



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**12th January 2024**

We have had a great start to the new year and Spring 1 Half Term. Children have come back to school full of energy and ready to continue their learning. We have already started the half term with a visit from Ranger Stu for the children in EYFS and have many other exciting trips booked for the children during the rest of this term. Each year group's curriculum newsletter will be sent out next week and will include details of all of the upcoming trips for the rest of the half term, as well as information on what the children will be learning in each subject.

Alongside the curriculum newsletter, we will also be sending home knowledge organisers which contain all key vocabulary and sticky knowledge the children will be learning over the course of the half term. We encourage parents to practise children's recall and retention each week when they are completing their homework, as this will support learning in class.

Reading continues to be a priority across West Thornton this half term. With this in mind, we are very keen to continue to welcome parents in to read each week. Please speak to your child's class teacher for more information.

Finally, after school clubs for the Spring term begin next week. Spaces are still available through Arbor if you would like to sign up.

### Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

RR Y1 Fir 97.2%

CR Y5 Sycamore 97.62%

RR Y2 Poplar 98%

RR Y3 Cedar 98.8%

RR Y4 Beech 97.2%



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RR Y4 Yew 97.7%

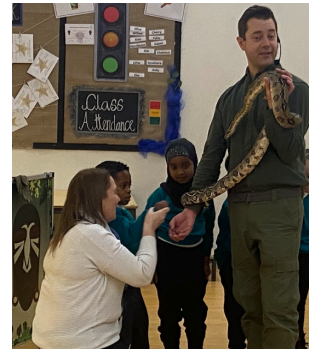
RR Y5 Cypress 98.8%

### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception



This week in reception, the children have been introduced to their new topic on animals and their habitats. As a hook into this, they had a visit from Ranger Stu! He came to school to show them some exotic animals, such as a tarantula, a python and even an armadillo! The children have used this as a hook into some of their writing this week and they have been making lists of the animals they saw.



In literacy, the children have started using their new core text 'Where's the Elephant?'. This book is unusual as it has no words, however the pictures cleverly tell the story. The children have noticed that in the rainforest, the trees have slowly been chopped down to make way for roads and houses. The children have begun to retell their own version of the story using their own story maps and actions. In the provision they have been painting the characters from the story and have been making their own animals out of playdough.

In their maths learning this week, the children have been looking at different measurements. They have discussed the words 'heavy' and 'light' and have used balance scales to measure how heavy something is. They have also used comparative language, such as 'heavier' and 'lighter' to compare two objects' weight. They have also looked at capacity and have discussed how full a container is and have compared different containers. They have realised that larger containers hold more and smaller containers hold less.



In the wider curriculum this week, the children have been learning about what kindness is and how they can be kind to each other. They listened to the story 'The Rainbow Fish' and made a list of ways to show kindness in the classroom.



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### Year One

This week in Year one, the children have had an exciting start by reading their new core text 'The King who banned the dark' By Emily Haworth-Booth. They then discussed the meaning of new vocabulary that links to our new global theme 'Power and governance'. To understand the character of the king, the children generated questions and then acted in role to understand their ideas. The children then generated vocabulary to describe the main character's appearance and personality and used these to independently write a character description.

In maths this week, the children have been learning about teen numbers and been looking at their value. The children have been using manipulatives to learn about the value of teen numbers and been partitioning them to recognise how many tens and ones are in each number.

In the wider curriculum, Year one has learned about the Jewish faith and their beliefs. They started by learning about the Mezuzah, a special script, and then wrote their own promises.

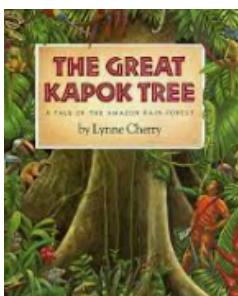
### Year Two

Year Two have returned to school enthusiastic and eager to read. They have been enjoying their new core text 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Dawalt. In the story the characters, the crayons, write persuasive letters to the little boy to persuade him to change how he colours. Inspired by these letters they have begun to plan to write their own.

In maths they have been learning about money. They have learnt that different coins and notes have different values. They have also recalled their prior learning in year 1 about counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to help them to calculate the total amount of money.

In art the children have been learning about the artist Sally Morgan. They created their own viewfinders to look carefully at some of her work. Then they created their own moodboards which explored the lines, textures and colours that she used in her work. They are looking forward to being inspired by these to create paintings inspired by her later this term.

### Year Three



Year 3 have returned back to school showing an eagerness to learn! The children have fully immersed themselves in their new core text 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. They have discussed the meaning of our new global theme 'sustainable development' and what that means for rainforests across the world. They have absorbed lots of information about the Amazon



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rainforest and used these to generate rhetorical questions to include in their final outcome.

In maths the children have been very busy learning about multiplication. They looked at multiples of 10 and used their knowledge of tens and ones to solve both multiplication and division calculations. They have also learnt how to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number.



In the wider curriculum, the children have begun to learn about rocks. They started their learning with an experiment to see how rocks are formed...using 3 different types of chocolate!



### Year Four

In Year Four we have immersed ourselves into our new text, 'The adventures of Odysseus' - we've been enthralled and disgusted by the actions of the Cyclops! During English, we have started to look at features of a myth, and thought about the best character traits of our heroes, so that we can start to create our own hero.

We are continuing with multiplication and division in Maths, and have found factor pairs of products and made factor bugs, as well looking at how numbers move in place value charts when we multiply and divide by 10 and 100.

For Art, we are researching Ancient Greek pottery, and have started to sketch our own designs, which we will be making. In History we have used atlases to find the differences and similarities between modern day Greece and Ancient Greece, and have talked about how far the Ancient Greek empire reached, and why, focussing especially on their proximity to the sea, and how that helped them travel far from home.

### Year Five

It has been a great start to 2024 with lots of different topics to explore! Everyone has been so focused and enthusiastic about being back and our new topics that it looks like we are going to have a fantastic half term (albeit a very short one!).



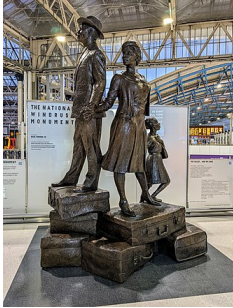
In English, we have started a new core text: Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah. As part of that, we had a Jamaican afternoon where we got to experience different facets of Jamaican culture. We learned about Maroon Town, the town that the main character comes from, we had a little dance party with some Reggae music and we got to try some Jamaican food.





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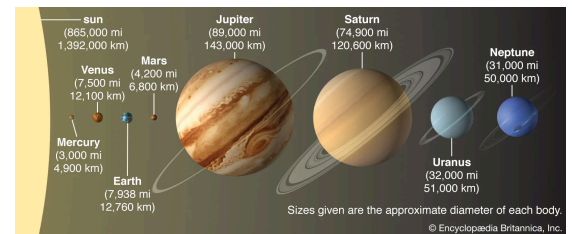
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Our Art is linked to our core text and we will be exploring and creating our own sculptures based on the Windrush Monument at Waterloo by the artist Basil Watson. We will be looking at how to create our as well as how to tell a story using a static piece of art. If you are near Waterloo at any point, take a moment to look at and understand the statue.

In Science, we are looking at our Solar system and have already looked at the Moon landing and devised some

questions that we will try to find the answers to this half term. We will be going to the Science museum to further our understanding of space later in a few weeks time so look out for the letters.



### Year Six

It has been so lovely seeing the children across Year 6 this week and hearing about all the exciting things they did over the Christmas holidays. We are particularly proud of those who also found time to do revision!! We hope that everyone had a rest and are feeling energised and ready for a short, but very busy, half term!



This week, the children have enjoyed immersing themselves into history by learning all about World War 2 and why it started. They created timelines about each event that happened in the run up to the war and showed their understanding of why the conflict began.

In Writing, they have also been learning about and showing empathy towards evacuees, who were evacuated from London before WW2 started. They have thought about how it would feel to have to leave your home, what they would take with them in their suitcases and even made their own identification labels and gas masks.

Well done to Year 6 for a great first week back!



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### Community

**Thornton Heath Sustainable Living Hub**

**SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY**  
**1-4pm**  
Thornton Heath  
Salvation Army  
66 High Street  
CR7 8LF  
**free entry**

**FREE ELECTRICAL REPAIR • KIDS ZONE**  
**LEARN CLOTHES MENDING • BICYCLE REPAIR**  
**SWEET & SAVOURY VEGAN FOOD & DRINKS**  
**FREE ENERGY ADVICE • ETHICAL FINANCES**  
**MONEY SAVING TIPS • CLOTHES SWAP**  
**CLEANING & BODY CARE REFILLS**  
**PLANT-BASED DIET ADVICE**  
**DROP OFF UNWANTED IT DEVICES**  
**DROP OFF HARD-TO-RECYCLE ITEMS**

**FREE WORKSHOP**  
**LEARN ABOUT & TASTE CHOCOLATE**

learn more about our events and how to get involved at  
[sustaintheath.wordpress.com](http://sustaintheath.wordpress.com)  
or email  
[sustainablethorntonheath@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablethorntonheath@gmail.com)





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### Phrases of the Week



**¡Bienvenidos a todos y Feliz Año Nuevo!** - Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year!

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
George	Halima	Alia	Musa	
Elektra	Bhumi	Rashad	Kehlani	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Thenila	Whole class	Khuban	Eugithan	
Param		Ava M	Yousef	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Mariama	Aaminah	Aliza	Romelle	Shylah
Isabella	Arielle	Nitya	Ana	Anmol
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Karim	Faiz	Brianna	Jarren	Fiza
Hasan	Daniella	Priyansh	Precious	Farzan
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Aarush	Tayo	Fiona	Khashifa	Josiyah
Genieve	Devika	Ejatu	Loredana	Kayan
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Alvina	Faizan	Mohamad	Anika	Dylan



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Nissi	Naaba	Armin	Parth	Rowan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sujanaa	Amarah	Leeroy	Arthur	Zariah
Nadaniel	JJ	Shaniyah	Yasmin	Lakai
Spanish				
Micah Cherry				