



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

10th May 2024

It has been a jam packed four day week for us at West Thornton. Year 3 made the most of the lovely weather when they went on a trip to Butser Farm on Tuesday. Staff and children were amazed by what they had learnt whilst on the visit and couldn't wait to tell everyone all about it when they returned to school. The children were great representations of West Thornton Primary. Well done Year 3.

Leaders from our school met with governors and other leaders in the trust this week to share examples of progress and achievements from the Spring term. It has been a great opportunity for leaders to come together to discuss successes and plans to address next steps.

We will return to a normal five day week next week where the focus will be on Year 6 having an opportunity to shine. Next week our Year 6 children will be sitting their SATs (Standard Assessment Tests). These are statutory exams that all children in year 6 are required to take. The children have been working hard in preparation for these exams and we know that they will absolutely give it their best effort. We think they are all amazing and know that SATs show us just a snapshot of their many capabilities and talents. Good luck Year 6!

Attendance

Well done to those classes who have attendance over 97% this week.

CR - Year 2 Aspen

RR - Reception Pine Class

CR - Year 2 Palm

RR - Year 3 Cedar Class

CR - Year 3 Chestnut

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

CR - Year 5 Sycamore

CR - Year 6 Holly



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365 DAYS IN EACH YEAR	175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR		→				175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments		
	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR <small>190 days for your child's education</small>	5 days absence	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence	29 days absence <small>(5 weeks 4 days) Half a term missed</small>	38 days absence <small>(7 weeks 3 days)</small>	47 days absence <small>(9 weeks 2 days)</small>		
		185 DAYS OF EDUCATION		161 DAYS OF EDUCATION					
	100%	97%	95%	85%	80%	75%			
	GOOD		WORRYING		SERIOUS CONCERN				
	Best chance of success		Less chance of success		Not fair on your child				
	Gets your child off to a flying start		Makes it harder to make progress		Court action!				

Every minute counts

The playground gates open at 8.40am and your child is expected to enter school no later than 8.55am. As lessons start promptly once the children are in school, it is important that they are not late.

- 5 minutes late a day = 3 days lost per year
- 10 minutes late a day = 6 days lost per year
- 15 minutes late a day = 10 days lost per year
- 30 minutes late a day = 19 days per year lost

Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week in Reception, the children have continued to explore their core text 'It's Okay to be Different.' In literacy they have been writing sentences about what they like. They have been looking at their personal targets and learning how to edit their sentences using the 'Writer's Toolkit' which reminds them to check for capital letters, finger spaces





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and full stops. They have continued to use their phonetic knowledge to write simple sentences using the sentence stem 'I like ____ because ____'.

This week in maths, the children have extended their learning about shapes. They have named shapes, manipulated and formed different shape pictures by rotating and turning shapes.



In their Topic learning, the children discussed the character skill of Wonder, Integrity, Leadership and Mindset. They discussed traits of how character skills will help develop their skills of values, and behaviours. All the children promised to follow the character skills, which was evident through various actions as the week went on.

Year One

This week in year 1 the children have had fun reading a new core text called 'The sky garden'. We have also been looking at instructional writing and using time adverbials to write instructions for growing a plant.

In maths the children have been learning about halves and showing this in different ways. The children shaded and cut shapes in half to show their understanding.

There has been so much going on in curriculum this week and the children have really enjoyed comparing rural and urban areas in the UK. They have looked at deciduous and evergreen trees and what the differences were between the two. The children had fun sorting out the different types of trees into the correct groups. In PE the children have had fun lessons preparing them for sports day coming up. They have been working on their aiming and throwing skills.

Year Two

The new learning in English this week was based around instructional writing. The children first had to think about what the main features of instructions are. These include a title, a list of things needed, numbered instructions and time adverbials. They also include ordered commands with imperative verbs that explain what to do step by step. Finally they might include adverbs to give more information on how to complete each step. The children ended the week by writing their own instructions on how to make a carnival head using all of these features.





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In maths this week the children have continued their learning of time with them learning how to tell the time to the hour and telling the time in five minute intervals for example 20 minutes past 3 and 25 minutes to 10. This learning finished with the children completing problems based around how many minutes in an hour and how many hours in a day.



It's been another exciting week in science. After the children planted their beans last week they have been amazed while watching them germinate and begin to sprout. The children used their observational skills to look at and measure the beans planted in the different environments (sand, compost, cotton wool and air) They then wrote about what they noticed. Which of the beans do you think the children observed had grown the most?

Year Three

What an amazing week in Year 3! Our week started on high with our long awaited trip to Butser Farm where we were transported back in time to the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Our trip started with a visit to a Bronze Age home where the children's learning about settlements was brought to life. The children then went on to explore the archaeological site looking at a variety of artefacts from across the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Later, the children had the opportunity to experience lighting a fire using methods from the Stone Age, which proved rather difficult! We can now see why they never let a fire go out! The children also enjoyed creating pottery using a clay mixture and shaping it using methods from the Stone Age. The trip was an amazing experience for all the children that brought our learning to life.



Throughout the rest of the week, the children have worked hard in their English lessons writing a short narrative based on what they think would happen to Oliver Twist's life after he escapes the evil clutches of Fagin and Bill. The children focussed on using similes to describe and show not tell language to share the emotions and experiences Oliver might feel. In maths, the children



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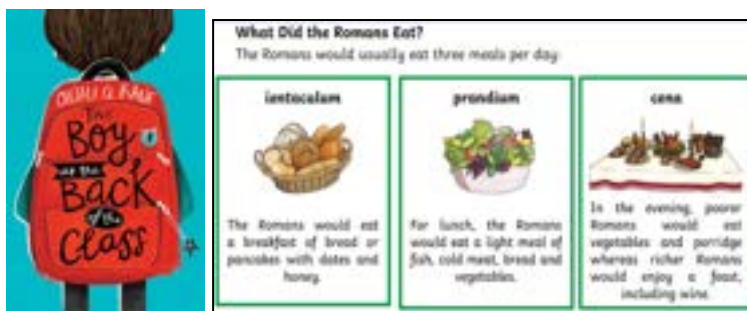
completed their unit on money where they have been successful in finding amounts of money, change from notes and adding and subtracting amounts.

Year Four

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 4 this week. Students have been working hard to use a range of different vocabulary to write their prequel to our focus novel 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. They explored the use of similes and metaphors to better describe the experiences and emotions experienced by our main character and to show not tell our readers what was happening.

We continued to explore the use of money in our maths lessons and how we can estimate the values of items using rounding. We looked at the different ways we can calculate with money through adding pounds and pences, and through subtracting using a part-whole model.

In history we have been learning about the Romans and how they have contributed to Britain. This week we looked at the different foods, clothes and jobs of ancient Romans and compared them to what we have in Britain today. It has been really interesting to see the different ways Romans have contributed to Britain.



Year Five

Another week has flown by, filled with enriching activities and dedicated learning. Here's a glimpse into what our year 5's have been up to:

Our young writers have been continuing to dive deep into the world of biographies! With passion and determination, they've embarked on a fascinating journey of research, each selecting a famous naturalist to study. From meticulous fact-finding missions to crafting the



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structure of the biographies, our students have been honing their writing skills while delving into the lives of inspiring figures.

Angles have been the focus in our maths lessons, and our students have been enthusiastically embracing the challenge. Armed with protractors, they've been measuring angles of varying degrees, mastering the art of angle drawing, and even cracking the code to find missing angles. It's been a week filled with geometric discoveries and mathematical triumphs.

In geography, we've been learning about natural resources and how they're spread around the world. Our students have been talking about how things people do and things that happen in nature affect where these resources are found. It's been really interesting to see how everything connects and how important it is to take care of our planet's resources.

Year Six

This week in Year 6 has been very productive, and the children have been working hard.

In maths, we've been revising fractions, decimals, and percentages and children applied their understanding to solve worded problems. We've also been practising a range of mixed operations questions to prepare for our SATS exams next week.

In writing, children have been busy finalising their explanation texts. These texts feature a range of devices to engage the audience, such as rhetorical questions, humour, and anecdotes. Students also referenced their science learning on electricity and included detailed explanations on how to create a lemon battery.

In geography, the children have been learning about push and pull factors. This week, they explored the topic of urbanisation in relation to our learning about Brazil. Pupils planned and wrote a letter to a friend explaining their decision to relocate from the rural Caatinga region to Brazil's capital city, Brasilia. We were incredibly impressed by how well children were able to demonstrate their understanding of geographical concepts through their letters.



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Community



Due to the great success of our recent book swaps, we have decided to roll them out fortnightly from next Wednesday 15th May.

Please remember that children are encouraged to bring back the previous book they borrowed and swap it for a new one. We must limit children to swapping one book at a time, otherwise there will be minimal books for the following book swap.

Please bring any spare books to the office in preparation for our next

swap.





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We're thrilled to announce the launch of the Young Translators program at West Thornton! With the invaluable support of Mrs. Kowlessar and our talented bilingual students, this initiative aims to support language learners within our diverse school community.

We understand the challenges that come with learning a new language, and we hope that our young translators, alongside the school pastoral team, can provide assistance and ease some of the associated stress.

We aim for this program to not only provide practical help but also promote inclusivity and a sense of belonging within our school. Huge thanks to our students and their families for their dedication to making this initiative a reality. Here's to a successful journey ahead for both the translators and those they're helping!

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué fecha es hoy? - What's today's date?

Hoy es viernes 10 de mayo. - Today is Friday 10th of May.



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Alesha	Mehrab	Dominic	Darcie	
Anaum	Tharun	Andino	Denis	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Thanvi	Kavya	Ava. M	Sufiyaan	
Daisy	Kaiara	Sajid	Ryan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Campion	Arham	Rathurshan	Daxa	Shaina
Kaiden	Maryama	Nishany	Ana	Fari
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Kashan	Chu	Raul	Skylar	Harini
Azna	Nistha	Ejatu	Adnan	David
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Alvina	Krystal	Bilqees	Malachi	Sashagay
Kajinan	Abraham	Ethan	Niyah	Mohamed
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sahesha	Whole	Leeroy	Nyah	Lathusan
Aaranan	Class	Abigail	Akshitha	Aylisia
Spanish	Music			
Baba Cherry	Seth			