



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

29th September 2023

Black History Month

Next Month is Black History Month - a momentous occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. We will be studying important events including the Windrush generation - and using weekly assemblies to learn about incredible black female figures who have made a difference in the face of adversity. Look out for further information on special events throughout October - and let us know if you'd like to get involved. For now many children have said they would like to enter this poetry competition - introduced to them in assemblies this week. Wouldn't it be great if the winner came from West Thornton!

There is a lot more information available at <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk>



Healthy Eating

This week at West Thornton, Year 6 and Year 1 children took part in two very exciting workshops. Year 1 enjoyed the **Hungry Caterpillar workshop**; based on the popular book it looked at the importance of a healthy diet and in particular of having your 5 a day and eating the rainbow (different coloured fruit and vegetables). The workshop included a food art activity – using chopped fruit and vegetables to create a picture of a caterpillar or butterfly. They then enjoyed their creation – a healthy snack.

The Food Waste workshop for Years 6 focused on the negative impact of food waste on the environment and ways in which we can reduce food waste followed by a live cooking demonstration and tasting of a stir fry (perfect for using those left overs and wonky vegetables). At West Thornton we recognise the connection between a healthy diet and pupils' ability to concentrate, learn and achieve high standards in school. We are committed to giving our pupils consistent messages about all aspects of health and encouraging and developing positive attitudes towards a healthy diet and lifestyle. Less healthy foods such as crisps, chocolate, biscuits or sweets will not be permitted as snacks or in lunchboxes. May we also remind you that we are a nut free school. Thank you for your support.



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Priority 3 - Leadership at all levels

Our next priority this year is Leadership. At West Thornton - our ethos is that *'everyone is a leader'* - whether you are a headteacher, a teacher, TA, or of course, a wonderful West Thornton child. **Senior Leaders** will continue to have an ambitious and inclusive vision for West Thornton Primary School. This year we are determined to:

- develop our wonderful staff so they are happy at work and continue to provide a high quality education
- proactively engage with our parent community; here's to more activities that bring us ever closer together to give our children the best possible start in life

Our **Phase Leaders** are an integral part of our Senior Leadership Team. They ensure the smooth day to day running of the year groups they lead and are extremely knowledgeable about the content of our curriculum for these age groups. This year, they will continue to work with their teams to: set challenging targets for all children; plan and deliver excellent lessons; and, constantly review teaching and learning to make improvements wherever possible. Our Phase Leaders are:

	Canterbury Road	Rosecourt Road
EYFS (Reception)	Mrs Ceres	
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)	Miss French	Mrs Little
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	Miss John	Mrs Benham
Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)	Miss Adekola	Miss May

Subject Leaders support senior leaders to ensure our global curriculum is well taught. They apply their subject expertise and passion to map out what children will learn as they progress through the year groups. Please look out for the parental engagement sessions they will lead in the coming months - and ask them about how you can support your children to learn the content from our knowledge organisers at home. These key members of our West Thornton Family will also ensure that our quality curriculum extends beyond the core subjects and the classroom by mapping out engaging and memorable educational visits for 2023/2024. Our subject Leaders are:



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Subject	Staff Member	Subject	Staff Member
Phonics and Early Reading Leads	Mrs Benham and Miss Rogers	PE Lead	Miss John
Reading Leads	Miss French and Mrs Whitehead	DT Lead	Mrs Callaghan
Writing Leads	Miss Brackley and Mrs Little	Art Lead	Mrs Nishan
Maths Lead	Miss Williams	RE Lead	Mr Carroll
Science Lead	Miss May	History and Geography Lead	Miss Walters
RSHE Lead	Miss Adekola	Drama Lead	Miss Evans
Computing Lead	Miss Arslanboga		

Junior Leaders

Our children all have the potential to become great leaders, so this year we will ensure that they have many chances to lead. Some children may join our Junior Leadership Team, others may be play leaders or show their leadership through reading with younger children. Every child will be given opportunities to develop their leadership skills and styles in class through taking on a range of responsibilities - or leading learning in small and larger groups.

Attendance

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

Reception - Oak

Year 2 - Poplar

Year 3 - Rowan

Year 3 - Larch

Year 3 - Cedar

Year 4 - Beech

Year 4 - Acacia

Year 4 - Yew

Year 5 Magnolia

Year 5 Cypress

Year 6 - Eucalyptus

Year 6 - Juniper

Reception - Willow

Year 1 - Lime

Year 3 - Cherry

Year 3 - Chestnut

Year 4 - Hornbeam

Year – Sycamore

Year 6 - Holly



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week the children in Reception have continued to settle into their new routines and are beginning to demonstrate confidence as they move around the classroom. They have enjoyed the introduction of phase 2 phonics and are beginning to listen for initial sounds in words.



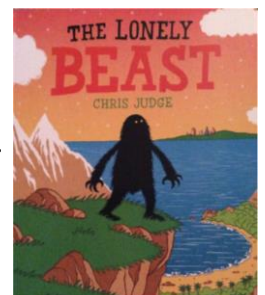
During literacy lessons this week the children have been retelling the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. They have enjoyed using 'Talk 4 Writing' actions and have used story maps to help them sequence events. They have carried on their learning in the provision by painting and collaging beanstalks and using props to retell the story.



In Maths the children have been exploring different ways of sorting. They have practised sorting by colour, size and shape and they are beginning to recognise how groups of objects have been sorted. The children have been transferring this learning to their tidying up times meaning they have become much more efficient in caring for their learning environments.

Year One

The children have had a very exciting week in year 1. They have been investigating and making predictions about the lonely beast in their new core text 'The lonely beast'. The children discovered new adjectives to describe what the beast looked like and began to write descriptive sentences about him.



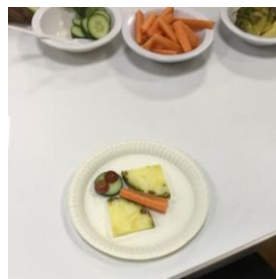


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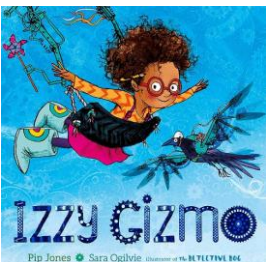
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In maths the children have been learning about one to one correspondence and looking at comparing objects by using the vocabulary 'more' and 'fewer'. They really enjoyed using manipulatives to help them do this.

They worked really hard at being scientists and identified materials using all the knowledge they have learnt about properties. They then used that to describe and compare toys from the past and toys now. The children got to show their creative skills as we had a visit from 'The hungry caterpillar' food workshop where the children got to talk about healthy foods and made their very own colourful caterpillars and butterflies from fruit. Have a look at how they did!



Year Two

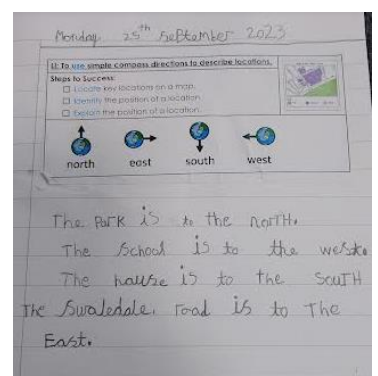


It has been a brilliant week in Year 2! In English, the children have begun to look at their new text "Izzy Gizmo" which is about a young girl who is passionate about inventions. They discussed the character and the different emotions she might feel throughout different parts of the story, before generating some wonderful sentences that were just as creative as Izzy's inventions!

In maths, the children have continued to study number lines, from how to correctly sequence a particular number line to estimating the number at a certain point.

Next, they tackled the world of comparing, discussing when objects or numbers are "greater than" or "less than" or "equal to" another. They showed themselves to have a firm grasp on the concept which was great to see!

In geography, the children have looked at directions, specifically those you would see on a compass - North, South, East, and West. Very quickly, they showed a fantastic understanding of this, and were able to apply this understanding to study maps! In R.E, the children have continued in their study of Judaism, specifically the meaning of Shabbat (Sabbath) and its importance to the faith.



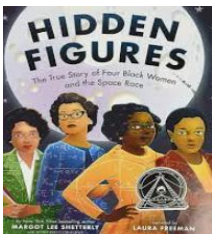


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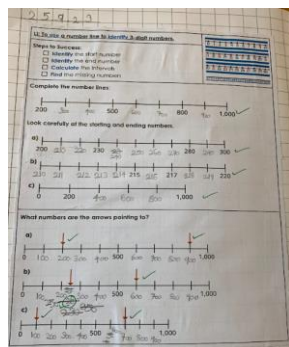
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Year Three

This week in year 3, the children did some research about space, as an introduction to their new core text 'Hidden Figures'. In English, children are looking at the life of Katherine Johnson, one of the first black women to work for NASA. The children sequenced the key events of her life and were able to discuss why she is an important role model. Then they went on to create a profile of Katherine Johnson.



In Maths, the children have had a busy week looking at number lines and comparing numbers to 1000. They have used number lines to estimate the position of different numbers by identifying the start, middle and end numbers. The children used blank number lines to support them with these challenges and their knowledge of finding half of a number.



In art, the children applied the different drawing techniques they have learnt, to draw in the style of Corey Barksdale. They were given chalk pastels and colouring pencils, to complete the piece of artwork by drawing the other half.

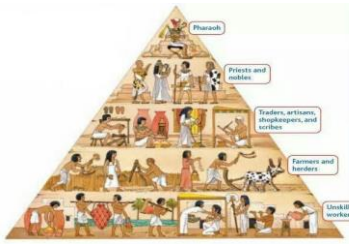


In history, year 3 looked at the ancient Egyptian hierarchy. In their kagan groups, the children then completed a pyramid that represented the Egyptian social structure.



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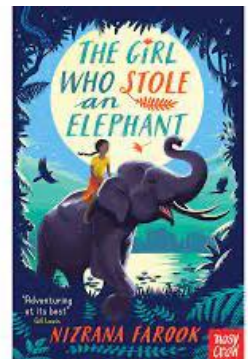


They then went on to compare the differences and similarities between two Egyptian queens - Nefertiti and Cleopatra. The children discover interesting facts about both queens. They then made a venn diagram to compare Queens Nefertiti and Cleopatra.

Year Four

It has been a great week in year 4 this week! In Maths, the children have continued with rounding numbers, but taken it further to rounding to the nearest 100 and 1,000! Towards the end of the week, they looked at comparing and ordering numbers up to 10,000. The children have all worked so hard and used their reasoning skills to solve some tricky extension questions! Well done year 4!

In Writing, we have begun working towards writing a narrative based on their core text - The Girl who stole an Elephant. They have generated some excellent language to be used in their narratives later on, such as; expanded noun phrases, show not tell and figurative language. The children absolutely love reading this book as a class and they are so eager to keep on reading to find out what will happen at the end of the book.



In Geography this week, year 4 have learnt the difference between weather and climate. They looked at the 6 different climates around the world and located the countries in each climate. The children researched the plants, animals and general weather in the countries in those climates and compared the climate in Sri Lanka and the UK.

Year Five

It has been another fantastic week in year 5 at West Thornton! In writing, children have been using the language techniques they learnt last week, such as descriptive language to write their own character description. In addition to this, the children have had a lot of fun performing extracts of our core text, practising their great drama skills!

In Maths, the children started the week by learning how to identify numbers on a number line and then applying their place value knowledge to order and compare numbers up to 100,000. Towards the end of the week, they moved on to using their knowledge to round numbers to the nearest 10,100 and 1000.



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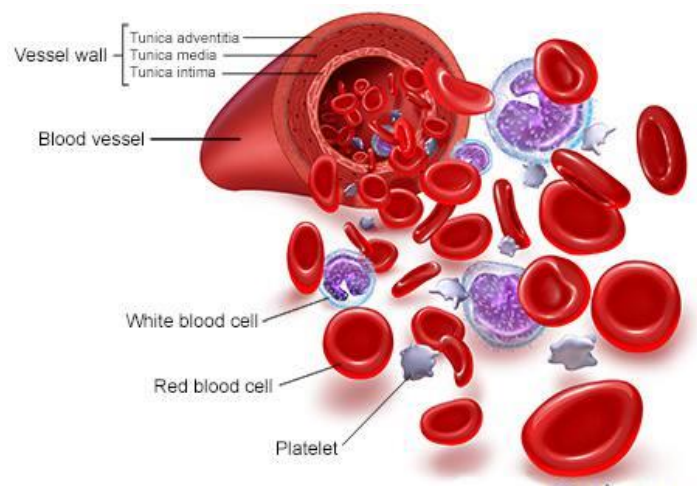
We are looking forward to our school trip next week to Hampton Court, to learn more about more the tudors and Henry VIII!

Year Six

This week in year 6, children have immersed himself in story writing and have begun using different language techniques to retell the story of 'Pig heart boy.' They have worked exceptionally hard to capture the reader's attention through use of repetition and figurative language to build suspense and convey characters' emotions at different points in the story.

In maths children have consolidated their knowledge of place value with adding and subtraction using inverse operations to check if their answer is and find missing numbers within calculations.

Within our curriculum, children have enjoyed developing their knowledge of the circulatory system and the functions of blood. In Computing children have looked out how to be safe online and report concerns when they recognise something that seems not right.



Reading

Please remember to record your reading in your Reading Records at home - it would be amazing to see some of the comments you are making being based on the strategies you are focusing on in school.

Community



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Phrases of the Week



¿Cómo estás? - How are you?

Estoy bien, gracias. - I am fine thank you.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Aysha	Athitheeran	Avah	Carter
Israa	Wikoria	Alesia	Aisha
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Emaan	Luxshin	Shayan	Kaliyah



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Param	Tahiratou	Abinisha	Aadam	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Wali	Aaminah	Elizabeth	Mia	Arbjon
Rebeca	Ayesha	Britt	Samuel	Michael
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Rutmi	Jewel	Anaya	Maitrey	Elhaan
Alana	Idrees	Chinmay	Majori	Ashylah
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Pusti	Nistha	Marley	Adyeiwa	Rozia
Luke	Indi	Alicia	Cheri	Tanisha
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Blake	Aisha	Aila	Joel	Rayan
Amelia	Samra	Ava	Sahra	Darsh
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Shiyanna	Mel	Maaz	Angel	Matthew
Michael	Aariya	David	Amelia	Ifeoma
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Rex Hawthorn			Yathusha Larch	N/A