



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

4th October 2024

It's been another very busy week at West Thornton this week. As you will know, the school was visited by Ofsted this week. The inspectors met with leaders, observed teaching, spoke with children about their learning and looked at outcomes in books. We would like to thank all of the parents who completed the online survey and those of you who spoke to inspectors on the playground. As we are every day, we were very proud of all of our children during the inspection and we look forward to sharing the published report and outcomes in a few weeks time.

Attendance

Well done to those classes with attendance over 97%

Extra well done to both Willow and Hawthorn who have achieved 100% attendance this week

CR - Reception Willow

RR - Reception Pine

CR - Y5 Hawthorn

RR - Reception Oak

CR - Reception Ash

RR - Year 1 Fir

CR - Y4 Hornbeam

RR - Year 1 Maple

CR - Y3 Cherry

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch

CR - Y1 Lime

CR - Y5 Sycamore



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Curriculum Focus

Reception



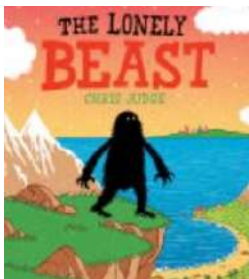
This week in reception, the children have continued to explore the environment with lots of fun activities. They have been learning to write their sounds in glitter, using recycling to make models, create their own playdough faces and explore minibeasts! They have loved to look at real snails, worms and have even found a caterpillar! It has been lovely to see children using their sounds in their play, recognising that 'spider' begins with a 's' and that caterpillar begins with a 'c'.

In phonics this week, the children have learnt four new sounds; 'g', 'o', 'c' and 'k'. They have also learnt their first tricky word 'is'.

In maths, the children have continued practising their sorting, and have sorted buttons by different rules such as colour, size and shape. They finished the week by discussing which groups had more and which had less.



Year One



This week in Year 1, the children have been busy writing descriptive sentences. They have been looking at how to describe The Lonely Beast using adjectives to describe his features. They have also been learning about the suffix 'ing' and adding this to verbs to describe what the Beast likes to do. They have combined all these skills and written character descriptions.

In maths the children have been comparing numbers using the symbols $>$, $<$ and $=$ and using the correct mathematical vocabulary to describe groups of numbers. They have also been ordering a group of numbers from smallest to greatest and greatest to smallest.

In computing this week, the children learnt how to log on the computers, open a program and use the trackpad to draw a picture. In history, they discussed similarities and differences between toys from the past and toys from the present.





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Year Two

Our focus in writing this week has been to sequence the story of Izzy Gizmo. When sequencing the children used time adverbials and emotive language. Later on in the week, the children learnt what a diary entry was and learnt the features of a diary entry. The children then had a go at writing a diary entry for what had happened on Tuesday this week.

In maths, the children started the week by ordering objects and numbers. Then they practised counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, followed by a lesson on counting in 3s. We finished the week off by counting in 10s and answering reasoning questions. The children need to practise how to count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10 at home.

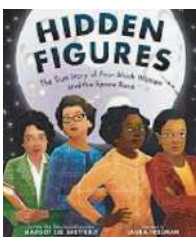


In the wider curriculum subjects, the children had a fantastic lesson in geography where they compared the human features in two different locations: Croydon and Crovie. They looked on Google Earth, and printed maps to locate human features. The children understood that a rural area will have less human features as there are less people. In science, the children discussed

the properties of different objects and the uses of these objects. In art the children started their final outcome by making a mould of a cog; they made imprints and are really excited and proud with what they have achieved. In RE, the children found out the 99 names of Allah and the different attributes attached to these names.



Year Three



This week in Year 3, the children began an exploration of space travel by researching it as an introduction to their new core text, *Hidden Figures*. In English, they focused on Katherine Johnson, one of the pioneering black women who worked at NASA. The class worked together to sequence the key events of her life and discussed why she stands as such an important role model. Afterward, the children created detailed profiles of Katherine Johnson.



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In Maths, the children had a productive week working with number lines and comparing numbers up to 1000. They practised estimating the position of various numbers by identifying the starting, middle, and end points on the number lines. Using blank number lines, the children tackled these challenges while also applying their understanding of finding half of a number.

In Art, the children enthusiastically applied the various drawing techniques they've learned to create artwork inspired by the style of Corey Barksdale. Using their creativity, they were given chalk pastels to complete their pieces by drawing the other half. The children had a fantastic time experimenting with the materials and expressing their artistic skills.



In History this week, the children worked collaboratively to research and use their inference skills to explore the similarities and differences between two famous Egyptian queens—Nefertiti and Cleopatra. Using both primary and secondary sources, they discovered fascinating facts about each queen. After discussing their findings, the class created Venn diagrams to compare and contrast the lives and legacies of Queen Nefertiti and Queen

Cleopatra, deepening their understanding of these historical figures.

Year Four

This week in Year 4, the children have engaged in a wide range of exciting and enriching activities!

In Religious Education, we explored the Five Pillars of Islam, which are the core beliefs and practices in Islam. The children enjoyed learning about each pillar's significance, from charity and prayer to fasting and pilgrimage, and reflected on the values they promote.

In Art, we focused on developing our shading techniques. Using both pencil and paint, the children experimented with creating light and dark areas to add depth to their drawings. They learned how shading can bring life to their artwork and practised using different pressures and strokes for effect.

Our English lessons have been all about persuasive writing. The children wrote their own manifestos, incorporating persuasive techniques such as facts, opinions, and emotional appeals to convince their audience. They were able to compare formal and informal styles of writing, which will help them become more effective communicators.

In Maths, we continued to strengthen our skills with the column method for adding 4-digit numbers. The children practised aligning numbers correctly and carrying over values to ensure



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accuracy in their addition. They are becoming more confident in solving complex problems with larger numbers.

For Computing, we introduced the concept of networks. The children explored how devices such as computers, tablets, and phones connect and share information over networks, both locally and across the internet. They began to understand how data travels and how different types of networks work together.

In PE, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork and sportsmanship through games of football and Kingsquare. These activities not only helped improve their coordination and ball-handling skills but also encouraged them to work together and strategize as a team. It was great to see them supporting each other and having fun while staying active.

It has been a fantastic week of learning, creativity, and collaboration in Year 4. We're looking forward to building on these experiences next week!

Year Five

English:

Our focus this week was on developing storytelling skills. The children learned how to integrate dialogue into their narratives to advance the plot and build characters. We also explored how to create atmosphere using carefully selected vocabulary and descriptive devices. The students worked on writing short stories set in Tudor times, with activities that included vocabulary generation from visual stimuli, planning the events of their stories, and peer editing to improve their drafts. Finally, the students practised choosing language that shows a good awareness of the reader.

Mathematics:

In Maths, we tackled addition and subtraction of large numbers. The children used the column method to add and subtract 5- and 6-digit numbers, and were supported in visualising their work through place value counters and grids. This helped them to understand how the numbers interact in a more concrete and pictorial way. The students were able to confidently solve these problems and show their working using both the abstract and visual methods.

History:

Our history lessons this week focused on the Tudor period, specifically the Battle of Bosworth. The children learned about the significant events of this battle and discussed its impact on British history. We conducted recall and retention activities, including pair discussions where the children shared their paragraphs and mind maps created in the previous lesson, helping them reinforce their understanding of this pivotal event.



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Year Six

What an exciting week it has been in Year 6! The children have been hard at work across all subjects, making fantastic progress.

English

This week, the focus was on developing our writing skills, particularly through the use of a variety of punctuation. The children have been working on bringing a key character to life from our core text, *Pig Heart Boy*. They explored how punctuation can help express a character's description, thoughts, and actions, really bringing their writing to life!

Science

In Science, at Rosecourt Road, we've been exploring the circulatory system in depth, and the highlight of the week was a hands-on activity—dissecting and exploring a lamb's heart! The children were fascinated by this real-life experience, which helped them better understand the structure and function of the heart. This activity also tied into *Pig Heart Boy*, deepening their connection to the text and Cameron's story. At Canterbury Road, children continued to deepen their learning on the circulatory system by looking at the components and function of blood.

Maths

In Maths, we tackled multiplication of 4-digit by 2-digit numbers to solve word-based problems. The children demonstrated great problem-solving skills and applied their multiplication strategies effectively.

Geography

As part of our preparation for the upcoming field trip to Croydon, the students created their own tally charts and survey questions. They are eager to investigate how Croydon has changed over time, and their surveys will form the foundation of this exciting exploration during the trip.

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.



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Community

School Census Day Lunch

It was lovely to see so many children having school lunch on Thursday. Thank you to Chartwells who put on a delicious spread which the kids and adults thoroughly enjoyed.



Get ready for work programme



We had a fantastic turnout for the Grow Programme this morning. If you missed today's session it's not too late to join!



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This is more than a 'get into work' programme. This is adults empowering each other to make positive changes in their lives. Whether you are hoping for a full time/part time job, looking for training, improve your skill set, in work but looking to increase your earnings or in need of a work placement to build your confidence and experience this is the place for you. Even if you don't quite know where to start, this can be your first step.

For more information please email the school office for the attention of Miss Williams:

office@inspirewestthornton.co.uk



The Family Learning Festival – Autumn half term

CALAT Family Learning is offering a **free**, fun, and educational Autumn half-term programme as part of the national Family Learning Festival (theme: 'Inspiring Curiosity') in four locations across the borough.

[Family Learning Festival 2024 - FREE workshops! - 22 to 28 October - CALAT](#)

Family Support & advice

October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month, standing with all those impacted by abusive and coercive controlling behaviours by a partner, ex or family member, regardless of age, gender, sexuality or race.

We are fortunate to have two fab family support workers; Miss Liburd based at our Canterbury Road site and Miss Williams who is based at our Rosecourt Road site. Please contact the school office on office@inspirewestthornton.co.uk if you would like to arrange a confidential chat.



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For further advice and support lines please visit:

<https://www.sutton.gov.uk/w/domestic-abuse-national-helplines>

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community-and-safety/support-groups-and-advice/domestic-abuse>

Phrases of the Week



¿Cómo te llamas? - What's your name?

Me llamo ... - My name is ...

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Yasiin	Mounir	Luca	Victoria
Dillon	Ariana	Minahil	Khavalli
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Adhvik	Leen	Trey	Khemyra
Ahyaan	Rashad	Emma	Athitheeran
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Cheyavan	Whole	Whole Class	Whole Class
Ava O	Class		



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Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Kiraan	Whole Class	Nitya	Anaya	Mercy
Riian		Alfie	Chanelle	Isabella
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Daniel	Aarohan	Ayden	Evan	Priansh
Emily	Leidy	Rumaisa	Aras	Danilo
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Caitlin	Alaela	Alexander A	Geovaana	Whole
Kayan	Ismail	Chantel	Chu	Class
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Mahdi	Ava	Alja	Whole Class	Josiah
Alishba	Rohaam	Heba		Paisley
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Kaiden Cherry				