



# WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

10th January 2025

**Happy New Year and Welcome Back to West Thornton!** We hope that you've had a fantastic break and that like us you are looking forward to an exciting new term. As always, our wonderful staff have worked hard to plan fantastic learning opportunities for the weeks ahead. We've had some very eager adults asking how they can help their children more this week, so we'd like to remind you of the **key documents available to support your children** with their upcoming learning.

**Curriculum Newsletters** will be shared today. They give an overview of the term's learning and most helpful thing parents and carers can do is to get children excited about what they will learn. Talk to them about what they already know linked to the Spring Term topics, find things out together and ask them questions about what they've learned regularly.

<p><b>Key Dates</b></p> <p><b>Half Term Break:</b> Last day of school - Friday 9th February</p> <p><b>Children return to school -</b> Monday 19th February</p> <p>Visit to a local Mosque (to be confirmed)</p> <p><b>Canterbury Road: PE</b> is on Monday and Thursday.</p> <p><b>Rosecourt Road: PE</b> is on Tuesday</p> <p>Children need to be in <b>FULL PE kit</b> on these days.</p> <p><b>Homework and reading</b> books will be given out on a Friday and need to be returned on a <b>Wednesday</b>.</p>	<p><b>Year 2 - Spring 1</b></p> <p><b>Our Global Theme:</b> Human Rights</p> <p><b>Our Core Texts:</b> The Day the Crayons Quit and Hermelin</p>  <p><b>Value for Spring 1 is</b></p> <p>Our value for Spring 1 is resilience. The children will learn about how to manage their distractions and how to persevere through things and not give up.</p>	<p><b>How to Help at Home</b></p> <p><b>Reading</b> Reading of home is invaluable. Each week your child will bring home a leveled text or book matching the phonics sounds they are familiar with. Please read with them each day and sign their reading diary.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Organisers</b> Knowledge Organisers will be made available for Wider Curriculum subjects. These include all the things the children will learn during the half term and 'sticky knowledge' that will be built upon throughout their learning at West Thornton. It also includes key vocabulary that we ask you to help your child to become familiar with whilst at home.</p>	<p><b>Geography</b> This half term the children will be furthering their learning about the United Kingdom. They will be looking at the different countries that make up the UK. Then comparing the similarities and differences between them.</p> <p><b>English</b> At the start of term they will be writing persuasive letters inspired by the core text 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. Then the children will become detectives and will be developing their factual writing skills to create a newspaper report starting the news of the break it's that have occurred.</p> <p><b>PSHE/Relationships Education</b> In PSHE, they will be learning about staying safe. They will be learning about people who keep us safe, how to stay safe at home and how to keep themselves safe.</p>	<p><b>Art</b> They will be exploring the work of the artist Sally Morgan. Then they will be developing their painting skill including creating different textures and shades to create a painting of landscape.</p> <p><b>Year 2 - Spring 1</b></p> <p><b>Our Global Theme:</b> Human Rights</p> <p><b>Our Core Texts:</b> The Day the Crayons Quit and Hermelin by Mini Grey</p>	<p><b>Science</b> They will be learning about what humans need to survive. They will be looking at the effects that healthy eating and exercise have on the body and how this can impact our daily lives.</p> <p><b>PE</b> In PE the children will be building up their balance skills. They will also be developing their problem solving skills to help them play games.</p>	<p><b>Music</b> In music the children will be listening and appraising a piece of rock music called 'I Wanna Play in a Rock Band'. Then they will be improvising parts of the song using their voices.</p> <p><b>Maths</b> In maths the children will be learning about money the value of coins and calculating totals. Then they will be learning about multiplication and division. They will be learning about grouping and sharing as division. They will then be using this knowledge to help them to solve word problems.</p> <p><b>Computing</b> Children will be learning about how they can use technology to display data. They will be creating their own tally charts, pictograms and pie charts.</p>
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**Knowledge Organisers** contain the specific information that children will be taught and which they need to remember. Children will be assessed on these facts and skills, so please regularly look at these together at home and speak to class teachers if you have any questions.

**Year 2 Plants** Inspire Partnership

**Assessment question:** What is a suitable environment for a plant to grow?

**Sticky knowledge**

- Seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- Mature plants may have flowers which then develop into seeds, berries, fruits
- Seeds and bulbs need water to germinate
- Plants also need different amounts of water and space to grow and stay healthy
- Some plants are better suited to growing in the sun and some plants grow better in shade

**Key Vocabulary**

**germinate** - the seed soaks up water and swells, and the tiny new plant bursts out of its shell

**shoot** - part of a plant that comes up above the ground when a plant first begins to grow

**seedling** - young plant raised from seed and not from a cutting

**growth** - process of growing





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Of course, the very best thing we can all do is to **read with and to our children**. Just 5-10 minutes everyday increases children's confidence and enjoyment of learning; children who read regularly are much more likely to be ready for the next stage of their education.

Another Key factor in ensuring success for our children is good **attendance**. We would like to celebrate the following classes, who this week had an attendance of above **97%**:

Year 3 Cherry Class

Year 3 Larch Class

Year 5 Cypress Class

Unfortunately, as we have only three classes reaching this level, it is necessary for us to remind all parents and carers that **every minute counts**.

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

The playground gates open at **8.40am** as lessons start promptly once the children are in school, it is important they are not late. **Remember, low attendance** seriously affects a child's ability to make progress in their learning and often makes it harder for children to make friends and form strong connections with others.

## Curriculum Focus

### Reception

It has been a great start to 2025 in Reception this week! The children have all settled back into school life well and they have been putting in lots of effort into their learning this week.



Their new topic is focused all around fairy tales. This week they noticed that someone had broken into their classroom and had left a broken chair, a bowl and some porridge! They were so excited to find out who had been inside the classroom and lots of children decided it must have been Goldilocks! The children loved listening to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and have been retelling the story in their own words using a story map to help them. The children have been continuing to explore the story further in the provision, retelling the story using puppets, painting the three bears and even filling up three different sized bowls with porridge.



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In maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of one more and one less using numbers up to 5. They have been counting out amounts using a five frame as well as using their knowledge of subitising to compose numbers.



The children have also been improving their drawing skills in topic and have been learning how to hold their pencils correctly as well as copying lines and shapes. They have learnt how to draw a picture of a person using these different techniques.

### Year One



Year 1 has had an amazing start to the new term. We have started a new core text 'The king who banned the dark'. The children have been looking at descriptive writing of the characters using adjectives to describe the king.

In maths we have revisited ordering numbers to 20 and looking at addition within 20. The children used the manipulatives of tens frames to aid them.



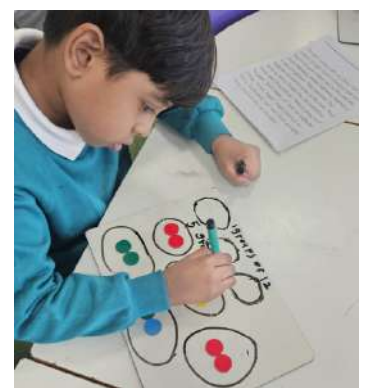
In the field of science, children have begun to look at pets at home and the difference between living and non living things. They had fun sorting and talking about various animals and objects. In RE the children learnt about Christianity and why Jesus was an important figure for them.



In art, the children looked at an artist called Stephen Wright. The children looked at mosaics and the work he produced. They had a go themselves.

### Year Two

Year 2 children have commenced the new term with great enthusiasm! In their English lessons, the children experienced a mix of intrigue and frustration upon discovering that their whiteboard pens were missing from their baskets. A letter, purportedly from the missing whiteboard pens, was found in the classroom. The students explored



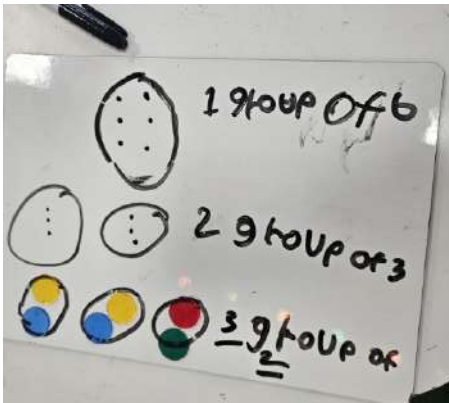


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the features of informal letters and brainstormed ideas for composing one. Later in the week, they began drafting their letters, choosing to write from the perspective of a ruler, a glue stick, or a pencil.

In maths, the children recognised equal groups and unequal groups. They used mathematical manipulatives e.g. cubes and counters to make equal groups. The children then moved onto adding equal groups using manipulatives. They quickly acquired the skills to analyse a visual representation and formulate both a repeated addition sentence and a multiplication sentence. They employed the appropriate terminology to deepen their understanding of multiplication.



In the field of science, individuals have gained insights into their survival requirements, fundamental needs, and the factors that contribute to their happiness. In RE the children learnt to understand the value of communicating their needs. They learn that this can be done through a thought bubble tree. In art, the

children gained further insights into the artist Sally Morgan. They developed an impressive mood board and expressed great enthusiasm as they embarked on their learning journey.

### Year Three

We've had a brilliant start to the new term! After a well-deserved break, the children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. They've worked incredibly hard across all subjects this week, and it's been wonderful to see their excitement for our new topics and activities.



In English, we've begun exploring our new core text, *The Great Kapok Tree*, which introduces the magical and diverse world of the rainforest. To immerse ourselves in this setting, we have been using our senses to generate descriptive vocabulary. The children have shown great creativity and have used this rich vocabulary to begin writing a monologue from the perspective of the woodcutter in the story. These monologues are shaping up beautifully, capturing the complexity of his thoughts and feelings about cutting down the Kapok tree.

This week in maths, we focused on solving problems using multiples of ten and applying our knowledge to related calculations. The children worked hard to identify patterns, develop strategies, and explain their thinking.



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In geography, we've started our new topic on rainforests, which ties in perfectly with our English work. The children have been learning about the unique climate of rainforests and how it supports the incredible biodiversity found there. They've also been using maps and globes to locate rainforests around the world. This has sparked lots of curiosity and fantastic discussions about different regions of the world.



Our science topic this term is rocks, and the children have been captivated by learning about how rocks are formed. We conducted an experiment using layers of dark and white chocolate to model sedimentary rock formation. By pressing the layers together, the children could see how pressure and time transform loose materials into solid

rock. It was a fun and hands-on way to bring the science to life, and the children are already asking insightful questions about other types of rocks and geological processes.



### Year Four

Welcome back to the Spring Term! The Year 4 teachers are very excited to have the children back and engaged in their learning again. We welcome the new Acacia teacher, Mr Overy, to the team!

We have immersed the children in all things Ancient Greek this week, with a special study on the travels of Odysseus. The children are already enthralled by tales of fearsome mythical creatures, like the Cyclops who will readily eat humans (especially children!). The children have spent some time in English, describing the heroic traits of King Odysseus and his outward appearance. In History, we advanced their knowledge by studying maps of modern day and ancient Greece to make comparisons.

This is an important term for maths, as our focus on times tables continues. We need as many children as possible to be on Times Tables Rockstars and to receive certificates for their efforts at home. We have been studying factor pairs this week and the children are starting to understand how this links to multiplication.

The final piece of 'shocking' news is we have started our new topic in Science - electricity! The children have been discovering the difference between battery operated appliances and those



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which run from the mains. We hope that they now understand how electricity can be dangerous if there are exposed wires or water near electrical items!

### Year Five

In English we have started to read the Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah. On Monday, children were immersed into the culture of Jamaica by tasting some of the food like Jamaican patties and other delicious delights. On Tuesday, children wrote a summary of the key events in Chapter 1 and 2. On Wednesday, children had the opportunity to role play the key characters in



chapter 3, in order to understand the main events.

In mathematics we have been multiplying two digit by two digit numbers and using the area model to explore the steps needed to solve problems. We have used the standard form of multiplication to practice multiplying three digit numbers by two digits, focusing on the positioning of the numbers in the algorithm in order to get the correct answers.

In Geography, we have looked at grid reference(s) in order to locate the positioning of countries for example the UK and Jamaica. In addition, children have a good understanding of climate zones and the longitudinal positions.

### Year Six

This week, year 6 have enjoyed delving into our new topics based around our core text ' Goodnight Mr Tom' . They have worked hard to learn key facts about World war 2 and create a timeline showcasing key events into chronological order asking inquisitive questions to find even more information. In writing children have begun to analyse features of settings

descriptions that convey an atmosphere: looking at author's choice of language and writing techniques to capture the reader's attention.

They've learnt exciting new contextual vocabulary of words used during WW2 to enhance their writing ready for their own setting description.





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In Maths they started the week consolidating learning over previous units taught: Place Value, Four operations and Fractions. Later, they began looking at decimals and how to partition, round and most importantly recognise the value of each digit with numbers up to 3 decimal places. In Science children have also enjoyed starting their new topic on electricity and sorting different materials into either conductors or insulators of electricity.

### Community

#### **FREE toddler session at Oxygen trampoline park!**

Oxygen is offering FREE toddler Open Play sessions all day long to help you shake off the blues on Monday 20th January 2025!

How do you book.. It's easy! Just make sure you are signed up to the mailing list by Sunday 12th January as tickets will be released exclusively by email on Monday 13th January! All sessions are on a first come, first served basis – so be quick! You don't want to miss out on this! For more information please see the link below.

<https://oxygenactiveplay.co.uk/offers/blue-monday/>

### Phrases of the Week



**¡Bienvenidos a todos y Feliz Año Nuevo!** - Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year!



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### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Salvador	Austin	Areena	Viron	
Lorena	Hussain	Hiyan	Hazel	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Mateo	Whole Class	Whole class	Bhumi	
Ahana			Elikem	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Elijah	Chris	Szymon	Thishaan	
Thanushik	Thanvi	Adona	Sufiyaan	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Romelle	Whole	Rathurshan	Hoorain	Rebecca
Isabella	Class	Joy	Krish	Thariz
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Aliza	Kavel	Whole	Grace	Luca
Rutmi	Reily	class	Aiden	Joshua
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Kavinei	Adnan	Nusaibah	Arham	Marley
Asiya	Diaa	Yasmine	Sofia	Fiona



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Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nilana	Nisha	Layad	Isabelly	Mohamed
Diyan	Dion	Lishana	Noble	Jayden
Spanish				
Yrs 4/5/6 (CR)				