin

It is unlikely in these times of continual migration from our local community that there will be many of you out there who remember the school as far back as 1993. However, in the hope that there may be a few of you who do, we are sad to announce the death of Coral Caplin, who served as a teacher and governor at West Thornton between 1979 and 1993.

Coral was the creative force behind a successful string of school productions over many years and she also chaperoned numerous school journeys. Her skills in art were also very much appreciated by both staff and pupils, as she produced some stunning displays to show off the work of the children. Her time at the school meant that she taught at least two generations of some local families. On behalf of the school, I thank Coral for her long and loyal service and our thoughts are with her family.

If you do remember Mrs Caplin, her family have asked if we could share the date of the funeral service, which will take place at the **Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on 24th April 2023 at 1:15 p.m.** Anyone is most welcome to attend.



Phrases of the Week



¡Feliz Eid Mubarak ! - Happy Mubarak!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Cheyavan	Anika	Kaiara	Alayah	
Ava O	Halla	David	Ivie	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Terry	The whole class	Krish	Hanna	Adonia
Gabrielle		Nishany	Abishanth	Jaanush
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Elhaan	Liana	Yashwanth	Louie	Manal
Samaira	Umar	Rutmi	Zahra	Priansh
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Romarie	Rithika	Alex	The whole class	The Whole class
Josiyah	Ekhlas	Kaira- leigh		
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Blake	Enzo	Crisanda	Aapthy	Parth
Shrija	Ayushi	Cassius	Pavith	Zlatko
Divine				
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
James	Prayush	Lewis	Rohith	Aashir



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Vishnu	Arya	Sreekrishna	Liam	Christopher
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Akshaya	Bethany	Jason	Gabriella	Kaue
Josiah	Jessica	Momore	Hakeem	Kohanna
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Kaden Walnut			Thasmiya Palm	Sianna Hornbeam