



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**14th July 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been so much happening at West Thornton this week and we've had such a lot of fun!

Firstly we must thank our incredibly dedicated PTA members for organising a wonderful Summer Fair. It was great to invite so many members of our community into the school and it is hard to say which stands and activities were the most popular: maybe the face painting or the henna; perhaps the archery, hook-a-duck or the tombola; throwing wet sponges and the staff in the stocks has to be up there; and, not one, but two bouncy castles! This is of course before we mention the utterly fantastic food that was available and the spontaneous party dancing in the playground! It was a real success and we are keen to build on this so please do get in touch if you'd like to join the PTA and help to provide a wide range of fun and enriching events for our children.

As if the excitement of the fair wasn't enough, we also had Spanish Day on Thursday. Many of us dressed the part in the red and yellow of the Spanish flag and participated in numerous activities linked to our learning and Spanish culture. Particular highlights were the really enjoyable assemblies on each site - again with some dancing - and the beautiful accompaniment of the Spanish guitar! The lunch was great too - delicious patatas bravas!

There are also two particular opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful Year 6 children this week. We were so impressed by both the confidence and creativity that we saw in the fantastic End of Year 6 performances - and we are equally proud of them for their Key Stage 2 SATs achievements. Well done.

Finally, children's end of year reports - which celebrate both their academic achievements and progress - as well as other talents will be coming home today. We are sure you will enjoy reading these and taking this opportunity to tell your child/children how proud you are of them: as a staff team, we couldn't be prouder of each and every child at West Thornton.



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### Attendance

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

Fir 96.3%	Spruce 97.9%	Larch 96.9%	Cedar 96.4%
Walnut 96.8%	Silver Birch 96.7%	Magnolia 98.5%	Blackthorn 96.7%
Cherry 96.4%			

### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

This week the children have met their new teacher and have been continuing to visit the year one classrooms to prepare for the transition in September.

In literacy this week, the children have been recalling key events they have taken part in throughout their time in reception. They have reflected on their most memorable events and have written a sentence about this. They have used conjunctions such as 'because' and 'and' to extend their sentences.



In Maths, the children have been revisiting addition and subtraction. They have been introduced to worded problems and have been analysing these to decide which operation to use. They have



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been solving them using a variety of strategies, such as pictorial representations and concrete resources.

On Thursday the children enjoyed dressing in yellow and Red for Spanish day, where they learned to count, name the days of the week and taste the Spanish themed menu prepared by the kitchen.



### Year One

What an exciting week we have had in year one!

In English we have been using our story plans to write our own stories based upon our core text 'Tidy'. We used our own story plans to change different aspects of the original text including the setting and character. We have worked hard to ensure our stories include all of the features we have been using in our learning.

In maths we have been learning about time. We investigated the difference between the units of time seconds, minutes and hours by carrying out a range of activities to decide which would be the best unit to use when completing each activity, this included star jumps, clapping our hands, writing numbers and saying the alphabet. We used analogue clocks to help us learn how to tell the time to the hour and the half hour.



In RE we brought our learning of Sikhism to an end with a visit to a local Gurdwara which is a place of worship. We followed the rules of covering our heads, removing our shoes and washing our hands as a sign of respect. We saw lots of artefacts that we had learnt about in class and we found out new information too! When we came back to school Patrick, Haris and Starlin made their own



Gurdwara using the building blocks.

### Year Two



Year 2 have had a busy week! As part of their learning journey, the children visited Coombe Woods. They were absolutely thrilled to be able to visit the woods and explore the different habitats and animals that live there. They saw beautiful cabbage butterflies, dragonflies zipping around and little, grey squirrels as well as learning about identifying different tree species. They





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also collected leaves, twigs and fallen petals to create mandalas.

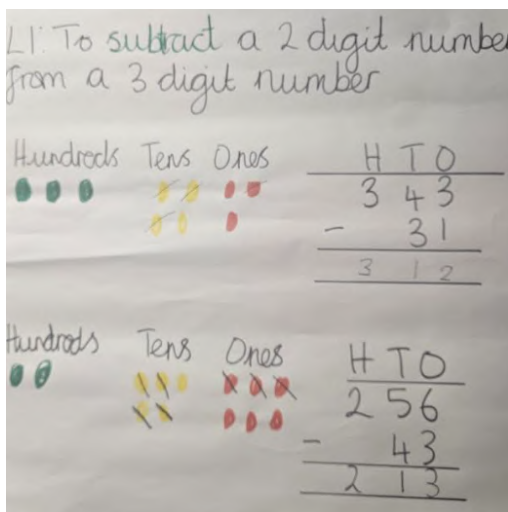
In maths, the children have been carrying out a variety of maths investigations involving time, money and multiplication. One of the investigations asked children to consider the value of coins and what denominations would make the most amount of money and which would make the least when the number of coins were limited to five coins. Children also worked systematically to find out all the different combinations they could make.

In science, Year 2 are continuing to observe their experiments testing to see which conditions are best for a seed to grow. The children were shocked to see how quickly their seeds grew in soil! Some of the children commented on how their seed was barely visible in the morning and by the afternoon, it had grown considerably!

### Year Three

As we approach the end of the term, the children in Year 3 have been performing different scenes by following their written play scripts. They have thoroughly enjoyed using facial expressions and putting their acting skills into practise. The children then had a real treat when they had a visit from a theatrical performing company; M & M Theatrical Productions.

In maths this week, the children have been consolidating their learning on the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have been working on understanding more about formally how to word on a written method. The children consolidated their learning on carrying in addition and exchanging in subtraction. To get the children ready for year 4, it is vital that they learn their times tables.







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In the wider curriculum areas, the children have been reflecting on their learning for the term. In geography, the children went through their learning on the features of a river and information on the major rivers of the world. They made links with other areas of the curriculum. In science the children recapped their knowledge and skills on the topic of 'Light'. They did this by discussing with their friends, what a light source was, recalling different light sources and discussing transparent, translucent and opaque objects. In art, the children were adding details to their background by looking closely at the art work by Jean-Michael Basquait.

The children also enjoyed Spanish day on Thursday. They got to wear red and yellow or a Spanish theme outfit, played games on Rockalingua, coloured in Spanish puzzles and enjoyed doing word searches.



### Year Four



After many days of planning, Year 4 finally began writing Ahmet's prequel this week. They are posed to use all the fantastic figurative language they have been practising during their planning including astonishing adjectives and amazing alliteration, scintillating similes and marvellous metaphors. In grammar for their writing the children have also been challenged to include correctly punctuated speech and semicolons in their work. They have all done so well at imagining making that long exhausting journey from a war torn country across high mountains and treacherous oceans to seek safety.



In maths it has been all about variety this week in a whirlwind journey through some of the tricky concepts the children have covered this term including revising and consolidating their knowledge of telling the time, converting measurements from millimetres to



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centimeters to meters and everything in between, including adding fractions more than a whole and finally rounding decimals!



In science the children have really enjoyed exploring what makes a food chain in science. They were amazed to realise that food chains start by green plants using energy from the sun to grow. They then relished researching and creating an information poster in small groups to describe their own food chain ending with a top predator.

### Year Five

Year 5 have been working hard this week. They have been completing a variety of different assessment tests such as, maths arithmetic, maths reasoning papers, writing papers, reading papers etc in order to prepare them for their final year in primary school.....

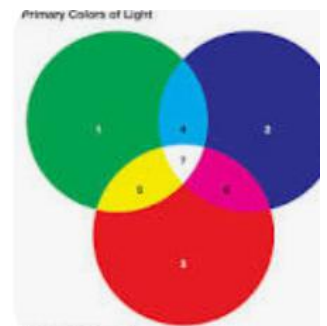
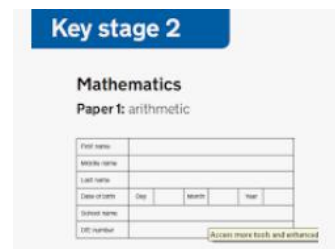
YEAR 6! How exciting! Year 5 have worked exceptionally well and their resilience has been amazing to see. Well done YEAR 5!



During history this week we have been continuing our learning on the Anglo- Saxons, we have used laptops to research more information and then they created a poster with all the key information they found out.

During Art this week, we have been carving African patterns into polystyrene and then filling them with paint and using it to make print patterns to help create beautiful, cultural African art pieces. They used their knowledge from the previous lessons and mixed primary colours together to create secondary art. Their art work continues to be inspired by the famous artist Charis Tsevis.

Year 5 were able to meet their new teacher for year 6! This was an exciting time for both the children and the teachers! Exciting times ahead!



Finally, Thursday was Spanish day! We had a whole school outdoor assembly where we enjoyed some Spanish music, then in class we



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completed some Spanish based activities and to finish it off, a special Spanish themed lunch! How delicious!

### Year Six



It's been a busy week for Year 6! Monday saw us perform our dress rehearsals to some of the younger year groups to test out our show in front of an audience for the first time. Despite a couple of missed cues and a few technical issues, both shows were a great success and we were able to see the result of all of the time and effort that we have put into producing our shows over the last half term. On Tuesday and Wednesday, we invited parents in to watch! It was amazing! Both sites really raised their games and produced the best they had ever done! We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who were able to

come and see the show and support our budding thespians. Thursday was Spanish day! The fabulous Mr M serenaded KS2 during a morning assembly, showing off his musical skills with his acoustic guitar. We enjoyed some Spanish based activities and a special Spanish themed lunch! On Friday, we welcomed a music group called Rocksteady. They will be working with our school to provide music lessons so please look out for more information on how you can sign up. Finally, next week we have lots of exciting things coming up. Please refer to the previously sent letter to see all the details for the picnic and the disco!



### Reading

In preparation for the next academic year our reading leaders will be carrying out a book audit of our home reader texts. Please can you take the time to ensure any school texts are returned to your class teacher before Wednesday 19th July. Thank you for your ongoing support.



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### Enrichment

Coming soon to West Thornton - 'Rock and Pop' Music Lessons!



Exciting news! From **(14<sup>th</sup> July / 21<sup>st</sup> July)** we will be welcoming Rocksteady Music School to school. It's an incredible opportunity for the children to learn to play their favourite songs in their very own bands with a choice of drums, keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar or vocals. Lessons will take place every week during school time.

As well as learning new musical skills, lessons also help the children with their confidence, wellbeing, social skills, and teamwork. These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by highly trained professional musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of each term the bands perform a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come!

Here's what you need to know:

- All instruments are provided.
- No musical experience necessary
- Suitable for all ages
- Lessons take place in school.
- Your child will learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills.
- You'll receive regular online parent timeline updates.
- There's a money back guarantee for the first month
- You can cancel at any time





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## Community

Come and support the West Thornton Djembe drummers at the Croydon Music and Arts Festival!

**THIS IS CROYDON**

**CR Talent**

Music Fun  
Dancing Food

**Schools Festival**

**See our talent! FREE festival!**

At the Schools Festival you'll see 1,000 young performers showcasing the opportunities available for children in Croydon as they share and celebrate their skills, creativity and cultural diversity.

Music from Disney, Queen and Croydon musicians

Live performances from:

- Croydon Schools • Kinetika Bloco
- Arun Ghosh • Anusha Subramanyam
- Croydon Music and Arts performers

**THURSDAY, 13TH JULY 2023, WANDLE PARK 12:30PM - 2:15PM**

Tickets are required for entry and are available for free from Eventbrite or through scanning the QR code. For more info, visit [www.croydonmusicandarts.co.uk/cr-talent](http://www.croydonmusicandarts.co.uk/cr-talent)

Check out our other festival overleaf

London Borough of Culture is a Mayor of London initiative. Presented by: MAYOR OF LONDON CROYDON arts council ENGLAND Heritage Fund

## Phrases of the Week



**El valor del mes de West Thornton es la EXCELENCIA.** - West Thornton's value of the month is Excellence.



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### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Noah-Ishmael	Ayan	Benjamin	Ashik	
Khauban	Jakepaul	Leksha	Chris	
Y1 Elder	Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Whole Class	Rooda	Alayna	Mareya	Sia
	Gessica	Shrshalini	Amelia	Daxa
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Midhun	Zanneyah	Adrian	Jennifer	Whole Class
Ayden	Umar	Hasan	Zahra	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Panth	Loredana	Sophia	Nistha	Adam
Zayaana	Carlos	Yasmine	Narayan	Alicia
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Anaya	Ethan	Lydia	Pavith	Kemarley
Rithish	Saran	Yanis	Autumn	Meryam
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Sara	Arsheen	Catherine	Melchizedek	Afyah
Noorjahan	Aylisia Alpha	David	Abdulbasit	Kyree
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Stone	Aryan	Lucy	Irina	Allister
Layla	Timothy	Akos	Manuel	Kier-Retta



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Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Whole School				