



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

20th December 2024

#### A fantastic term at West Thornton Primary School!

It has been a long, but very successful Autumn Term at our school and Mr Owen and Mrs Callaghan want to thank all parents and carers, staff members and our wider community for making it all possible.

Focused learning has continued right up until today, with children enjoying showing what they've learned over recent weeks, continuing to develop skills, knowledge and a love of learning. Of course, we've also come together as a West Thornton Family to enjoy Christmas Lunch; to have fun at the Winter Fair and Science Fairs; and, to celebrate through concerts and performances which all had brilliant turnouts - it's been great seeing so many people at these events - often with standing room only!



We'd like to take this opportunity to wish a very Merry Christmas to the members of our community who celebrate, and hope that everyone has a restful break with fun, love and laughter.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and a reminder that our first day back will be Monday 6th January.



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### Attendance

Well done to the following classes with 97% and above, **an extra well done to Larch class with 100% attendance this week.**

CR - Year 3 Cherry

RR - Year 1 Fir

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn

RR - Year 3 Larch

RR - Year 5 Cypress

#### REMINDER

Every minute counts

The playground gates open at **8.40am**. Children are collected and taken upstairs to their classrooms at **8.45am**. As lessons start promptly once the children are in school, it is important 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 lost per year

### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

During literacy lessons the children have been exploring the meaning of community. They have been thinking about the different community groups that they belong to and the people within those communities. This has helped them to identify people who are important to them. With this knowledge they have used their phonics learning to write cards to people in their communities.

In maths the children have been exploring the composition of numbers. Using familiar number songs the children have been identifying the 2 parts of a number and how they combine to make a whole number. Following the part-part-whole model the children are able to say which two parts make a whole number.

With the lead up to Christmas, in topic lessons we have been exploring the nativity story. The children have been learning about why and how Christians celebrate Christmas and they have been comparing this celebration with those of their own.



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### Year One

It has been a lovely end of term for year one. All of the children performed so well in their play at Rosecourt Road and in their concert at Canterbury Road. It has been lovely to see so many beautiful winter decorations including crowns and tree decorations.

They have been busy finishing up their DT projects adding details and finishing touches to their DT buildings. They look fabulous and a number are up on display around the school for everyone to enjoy.

In other wider curriculum subjects the children have been sharing their knowledge that they have learnt this term. In geography they have created some great posters about why they love living in Croydon. In science they have collaborated to create a class book all about Autumn as the year progresses they will add new information about the other seasons.

### Year Two

It has been a wonderful lead up to the end of term in Year 2, who started this week with fabulous performances of their Christmas production on Monday afternoon and Tuesday. We would like to thank all the parents and carers for their support helping the children learn their lines and songs.

In English this week the children have been focusing on grammar, looking at different types of sentences, such as commands, questions and exclamation sentences. The children have also been learning to add the suffixes: ly, ful and less to root words, e.g quick + ly = quickly, colour + ful = colourful, power + less = powerless.

This week in maths, the children have continued their learning around 2d shapes with a focus on vertical lines of symmetry. They started by finding out which of the 2d shapes have a vertical line of symmetry, then went on to draw shapes that have a vertical line of symmetry. Finally they had to problem solve by completing an unfinished shape so that it had a vertical line of symmetry.



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In DT this week the children have been completing their model Byplanes. They made the axles and wheels, then stuck these on along with their painted wings and tail. They all look amazing!



### Year Three

It has been a busy and fun-filled time in year 3 this week. In English, the children have written their very own newspaper article about 'Rosie Revere'. They were able to include all of the important features of a newspaper article correctly including a headline, picture, caption and quotes.

In maths, they have been working on multiplication and division using their 8 times table. The children were able to identify fact families and use them to solve a variety of problems. They have continued to memorise their 3,4 and 8 times tables.

In geography, year three has gathered all knowledge learnt this half term to answer the big question 'What are the similarities and differences between the River Nile and the River Thames'. They have created some very informative and creative double page spreads to share their learning and answer the question.



DT this term has been a fantastic journey, enjoyed very much by both the children and teachers. They have come to the final week of designing and making their very own photo frame. They ended the journey this week by adding the final decorations and piecing it altogether. They can now capture a very special memory in their personalised photo frame.

The Year 3 Christmas performance was a resounding success! We were thrilled to see a fantastic turnout of parents and family members who joined us to enjoy the show. The children gave an outstanding performance, showcasing their





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talents through captivating singing, energetic dancing, and fabulous poetry recitals.

A huge well done to all the children for their hard work and dedication—it truly shone through on stage. Thank you to everyone who supported this special event!

### Year Four

This week in Year 4 has been full of exciting activities and achievements! In English, the children showcased their creativity by writing their own imaginative versions of *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. They worked hard to develop their storytelling skills, using descriptive language and thoughtful character development to bring their narratives to life. In Maths, we have been focusing on improving our problem-solving abilities, tackling a variety of word problems with confidence and perseverance.

Our DT project has reached a wonderful conclusion, with the children completing their beautifully sewn drawstring bags. They demonstrated excellent focus and resilience, taking pride in perfecting their stitches and creating high-quality finished products. The festive season has brought plenty of joy, as we enjoyed a spectacular performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, followed by our very own Christmas concert. The children gave an outstanding performance, filling the hall with festive cheer and showcasing their fantastic singing, acting, and teamwork. Well done to all the children for their dedication and effort—it has truly been a week to remember!

### Year Five

What a fantastic week for year 5! In English children finished writing their newspaper articles, it sure was fun to write! The children used their wild imagination and creativity to bring their articles to life. They used techniques we have learnt throughout the half term to achieve this. In maths, we recapped prior learning and focused on problem solving questions.



The children finished their DT projects (colour monster Teddies), they look absolutely amazing! They worked really hard to focus on their stitching techniques to hold the teddy together and add some additional accessories to make each teddy unique and special.



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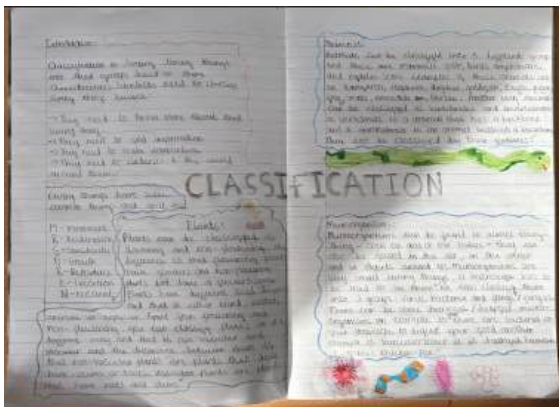
In science the children worked hard to complete their double page spread, to answer our assessment question ' Do you agree that all changes are irreversible?'. They used their knowledge from our experiments to create informative and creative double page spreads.

We are truly proud of all the children in year 5, they have worked really hard this term and are making amazing progress. Well done year 5 and we look forward to continuing with their hard word in the new year.

### Year Six

Year 6 have had a fantastic final week of 2024. The highlight of this week has without doubt been the Winter Performances. The children showed such incredible talents with their singing and poetry and we are so proud of their efforts. We hope that their final Winter Concert will be a memory

from West Thornton that they will take with them when they leave.



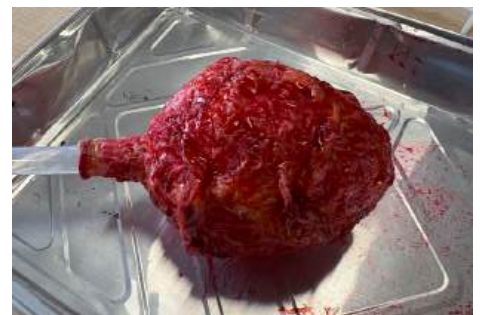
In class, children have showcased their learning this week through an array of amazing double page spreads for history and science. They have organised their learning carefully into clear sections and recalled key facts from the different topics we have covered all half term: Human and Civil rights in history and classification in science. These double page spreads are a chance for children to present their knowledge of key concepts creatively and they are absolutely fantastic.

Well done, Year 6!

In DT, we have completed an exciting project on pneumatics! The children have designed, planned and experimented with a range of different materials to make a beating heart using air to create movement. The final outcomes are amazing and we are excited to put them on display for everyone to see. Following the Design



Technology process of research, design, plan, create and evaluate has ensured that the children's hearts are fantastic (and very realistic). They were able to problem solve at every opportunity to make their hearts the best they could be.





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Well done Year 6 for a fantastic first half term- we are all so excited to see what 2025 brings; for now we hope you have a well-deserved break and enjoy the holidays.

### Phrases of the Week



**¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año! - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Yusuf	Whole	Whole	Emmanuel	
Hayat	Class	Class	Aaron	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Aaiza	Immanuel	Whole	Ammarah	
Musa	Hanfa	Class	Taliyah	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole	Whole	Whole	Whole	
Class	Class	Class	Class	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Whole	Whole	Whole	Whole	Rebecca
Class	Class	Class	Class	Thariz



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Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Aarav	Jarren	Whole Class	Aiden	Chinmay
victoria	Precious		Jewel	Veera
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Richard	Whole	Reggie-Jay	Sofia	Areha
Kayan	Class	Geneive	Maja	Parthan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Rebecca .S	Tharunyan	Whole	Archie	Whole Class
Zohaib	Ayushi	Class	Krystal	
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Years 3,4,5,6 RR Rosecourt Road		Keevah Larch		