



## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**10th November 2023**

Another lovely week has been had at West Thornton. We have enjoyed our new reading mornings across both sites which have seen children enjoying reading sessions with lots of parents and Year 5s at Canterbury Road have begun their much anticipated swimming sessions.

Please see the parental engagement letter. We are planning our best Winter Fair yet, and we would love those who wish to support and volunteer for our Winter fair to join our Parental session on Thursday 16th November. This will be at Rosecourt Road, however all parents across both sites are welcome.

Have a wonderful weekend.

### Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 96%

Year 1 - Fir	Reception - Willow
Year 2 - Rowan	Year 1 - Elm
Year 3 - Larch	Year 2 - Aspen
Year 4 - Beech	Year 2 - Palm
Year 4 - Acacia	Year 3 - Cherry
Year 5 - Cypress	Year 3 - Chestnut
Year 6 - Blackthorn	Year 4 - Hornbeam
Year 6 - Eucalyptus	Year 6 - Holly
Year 6 - Juniper	



### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

In literacy this week, the children learned about the land on Earth. They discussed the different features they could see on the land. They also learned how to create a list using the different features of a list. At the end of the week, they wrote their own list about the features they could see on the land.

The children explored the concept of one less and one more in maths this week. They were introduced to a 5 frame and worked together with a partner to show one more and one less using blocks. They continued to explore this concept during provision.

In topics this week, the children learned about Remembrance Day by exploring the importance of poppies and creating a poppy wreath for their classroom. They also discuss the story of Rama and Sita as an introduction to Diwali.



#### Year One

This week in English, the children have been sequencing the story Little Red Riding Hood and then created their own story map using time adverbials. They then moved their learning on by describing the wolf in the story, they focused on his appearance, the sounds he makes and the way he moves.

Maths this week consisted of learning about the fact family of numbers and also continued learning their number bonds within 10.

In our wider curriculum subjects, the children have been given their opinion on our local area and Croydon using their knowledge of physical and human features. They told each other what they liked about





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Croydon and then what they would like to see more of in their local area.

The children all had a very exciting computing lesson this week where they were introduced to floor robots. They learnt what each button does and then had the opportunity to give commands to program the BeeBot.

In DT they have been learning about different buildings around our local area and have been using their scientific knowledge to think about materials they can use to build their own buildings. The children talked about the properties of the recycled materials and how it needs to be strong, windproof and waterproof!

**To help the children make their models at school in the next couple of weeks, please could you kindly donate some plastic bottles, cardboard boxes and tubes to your child's class. We can not wait to start making and showing you the outcome!**



### Year Two

Another busy week in Year 2! In writing children have been generating descriptive language, a variety of conjunctions and writing in consistent present tense to describe the character of the little boy in our core text 'Drawn Together'. The children then used the language generated to write sentences about the main character. In Maths, the children have continued to work on their understanding of crossing the tens and exchanging tens to ones when necessary. Using dienes, the children have been able to see how tens can be swapped for ones in order to complete a calculation where there are not enough ones for subtraction. In History the children have been learning about



the Wright Brothers and the trials and tribulations they faced when trying to invent their flying machine. The children really immersed themselves in the brothers' story learning that they had started out making bicycles before they made the decision to attempt to design their first plane - they designed 200 planes before they were successful! The Wright brothers definitely showed the values of resilience and collaboration.

### Year Three

Once again, year 3 has had another action packed week full of learning! In English, the children have been writing instructions after making robotic helping hands incorporating rhetorical questions within their introductions, a wide range of time adverbials, adverbs and imperative verbs along with the conjunctions 'so' and 'if' to add further details. In maths the children have



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continued their addition and subtraction learning journey with adding and subtracting 2 digit and 3 digit numbers where exchanging is needed.

Within the wider curriculum the children have been creating free standing structures in DT out of card using a range of strengthening techniques to keep their structures steady including folding, layering and corrugating. The children also experimented with joining techniques including glueing, taping and stapling.



In Geography this week the children started to explore the geographical features of Rivers. The children were successfully able to identify all the key features of a river and create a glossary explaining the role of each feature. The children approached their learning with enthusiasm and we even created our own human model of a river, its source, mouth and tributaries in the classroom to demonstrate the flow of water within a river.

### Year Four

Year 4 has had an amazing week. In Science, the children have been learning how gases can be made visible. Taking their learning outside, the teachers demonstrated a simple experiment to show how CO<sub>2</sub> gas is released from a fizzing effervescent tablet submerged in water, reacting with a tealight to extinguish a small flame. The children then engaged with a carousel of experiments in the classroom to test their own hypotheses.

In maths this week, the children have applied their prior learning of times tables to create fact families, demonstrating that multiplication is commutative.

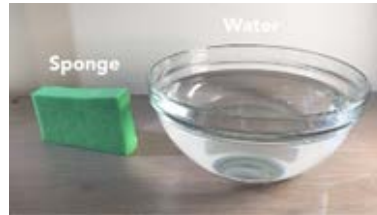
In English, we have continued our focus on the life and achievements of Greta Thunberg, creating a chronological fact file. The children researched her early life using secondary sources.

Later this week, the children began their assessments, with a positive attitude. We have been proud of their confident approach and look forward to sharing the results at parents' evening later this month.



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### Year Five

Year 5 has had another great week! In English, we have continued with our core text 'The boy in the tower'. The children have been learning how to use figurative language to write a diary entry.

This week in maths, the children started by learning about multiplies then they applied this knowledge to help them in finding common multiples and factors.

In science, children were observing reversible and irreversible changes in materials, such as ice melting and mixing Coke-Cola with bicarbonate of soda!

Hawthorn have been having a great time at swimming and are improving every day!



### Year Six

This week in year 6, the children have used our core text 'Stella by starlight' as inspiration to emphasise and describe key characters using different literary devices such as similes and show not tell to convey characters emotions and personality. Some children have also used a range of punctuation to emphasise an emotion which has been great to see. In reading children have developed their inference skills to answer key questions on the 'The caged bird' written by Maya Angelu where they have analysed the different techniques used to show two different perspectives. Additionally to this children have also

developed their understanding of fractions and have started to convert between fractions and solve a variety of problems. In curriculum children have started to learn about key activists that have fought for civil rights and the impact they have had on society. Which civil right activist do you think has made the most impact?





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### Reading recommendations



Alaela from Olive Class recommends the fairy tale Cinderella. "I have enjoyed this story because it has lots of magic including a magical fairy godmother. There are also lots of other exciting characters like the ugly step sisters".

### Community



### Parental Engagement - West Thornton Winter Fair

We will be having our own Winter Fair on **Thursday 7th December** this year. It will be based at our Rosecourt Road site. If you would like to be a part of the planning process or have any ideas of what you would like to include in this year's fair then please come along to our Parental Engagement session on **Thursday 16th November from 8.45** for a **9.00 start**. We would love to have your input.



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### Phrases of the Week



**El valor de West Thornton es el RESPETO.** - West Thornton's value of the term is RESPECT.

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Eloise	Leen	Brandon	Denis	
Derrick	Asher	Aaliyah	Haris	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Alayah	Christaleen	Paulyn	Sufiyaan	
Maya	David	Cheyavan	Chloe	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Kavinu	Ayesha	Krish	Adonia	Shylah
Rebeca	Rayan	Fatima	Romelle	Nabil
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Aarav	Amelia	Hazel	Jessinton	Anabiah
Daniel	Thasmiya	Nevaeh	Dolce	Eagan
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Sivani	Avaneesh	Aamir	Apsaran	Tanisha
Reggie - Jay	Indi	Jumana	Isabel	Elijah B.
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Zahra	Noble	Shaniya F	Katrina	Tatiyana



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Affan	Amelie	Aseye	Adlyn	Nika
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Israel	Teon	Joel	Meer	Haajrah
David	Kaaviyaa	Maaz	Akshitha R	Arya
Spanish				
Teon Eucalyptus				