



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

13th September 2024

Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful summer full of fun and laughter. What a fantastic, positive start to the year West Thornton has had! The children have come back ready to learn, and have shown great enthusiasm for their new year groups and learning. We look forward to sharing our amazing learning, and school updates in future newsletters.

This year we have four new core priorities. Over the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing more detail about each of these with you. For now, here they are:



Our School Priorities
Academic Year 2024/25

Writing
To increase attainment at Greater Depth level in Writing across the school and enhance foundational writing skills, enabling all children to communicate effectively and clearly across the curriculum.

Continuing Professional Development
To continue to develop all staff to ensure consistent pedagogical approaches, skilled interrogation of summative data and focused use of instructional coaching.

Articulating Learning
To continue to provide children with the skills and opportunities to articulate what they have learnt and ensure they work hard to achieve their next steps.

Community Engagement
To continue to strengthen our partnership with parents and carers so that it impacts positively on children's attitudes to their learning and further supports the wellbeing of our children and families.

Collaboration matters Excellence in everything Community first Equality for everyone Continuous growth



Leadership Update

We want to share some exciting news for our school communities. Following a thorough and robust selection process, we are delighted to announce that both Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Hefetz have been successful in being appointed to Deputy Headteacher positions for West Thornton Primary School.



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This further strengthens the leadership consistency and capacity for both sites. Both Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Hefetz have demonstrated great commitment and an understanding of the improvement journey for our school and we are very pleased to share the recognition of this in their new titles.

They will work in partnership with both Mrs Callaghan and Mr Owen as we prepare for the new academic year and the continuation of the work to ensure that West Thornton is the school of choice in our local community.

Please join us in offering our congratulations and support to both leaders.

Attendance

Well done to those classes with over 97% attendance this week

RR Pine Class

RR Oak Class

Year 2 Rowan Class

Year 5 Cypress Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been lovely to have all of the new reception children joining us this week. They have been having fun playing with lots of different activities and equipment, such as forming numbers in flour, painting their favourite things, building cars using the plastic blocks. As well as learning about the rules of the classroom. We have read the book 'Colour Monster' and talked about their emotions and how they can regulate their emotions.





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They have spent the week completing baseline assessments, looking at matching numeral to quantity, recognising numbers and writing their names. We cannot wait to see all the amazing things they do this year and throughout their time at West Thornton!

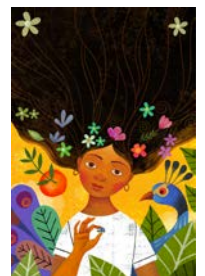


Year One

Year one has had a great start to the year! They have transitioned really well from EYFS into key stage 1. In English, the children have been learning how to write a sentence correctly and making sure they have capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in their sentences. They have written some amazing sentences in their books.

In maths, the children have been learning to count objects correctly. They have really tried to nail number formation this week and have done so well! We know it is hard but with the motivation and perseverance they have pulled through. They have also begun to add and subtract two numbers together during arithmetic sessions.

In the wider curriculum subjects the children have had lots of fun! They have been exploring different medias to create drawings similar to the art of a well known artist 'Rafael Lopez'. The children found out facts about the artist and explored his creative art pieces, discussing what mediums they think have been used and what they could identify in each piece of art.



In science they have been expanding their knowledge of materials by learning about their properties and what makes things 'waterproof' and 'flexible'. They even pointed out everyday materials and told other teachers what their properties were.

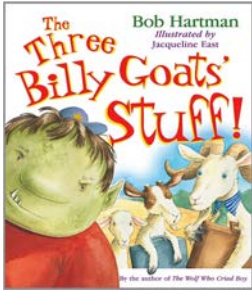


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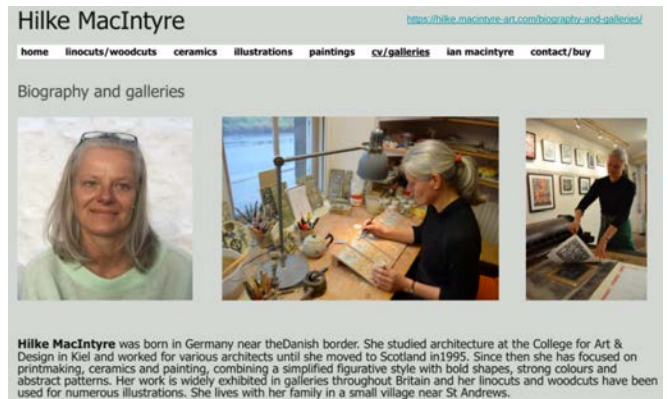
Year Two

What a great return to school we have had! The children have been busy learning about our



character skills and school values and how these not only tie into our daily lives but also our core text in writing. "The three billy goats stuff" has captured the children's love of

fairy tales but with a twist! They have looked at the features of traditional fairy tales by tapping into their prior knowledge of them from Year 1 but also by exploring other examples. They then heard the story of the "The three billy goats stuff" and had to recall the events in chronological order whilst generating captions using verbs. In Maths, the children learnt about place value and recognising tens and ones using dienes, place value charts and part-whole models. The use of a variety of resources such as numicon and bead strings allowed them to understand different representations of 2 digit numbers. In the wider curriculum, the children learnt about the properties of materials in Science describing them using their senses and in RE, they learnt about people in authority at home, school and the wider community. In Art they created a mood board inspired by the art work of Hilke MacIntyre who uses the medium of clay to create beautiful pieces of artwork.



Year Three

Year 3 has started the new academic year by setting a high standard of presentation across the curriculum. They were excited to explore their new classroom and be introduced to new topics and teachers.

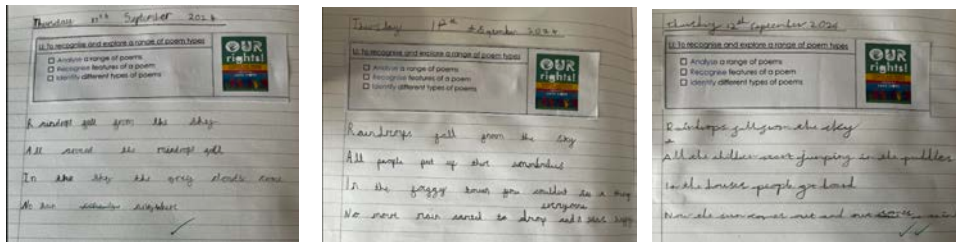




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In English, the children will be looking at two core texts. 'Our Rights' and 'My Little Book of Big Freedoms'. Both these books link to our global theme 'Human Rights'

This week they have been looking at poetry and the different features included in a variety of poems. They then went on to generate their own acrostic poem.



In maths, the children have started to recap their knowledge on place value and number lines. The children have a secure understanding of tens and ones using a variety of representations. They can partition numbers using digits and base ten.

Year 3 are learning about Ancient Egypt in history. This week they looked at the timeline of ancient Egypt and ordered the key events in chronological order. They were able to identify the different pharaohs and their names.



In science we are learning about light. By the end of the term the children will be able to answer the question 'What are the different ways and sources of light we use in our daily lives?' This week they talked about the different sources of light and if they were a natural or artificial source. They were also surprised to find out that the moon is not a source of light.



Year Four

We have had a fantastic start to Year 4! Well done to all children in the year group, they have settled extremely well into their new classrooms





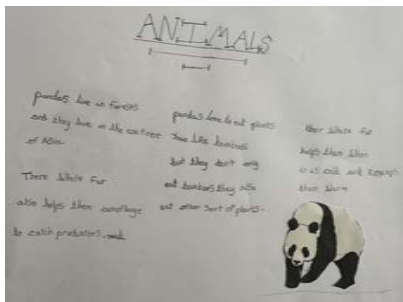
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with their new teachers and are already working extremely hard in all areas!

Our global theme for this term is Peace and Conflict which links to their core text 'The Accidental Prime Minister' and their supplementary text called 'Greta and the Giants.' In Writing this week, the children have been generating language to describe Greta and explored using various language features to write a detailed character description. The children will use the skills taught this week and apply them to describe their new character from their new book next week.

In Maths, the children have worked extremely well representing and partitioning numbers up to 10,000. We are incredibly proud of the hard work they have put into deepening their learning by applying their knowledge to worded problem questions to explain how they reached specific answers. Keep it up!



In Science, the children have learnt about animals and the habitats they live in. They created posters explaining what various animals need in order to survive the habitat they live in. The children then explored how animals adapt to their habitat during natural changes in their environment due to the 4 seasons.

In year 4, the children are going to be exploring the artist Jill Pento. We evaluated her artwork and discussed

the meaning behind her masterpieces while exploring how they made us feel. The children then used this knowledge to create some fantastic mood boards using some powerful vocabulary, striking pictures, unique patterns and well thought out colour palettes. We cannot wait to see their final outcomes!



Year Five

What a fantastic return back to school from Year 5! The children have settled into their new classrooms really well, and have enjoyed their new learning. So far children have learnt about our Global theme this term - Social Justice and Equity, and how this links to our core text 'The Boy and the Globe' and our History topic - The Tudors.

In Maths, the children have learnt about place value and representing numbers up to 1,000,000! They have enjoyed using their previous mathematical knowledge to help them solve maths

challenges and they have been using mathematical language to answer reasoning questions.



In English, we have started to read our core text, which the children are enjoying. They have worked hard to





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understand the main character Toby and we have used hot seating to explore another character ' Moll Cut-Purse'. The children have written fantastic character descriptions about both characters.

In Science, children have investigated the gestation period of various mammals, and then used their findings to create a bar model to represent the gestation periods. Did you know the gestation period of an elephant is around 600 days?

Year Six

Year six have started the new academic year with a bang! The children have been getting used to their new classrooms and they have settled in extremely well to being the eldest children in the school.

Our learning has started with a recap of place value in maths. Children have been using place value charts to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000 as well as to compare and order numbers. Accuracy has been a big focus this week and children have been reading questions carefully to make sure they answer correctly.

In English, the children have started to explore our core text- Pig Heart Boy by Mallorie Blackman. This text follows the story of a young boy who needs an urgent heart transplant and must consider accepting a pig's heart to allow him to survive. The children thought carefully about the emotions of the main character before writing a short journal entry to explain his thoughts and feelings.

In Science, children have started to research the circulatory system, focusing on the three main components: the heart, blood vessels and blood. In Geography, children have been considering the links between human and physical geography and the importance of both in our local area.

Reading

Please remember to record your reading in your Reading Records at home - it would be amazing to see some of the comments you are making being based on the strategies you are focusing on in school.

Community



Pollock's Toy Museum's Croydon Pop-up

When: Saturday - 11:00am - 4:00pm

Where: Unit 49 Whitgift Centre, CR9 1SY

Price: FREE

What: Pop up toy museum, craft and making activities for all ages, school





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learning sessions, old-style live performances of Victorian and modern toy theatre, puppetry and magic lanterns and story-telling.

If you're a parent looking for advice on topics like your child's emotional wellbeing, sleep or behaviour, visit our Parent Talk website. Browse our articles or speak to one of our parenting coaches using our online chat. <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

Young carers service

If your child is carrying out a caring role within your family for someone with an additional need or disability, you might not realise that they are eligible to be signed up as a Young Carer. They might provide support such as; tidying, supporting emotionally, washing up, shopping, helping with money or helping with other day to day tasks.

As a Young Carer you can get extra help and support with your caring responsibilities. The Young Carers Service is a **free** and friendly service, offering support to young people who are caring for a parent or sibling.

If you are aged 7-25, live in Croydon and are caring for someone with a physical disability, mental health issue, long-term illness, learning difficulty or substance dependency, then our service is here to support you.

We offer a wide range of activities to support you, including:

Trips and Activities during all the school holidays such as; trampolining, horse riding, cinema-trips, Nandos, Brighton, bowling and London-trips.

Mental Health Support and Art and Play Therapy are opportunities for you to have some regular or occasional sessions of 1:1 mental health and emotional support so that you can have some time and space to help you with any issues you may be facing.

Educational Support for those of you who'd like some support or advice around any issues around school or college, like attendance or coursework or friendships.

Family Support - although we don't have a specific family support worker, where possible we will try to support your parents, or signpost them to other places for support where we can.



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To self refer or find out more please see the link below. Alternatively you can ask to speak with the school's family support workers Alicia Williams (Rose Court Road) & Recaina Liburd (Canterbury Road) <https://www.talkofftherecord.org/croydon/young-carers-service/>

Phrases of the Week



¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Javarie	Whole Class	Aysha	Hitarth	
Denis		Harry	Dwisha	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Tracey	Asher	Reagan	Naqasha	
Ishaan	Skyler	Emilia	Yousef	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Kiran	Hanna	Keevah	Michael	Reign



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Rayya	Methupa	Britt	Jessica	Kilore
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Niyah	Zahra	Nandini	Jaxson	Dhunvi
Persis	Aiden	Thakshan	Tamiah	Anaya
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Aneeqa	Loredana	Sophia	Anaaya	Areha
Tanuj	Diaa	Luke	Isabella	Fiona
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Anika	Ela	Shrija	Habinia	Cassius
Mirjam	Kyron	Drisna	Thananeya	Maliyah
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Fardusa Hawthorn				