



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

26th January 2024

With the weather feeling slightly warmer, it's a great week at West Thornton! This week, our Year 1 children enjoyed a trip to the Tower of London where they learnt more about the history of the building and got to witness sparkling jewels and crowns. We are looking forward to seeing their own crown creations in their Art lessons over the upcoming weeks.

A reminder that your children have access to lots of useful educational resources at home that they should all have logins for. These include: TT Rockstars and Collins Hub Ebooks. Please liaise with your child's class teacher if your child has misplaced their login or has any challenges accessing these resources at home.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have had a great turn out from parents coming into Reception and Year 1 Phonics Gallery Lessons. Keep an eye out for more parent workshops scheduled over this term; your attendance really is valued so please don't miss out!

Have a fabulous weekend everyone!

Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

CR - Y2 Aspen 98%

CR - Y2 Palm 97.1%

CR - Y4 Olive 97.6%

CR - Y5 Hawthorn 98.3%

CR - Y5 Sycamore 97.6%

CR - Y6 Acer 97.4%

RR - Y2 Poplar 98.33%

RR - Y3 Cedar 97.62%

RR - Y4 Beech 99.44%

RR - Y5 Silver Birch 97.22%

RR - Blackthorn 97.22%

RR - Eucalyptus 98.28%



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week in Reception the children have been continuing to explore their core text 'Where's the Elephant?' This week they have been looking at facts about the characters in the story. The children have learnt about what a fact is and have used their phonics to write facts about the elephant, parrot and the snake.

In maths, reception have been learning the concept of doubling. They have been counting the dots on one half of the ladybird and finding the matching other half. They have also learnt how numbers can be odd or even by understanding that even numbers are made of pairs. They understand that odd numbers have pairs but with an extra one.

In topic this week, reception have been learning about minibeasts and learning facts about different insects and minibeasts. They have begun to look at bees and why bees are so important to the planet. The children have used their skills to draw and paint some beautiful bees. They have been researching this through our second text 'Why do we need bees?'.



Year One

This week year 1 went on an exciting trip to the Tower of London. They had an amazing time walking around and learning about the history of the famous tower. The children enjoyed looking at all the jewels and crowns which gave them ideas for their own crowns that they are making this term in art.

In maths we have been looking at number lines, the children have learnt about estimating on a number line and

comparing numbers between 0 and 20.

The children have really enjoyed RSHE and science this week. In RSHE we have been learning about what newborns, babies and young children need to survive. We talked about how you become more independent as you grow older. In science the children explored which animals were wild and which were domestic animals.





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Year Two

The children in Year 2 have been working hard this week. They have written a letter last week. This week they have been editing their letters, focusing on spelling, grammar and adding details to make their letters more persuasive. Finally, they have published their finished letters!

In maths the children have continued working with money, adding amounts together to work out totals and discussing whether amounts are greater than, less than or equal to. The children are working with pounds and pence when calculating and are using their knowledge of addition to support them.



In art the children have been focusing on an Australian artist Sally Morgan. Sally Morgan uses lots of bright colours, shades and lines to create her work so the children have been practising different ways to make shades and tints as well as experimenting with different lines and textures. We cannot wait to see their final pieces of art!

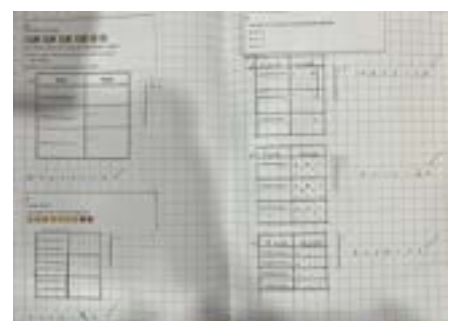


Year Three

As always it's been a busy week in Year 3. The children have worked hard across all subjects developing the subject knowledge especially in Geography and Science. In Geography this week the children learnt about Deforestation and why it happens. The children were extremely surprised at the many different reasons as to why deforestation happens, including people using the land to make money, build homes and to make space for plantations and farming. Please ask the children to share their knowledge with you. We guarantee they will impress you.

Our English learning journey this term links very closely to our work in Geography and then children have been generating ideas ready to undertake some persuasive writing as to why the woodcutter in our core text shouldn't cut down the great Kapok Tree. The children will use persuasive language to structure their writing and extend their sentences using a range of conjunctions.

In maths this week the children have been applying their knowledge of place value to help them with dividing a 2 digit





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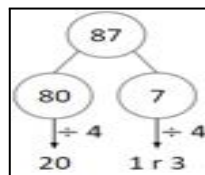
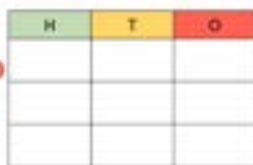
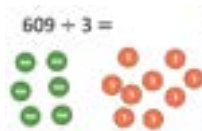
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number by a 1 digit number. They have used a range of practical resources including place value charts, counters and dienes to support their understanding. Later in the week the children were challenged to divide with remainders. The children rose to the challenge and were very successful in their learning. To support the children's learning, you could ask the children to explain the methods they have used and let them become the teacher for the evening.

Year Four

In Year Four, the children have been learning how to correctly punctuate dialogue using inverted commas. They have been using their noticing skills to find punctuation that is missing in sentences, and have collaborated with one another to come up with rules for ensuring the correct punctuation is used. The children used this knowledge in sentences that they generated as part of their narrative on the story of Odysseus.

In Maths, the children began their learning on division. They have been learning about different methods of division, such as: place value counters, part-part whole and the bus stop method. The children were enthused by their learning as they were able to apply their multiplication facts to help them to solve the calculations..



In science, children have continued their learning on Electricity by making simple circuits. They began by making predictions about different circuits and whether they would work by lighting a bulb. They then tested their predictions and checked whether or not the bulb would light up.

Year Five

In Year 5 this week, our students have been on an exciting journey of learning! The children have been exploring the wonderful world of words! The children have been busy learning and practising literary and structural techniques to make their writing even more engaging. From onomatopoeia, where words sound like the noises they describe, to the use of pathetic fallacy and preposition expressions that add detail and depth to their sentences, our students are truly becoming wordsmiths! It's been a week filled with creativity and imagination as they continue to hone their skills in crafting vivid and captivating stories.

This week in Year 5, our young mathematicians have been diving into the world of division! They've been learning about the short method, also known as the bus stop method, to divide numbers



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efficiently. With this method, they're mastering the art of breaking down big problems into smaller, more manageable steps

In their Religious Education lessons, they delved into Sikhism and discovered the significance of the 5 K's of the Khalsa, gaining a deeper understanding of this rich cultural tradition.

Meanwhile, in Science lessons, the children continued their exploration of space as they learnt about the movement of planets, discovering fascinating facts like the varying lengths of days on different planets compared to Earth. And to top it all off, the students from Canterbury Road had a blast during their visit to the Science Museum on Tuesday, where they got hands-on with interactive exhibits and experienced the wonders of space up close!

Year Six

Year six have been fully immersed in their learning on World War 2 this week. They have been deepening their understanding of how people's lives were affected during the war and their experiences during the Blitz. The children have also been using this knowledge to help them understand why evacuation was essential at the start of the War. Through this learning, they have been able to empathise with the evacuee's journey to the countryside and their new life in an unfamiliar place by generating language to describe their new surroundings.

In maths, the children have been applying their understanding of the four operations to decimal numbers and are able to confidently manipulate addition, subtraction, multiplication and division questions. They also applied their learning to solve worded problems, focusing on unpicking the question carefully and estimating the answer before starting.

In science, the children have been enthusiastic electricians, applying learning from year 4 on electricity to create and draw a variety of circuit diagrams. They used the correct symbols and presented their learning neatly and clearly.

Reading recommendations

The staff book club have been reading 'The last thing he told me' by Laura Dave. If you like reading mystery and thrillers this is well worth a read. It has a few twists and keeps you wanting to read more. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and I will definitely be reading other books by Laura Dave.





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Phrases of the Week



¿Cuál es tu color favorito? - What's your favourite colour?

Mi color favorito es el rojo. - My favourite colour is red.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Aysha	Havishh	Brandon	Musa	
Alicia	Asher	Hitarth	Aisha	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Whole class	Whole class	Whole class	Whole class	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Wali	Maryama	Shahid	Younus	Anaya
Jensi	Eisa	Adhithii	Isabella	Arbjon
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Sharick	Jahmeil	Anaya	Sapna	Kharunnisa
Kyron	Zanneyah	Brianna	Joshua	Maya
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Levi	sofia	Kiven	Ekhlas	Zayaana
Arianna	Manahil	Caleb	Diaa	Lucy
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Mahsa	Ammar	Aseye	Malachi	Janelle
Ajla	Autumn	Shaniya D	Sahra	Chrisanda



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Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Noorjahan	Nicholas	Aliyah	Akshitha R	Serena
Emiljan	Philana	Jason	Corina	Ife
Spanish				
Zlatko Sycamore				