



## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

A lot has gone on this week as we enter the start of October. We began our Black History Month celebrations with an assembly at the beginning of the week. It was lovely to see so many children speak confidently about significant people from the past and present from African and Caribbean communities who have influenced the lives of many children and adults. Children in KS2 in particular, were able to recall what they had learnt over the years.



Year 5 pupils on both sites have been busy! Cypress class began their fortnight of swimming lessons on Monday. They were so excited about this experience. As well as this, the whole year group thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Hampton Court yesterday. They learnt so much during their time there and have come away with lots of information to support them with their learning.

Staff at West Thornton were excited to see after school clubs up and running this week. We look forward to hearing more about what pupils have been getting up to over the next couple of months.

This week, staff have also been working collaboratively with governors and leaders in the school and across the trust to plan for the year ahead. They have been setting targets and sharing ideas on how we can improve outcomes for pupils at our school. We look forward to building on many successes achieved last year.

Today is World Smile Day! We have had so much to smile about this week. We hope you have had many opportunities to smile today and hope this continues well into the weekend. Everyone at West Thornton would like to wish you all a very happy weekend.



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Priority 4 - Assessment Driven Practice

The final priority we have for 2023/24 is **Assessment Driven Practice**. What on earth does that mean?! Well, put simply, we are committed to understanding each individual's strengths and areas for development so that they learn and remember more.

**Feedback** - teachers will provide written feedback that makes children think deeply when they respond; but, we will also use 'live marking'. marking work with the child, discussing what they've done well and giving immediate opportunities to improve.

**Assessment** - Teachers will ask great questions and set low stakes quizzes to see what children know and what they can't do yet. Teachers will use this information to adjust lessons for the children in their classes, filling gaps in understanding so that all children make great progress.

**Working with other schools** - we will look at the great work our children produce and share ideas with colleagues in the trust and beyond and best practice.

### Attendance

At West Thornton the school gates open at **8.40am** the school day starts at **8.50am** and registers close at **9am**. Children will receive a late mark after this time.  
School finishes at **3.15pm**.

ATTENDING SCHOOL EVERY DAY and on time helps your child:

- To take part in lessons, access learning and reach their full potential
- To be involved in all aspects of school life
- To enjoy a structured routine
- To make friends and develop social skills
- To feel part of the school community
- To value and understand the importance of education
- To have greater success throughout secondary school
- To be ready for learning and not miss learning opportunities
- To settle into the day
- To get into good habits for the future, both in schooling and work

Well done to these classes for achieving **over 98% Attendance** this week.  
Y2 Rowan, Y3 Cedar, Y3 Beech, Y1 Lime, Y4 Olive



### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

This week in reception the children finished the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. They created a story map of the story and used the talk for writing method to create actions for the story to help verbally retell it. They continued learning new phonics sounds and explored sounding out and blending 3 letter words to start an approach to reading.

In maths this week the children looked at the size and weight of different objects.

They used the terms smaller, bigger, lighter, and heavier.

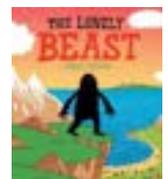
Using a balancing scale, they were able to compare the weight of two different objects to determine which object was heavier or lighter. They learnt that a bigger size does not always mean a heavier object!



The reception classes continued to work on routine and used their sorting knowledge from previous weeks to keep the classroom tidy and organised. Great job reception!

#### Year One

This week in year 1, we have been working very hard at improving our writing skills for our independent writing task in the next few weeks. We sequenced pictures from our core text *The Lonely Beast* and used time adverbials to put them in order. We also drew our own story map and investigated past tense verbs.



In maths we have been focusing on comparing objects and numbers by using comparing symbols and keywords. We challenged ourselves by writing the numbers as words and even drew our own number sentences!

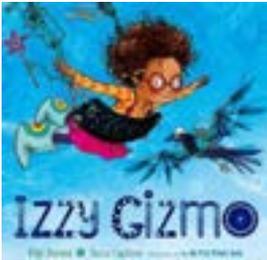
In Science, we have been investigating properties and various materials. This week, we generated a prediction on which material was best for building a boat with then, we performed an experiment and recorded our findings. The aim of the experiment was to find out which material could float in the water whilst the lonely beast (a maths cube) was on top.



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### Year Two



This week the children in year two continued their amazing writing based on the core text 'Izzy Gizmo'. They began writing a diary entry in the role of the main character Izzy. In their writing the children thought of challenging adjectives, verbs and adverbs to interest the reader and bring their diary to life.

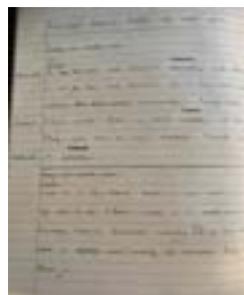
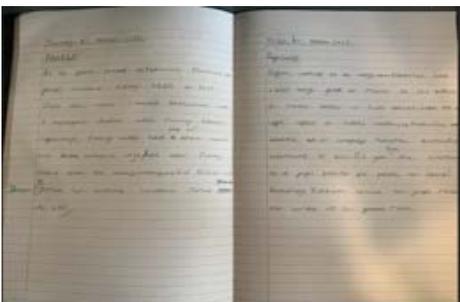
In maths the children started the week by ordering objects and numbers, then quickly moved on to counting forwards and backwards in steps of 2, 3, 5 and 10 in order to complete sequences of numbers. They were able to use a range of manipulatives as well as pictorial representations to support their understanding.

In geography, the children compared the human features in Croydon to those found in Perth, Australia. They were surprised to find that Perth had some human features in common with our local area. The children got their hands dirty in art this week as they started to make their very own clay tile. They experimented with different techniques such as slip and score, blend, mould, carve and imprint, to make very creative patterns.

### Year Three

What a busy week the children have had this week!

In English this week the children have been turning their facts about Katherine Johnson from our core text 'Hidden Figures' into sentences to form paragraphs. The children have responded to feedback to edit and improve their work.



In maths the children have been adding and subtracting ones, tens and hundreds from 3-digit numbers. The children applied their knowledge and understanding of place value to solve missing number problems.

In science, the children have continued their learning about light. This week they have been learning about shadows and how they are formed. They carried out an investigation using shadow puppets to see if the shadow increased or decreased depending on the distance of the light source from the puppet.



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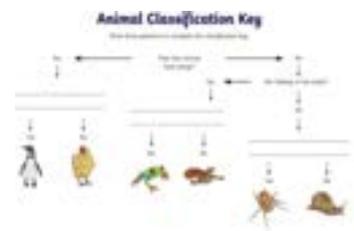
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### Year Four

In English this week the children have been preparing to write an engaging narrative based on their core text 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. They have worked hard to apply their knowledge of figurative language and 'show don't tell' imagery to capture the imagination of the reader. We look forward to reading and showcasing their final pieces.

In maths, the children have been revisiting column addition, adding two 4 - digit numbers together with more than one exchange. They then applied their knowledge to a worded question related to a real life scenario, for example: they were given a budget for a laptop and a mobile phone. They had to calculate the cost of each item and decide which they were able to afford.

In science this week, year 4 has been learning how to create a classification key to identify animals according to observable traits. They created a set of questions, using their prior learning which they put into a flow diagram to narrow the options.

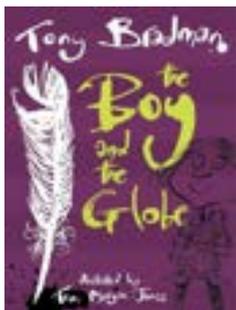


In geography the children considered the impact of a country's climate on people's lives. They identified a range of crops grown and exported from the U.K and Sri - Lanka, and considered which were more suited to either a tropical climate or a temperate climate. They were able to link the jackfruit, native to Sri – Lanka to their core text 'The girl who stole an Elephant'.

### Year Five

This week has been an incredibly busy one, as usual for Year 5! Cypress class has started their swimming lessons with Magnolia being the next class to go, starting week 7 (16th October). Canterbury Road classes will be going after the half term break.

We have continued to look at number facts in maths, this week focusing on rounding numbers up to the nearest 100,000! We will be moving on to using these facts in various addition and subtraction problems.



In English, we have used our knowledge and insight into our core text, "The Boy and the Globe" to begin to turn the story into a play! We are using the dialogue in the story as a basis for the script and adding in stage directions and additional dialogue. By the end of next week, we hope to act out some of the scripts we have created.

The best part of our week has to be our trip to Hampton Court! In addition to being able to explore the palace that Henry VIII lived in and seeing some of the things we have been learning about in History in real life, we also got to meet some of the people from the Tudor court and they gave us a great insight into the monarchs, the palaces and the



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exploration that was happening during the Tudor times. Some



children engaged in workshops where they were investigating Henry VIII, and had the opportunity to look at replica artefacts from the Tudor period ranging from French bonnets to armour and even a compass. We would like to say a huge



thank you to the parents that came with us. Experiences like this cannot happen without you and it was amazing to be able to share this with you.

### Year Six

Week 5 has been a very successful week for year 6 with lots going on! The children have started preparing to write a newspaper article on the Pig Heart Boy and they all took part in a press conference as reporters to gather quotes and information to use in their newspaper articles.

In maths, the children have been looking at factors, multiples and the rules of divisibility to help them spot if numbers are divisible by 3, 4, 6 and 9 without a remainder. In order to strengthen children's awareness of the properties of numbers, there are a number of competitions ongoing on TTRockstars with a winning class to be crowned next week! Please ask your child's teacher for the login details if you need them.

Other exciting learning has been happening in science where children have been consolidating their knowledge on the circulatory system through some fantastic double page spreads which we can't wait to share with you when complete. In art, the children have been using shading techniques to create some outstanding anatomical heart sketches to use in their final pieces. They have used our value of resilience to overcome challenges and this has led to some really excellent progress. All children should be extremely proud of their efforts.

### Reading

It has been lovely to see so many parents and families reading with their children in their classrooms during parent reading sessions this week. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next one, please check with your child's teacher when the next one is.



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## Community

### **Application to Secondary Schools for Year 6 children**

Another reminder that all the information you require about applying for secondary school placements can be found via [this link](#) - if you have any questions please ask our Year 6 teachers or family support workers - Miss Williams at Rosecourt Road and Miss Liburd at Canterbury Road.

## Legacy

An **OnSide** Youth Zone

### **Baby zone at Legacy youth club**

Connect, play and learn at Legacy baby zone. Everyone is welcome at this free fun drop in session. No need to book, just turn up each Thursday of the month (during term time) from 9:30am - 2:30pm you can stay for as long or as little as you like.

Legacy Youth Zone

125 Whitehorse Road

Croydon, CR0 2LG

### **Parentsafe - Keeping your child safe: online and beyond**

It's never easy to know how to keep our children safe on their devices! Who are they talking to, what are they doing, are they okay? Don't despair though...scroll through this website to help. <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/> The 'safe setting and control' section is particularly useful.

### **Message from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)**

As part of the VAWG (violence against women and girls) campaign, West Thornton SNT is organising a walk and talk event in and around the Thornton Heath pond area on 19th October 2023 at 6.00pm. Our aim is to make our streets safer for everyone. Please join us opposite Thornton Heath Bus Garage at 6.00pm to support the campaign and make it a great success.



## Phrases of the Week



**El valor de West Thornton es la BONDAD.** - West Thornton's value of the term is KINDNESS.

## Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Joseph	Khemyra	Eshal	Lianne	
Alesha	Zara	Kymirah	Harry	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Eesa	Scarlett	Sajid	Szymon	
Ivie	Bilal	Khirad	Mirabel	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Arayan	Florjan	Riaab	Heavenly	Nihar
Campion	Rayan	Adhithii	Samuel	Elena
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Sanuthi	Sophia	Manal	Sapna	Khairunnisa
Cairo	Aras	Aathiran	Aarohan	Johan
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Levi	Nistha	Alicia	Ismail	Romarie
Yasmine	Sofia	Jumana	Fardusa	Lucy
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Whole	Faizan	Mia Rose	Malachi	Triston



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Class	Samuel	Armin	Mohammad	Chrisanda
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Saif	Liam	Carole-Ann	Branesh	Farzeen
Jathanan	Ayanna	Zayn	Aashir	Prayush
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	Music	
Corina, Holly		Ayanna	Silver Birch	