



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

8th December 2023

Wow what a busy and successful week it has been again at West Thornton! Year 3 enjoyed their trip to the Hindu Saiva Temple this week and we held an extremely successful Winter Fair at our Rosecourt Road site yesterday.



Families enjoyed visiting Santa and his helper, making a range of Christmas crafts, trying their luck at one of our raffles or tombolas, banging out a tune at the Christmas karaoke, having their nails painted and enjoying some of the many yummy edible treats that were available. Thank you very much to all of our children and families who attended. Your support is extremely important to us and the high turn out yesterday really highlights what a fantastic school community we have!

A huge thank you to all of the staff and parents from both sites who helped and supported in the lead up to the fair as well as on the night. In the space of a week, we have raised almost £2,000 through our Mufti day, cake sales and our Winter Fair! A special thank you to Ms Abraham (Assistant Headteacher at Rosecourt Road) for coordinating the whole thing! We are looking forward to working with parents and our Junior Leadership Team to find ways of using some of this money to support pupils in our school and our local community.



Winter Concerts

Our Winter Concerts kick off next Friday (EYFS) - please use Arbor to secure tickets to come and watch these fantastic festive performances.

Attendance

Well done to these classes with Attendance over 97%

Y1 - Elm

Y3 - Cedar

Y3 - Cherry - well done to Cherry class with 100% attendance

Y4 - Olive

Y5 - Silver Birch



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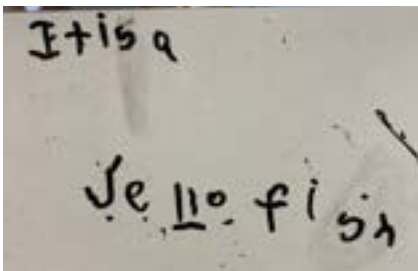
Y6 - Holly

Y6 - Blackthorn

Just a reminder that school starts at **8.40am** and closes at **3.15pm**. Please make sure your child is at school on time & collected promptly at **3.15pm** from the playground.

Curriculum Focus

Reception



What an exciting week it has been in reception! This week in literacy, the children described sea creatures and wrote sentences to include their description. They worked really hard to sound out each word to identify the dominant phonemes they would hear before writing them.

In maths the children continued their learning of shapes by looking at the properties of squares and rectangles. They identified that both shapes have 4 sides and 4 corners but a rectangle has 2 long sides and 2 short sides while a square has 4 equal sides. To finish the week off, they explored the concept of time by looking at day and night.



This week's topic was art. The children discussed the work of Wassily Kandinsky and explored the wonders of colour mixing and how some colours need to be made using other colours.

A big shout out to all those children who used google classroom to complete their homework this week. The pictures are fantastic and the children love showing off their work to the class!





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Year One

Finally! Year 1 has been working super hard in the completion of their story writing independently. They made edits to their work, making sure to spell the year 1 common exception words correctly and expanded their sentences to make further improvements.

In maths, the children have continued their learning on subtraction. This week they learnt new vocabulary when subtracting (minuend - subtrahend = difference) and used number lines to support their working out.

In geography this week, the children identified human and physical features in the Croydon area on a map. They were able to name the feature using key terminology. In science this week the children had fun experimenting with materials in different weather conditions (wind, rain and heat) they identified the most suitable material to build a house with.



Year Two



It's been another jam packed week in Year 2! In English, the children have been writing their very own list poems based on our core text 'The Dark'. The children immersed themselves in activities that allowed them to use their senses to generate interesting language for their poetry. They listened to footsteps, creaking doors and hooting owls to inspire them as well as experience the dark underneath a table covered in blankets. The poems were very eerie and atmospheric!

In Maths, the children continued to build on their understanding of addition and subtraction by using the column method to solve calculations and solve missing number calculations using tens frames. Children also have had opportunities to solve one step worded problems beginning to understand the connection between reading and maths.

In computing, children used their programming skills to instruct Bee-bots. They had to ensure the correct instructions were given in order for the Bee-bots to successfully complete a trail. Children were thrilled to be able to direct their Bee-bot correctly whilst others persevered when the instructions given didn't quite have the desired results.





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Year Three

What a week the children have had this week in Year 3! In English the children have stepped into their role of reporters and have begun their exciting newspaper articles about Rosie Revere the genius child engineer! They have made sure to include formal language in their writing including a variety of sentence openers, journalistic phrases and direct speech.



In maths the children have been focusing on multiplying and dividing by 3. They have used their knowledge of the 3 times table to solve number problems, using manipulatives to support them when needed.



In wider curriculum subjects the children have consolidated their learning of Hinduism, with a trip to the local Mandir, they were excited to see lots of the artefacts. In Science the children have enjoyed planning an investigation into whether the strength of a magnet is dependent on their size. The children followed their designs and plan to begin the making of their photo frames during our DT learning process.

Year Four

In English, year 4 children have been learning about different sentence types. The children have learned how to use coordinating conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions to generate simple, compound and complex sentences. They have applied this knowledge to create sentences about the effects of climate change. In addition, the children learnt about persuasive devices, such as rhetorical questions and the power of 3, which they used to write their persuasive speeches on climate change.

In maths, year 4 children have been exploring ways in which to multiply 3 numbers, such as multiplying a number by 10, then multiplying it by 1, and then adding the totals together to find the product. They then applied this knowledge to solve worded problems.

In science, the children carried out an experiment to find out which type of chocolate would melt the fastest. They conducted an experiment using white chocolate, milk chocolate or dark chocolate. The children made regular observations and recorded what they saw. They found that the white chocolate melted the fastest, which many of them had predicted. This was due to the fact that it had a high cocoa butter content and had no cocoa solids.



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Year Five

What an amazing week full of learning and collaboration in Year 5. In English students have continued to explore what makes a good news report and are now transforming into journalists themselves. They are beginning their news reports based on main events of our class text this term "The Boy in the Tower." They have been sure to experiment with descriptive phrases as we have analysed the impact of the literary technique "show don't tell" has on an audience.

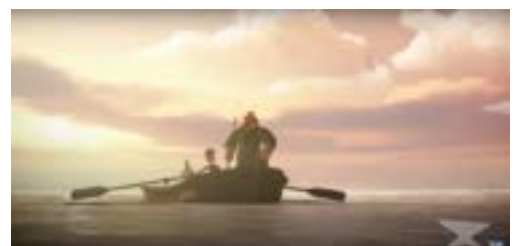
In Maths, students have continued to learn about fractions. They have played games to develop their conceptual understanding of equivalent fractions and are beginning to investigate the connection between improper fractions and mixed numbers. Students are converting improper fractions into mixed numbers and demonstrating their conceptual understanding through diagrams and reasoning problems.

In the wider curriculum, students are learning to take responsibility for their feelings in RSHE. They are continuing to consolidate their understanding on states of matter through conducting a series of fair tests and are comparing and contrasting geographical changes over time in Geography.

Year Six

This week the children have been working hard in maths to consolidate their most recent learning of fractions and applying them to SATS style reasoning and problem solving questions. It has been great to see how confident they are in a challenging topic and they are showing great progress. Additionally, the children have had lots of arithmetic practice to ensure that they are confident in quick calculations and have secure number knowledge.

In Writing, they have immersed themselves into a new writing stimulus called 'Catch a lot' - a film about two whalers who are thrown into a storm whilst trying to catch a whale. They have generated lots of precise vocabulary to describe and have thought carefully about how to make their characters different through their dialogue and action.



In Reading, the children have really enjoyed reading the second chapter of 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'. It has been great to see such an improvement in children's reading as a result of their



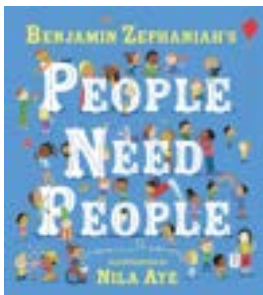
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fluency practise in lessons. They are also beginning to become more confident with answering SATS style questions and showing a deeper understanding of the text. In their wider curriculum, the children learned about the Buddhist festival of Vesak and discussed the importance of it. They used laptops and ipads to research information about the festival and created informative posters about it.

Reading recommendations

In light of the sad news of the death of poet and writer Benjamin Zephaniah yesterday, Mrs Callaghan would like to recommend two fantastic books that he wrote.



People Need People - a poetic tale about the power of people and the importance of connecting with others - a great read!

Talking Turkeys - a collection of poems that bounce up from the page and demand to be read, rapped, sung and hip-hopped aloud.



Community

SLT Coffee Mornings

Thank you so much to all the parents who attended the SLT Coffee Mornings at both Rosecourt Road and Canterbury Road this week. At Canterbury Road, Mrs Gallagher and Mr Owen really enjoyed meeting you all and it was so nice to see new parents and existing members of our community. At Rosecourt Road, Ms Abraham, Mrs Little, Mrs Benham and Mrs Callaghan enjoyed meeting with new and familiar faces.

Rosecourt Road

Thank you to the parents who attended and have joined our growing PTA. It is great to have you on board. It was lovely getting to know more about you and what concerns and worries you have for your children and how we can support some of these. Thank you for sharing that you found parents evenings really helpful and that the feedback shared was useful. It was also good to hear that recent conversations with teachers and phase leaders have been positive and provided answers to queries that you had.

Canterbury Road

It was really pleasing to hear the positive changes that have been noted around previous feedback. For example, it was nice to hear that homework is being acknowledged and marked



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regularly, motivating children to do more! It was also nice to hear that you've recognised our continuing positive changes around the playground systems and the continued improvement in behaviour at lunchtimes and playtimes. Thank you also for the positive feedback on the extra boosters we are doing with Year 6 at the moment.

In light of your feedback around communication we are going to:

- produce a monthly email which outlines the events and opportunities for parent school collaboration, rather than send these all as separate emails - we hear that you are getting too many! And;
- where possible, we will send information in the main body of emails, not as attachments, so you don't need to download these. Paper copies of anything that is sent as an attachment will also be made

We'd really like to see as many parents as possible at the next session in January - and of course - please do give feedback at any time. This is your school!

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué tiempo hace? - What's the weather like?

Hace frío y está lloviendo. - It's cold and raining.

Stars of the Week

YR Willow	YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine
Reece	Trey	Jayce	Whole Class
Ariana	Abilene	Ammarah	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Gabriel	Benjamin	Loreran	Thishaan
Vihaan	Bilal	Thiyan	Naqasha



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Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Wali	Florjan	Keevah	Kaseon	Jessica
Kirlore	Maryama	Shahid	Diyone	Chanelle
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Alana	Stephen	Ravani	Isiah	Stanley
Persis	Samuela	Priansh	Jessica	Sebastian
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Luke	Narayan	Amelia	Zayne	Kavinei
Ziana	Amir	Caleb	Skylar	Tanuj
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Anaya	Rexharrison	Ayushi	Alishba	Yanis
Varnikhasree	Aisha	Destiny	Rebecca S.	Antoni
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Yusra	Aliyah	Samuel	Ifeanyi	Lathusan
Vishnu	Vithush	Raza	Corina	Arsheen
Spanish				
Sara Blackthorn				