



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

17th January 2025

We've had a great week at West Thornton with children eager to learn and showing great enthusiasm for their new topics and core texts.

Children have been busy learning beyond the classroom this week. Year 5 enjoyed a fascinating trip to London to see the Windrush monument in Waterloo. This links to their core text Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah and supports their learning about the important contributions of Caribbean immigrants to Britain. Year 6 visited Croydon Fire Station as part of the TFL junior citizenship scheme where they learned about active, safe and responsible travel on the public transport network. These enriching experiences provided valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom for both year groups.

This week was also the first week of after school clubs for the Spring term. The children have loved getting involved in crafts, sports and a whole host of other activities. These clubs will run for 10 weeks with the last session

Don't forget about our Reading Mornings! It's a special time for us to share our love of reading and enjoy stories together.

Attendance

Well done to the following classes with 97% and above.!

CR - Year 6 Holly

CR - Year 1 Lime

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 3 Larch Class

RR - Year 4 Acacia Class

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR - Year 5 Cypress Class



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



In Literacy, the children delved deeper into the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They had fun identifying and naming the different characters and wrote simple sentences to share their thoughts about whether each character showed good or bad actions. It was wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm for storytelling shine!



In Maths, the focus has been on measurements. The children explored the concepts of 'heavy' and 'light' using balance scales to weigh objects. They also practiced using comparative language like 'heavier' and 'lighter' to compare the weight of two items. Additionally, they investigated capacity, learning how to describe how full a container is and comparing the capacity of different containers. They discovered that larger containers can hold more, while smaller ones hold less. They had the opportunity to explore these concepts in the provision within the classroom.



During topic lessons, the children

revisited the 'Zones of Regulation.'

With the help of engaging books like *The Colour Monster* and *The Day the Crayons Quit*. They



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

expanded their emotional vocabulary, learning how to discuss their feelings and recognise emotions in others. Expressing emotions through facial expressions and body language made this activity both meaningful and enjoyable for everyone.

Year One

Year one has had another busy week! In phonics they have been learning alternative sounds for graphemes that they have learnt previously including the 'e' sound written as ea and the 'oa' sound written as 'oe'. In English they have been applying their phonics and other writing skills to writing character descriptions of the king, the main character, in their core text *The King Who Banned the Dark*.

In maths the children have reviewed their number bonds to 10 then used this knowledge to help them to find number bonds to 20 for example "If I know that $6 + 4 = 10$, then I know that $16 + 4 = 20$ ". This is a really tricky concept but they have shown our school value of the half term of resilience and have mastered it. Well done!





In the wider curriculum they have been enjoying PE developing their dynamic balance skills moving forwards and backwards as well as their throwing and catching skills. In art they have continued their study of Stephen Wright's art looking at lines that he uses in his work and recreating them using chalk. Science has been a favourite too as the children have learnt about the different diets of animals carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. They ended sorting different animals based on the foods that they eat.

Year Two


This week has been as busy as ever! The children have been writing letters to inform, based on the core text "The day the crayons quit." They have each taken on the role of a piece of classroom equipment and thought about how they are treated tying in with our global theme of Human Rights. The children each wrote 'in role' imagining they were a glue stick or a pencil coming to life and sharing their treatment with the children. They learnt about different sentence types, the features of an informal letter and how to incorporate noun




Match the data

Eye colour	Tally
	
	

How do you know?

1. 

2. 

phrases and exclamatory sentences. In maths the children are beginning to apply the knowledge they have gained from practical multiplication lessons to write calculations relating to repeated addition. They have also begun to learn about division and the concepts of grouping and sharing. Maths has also played a part in the wider curriculum with children learning how to gather data as a



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

tally chart which they will then create pictograms with in computing.

Year Three

In English this week, we have continued to explore our core text 'The Great Kapok Tree'. This week we have been looking at the dilemma faced by the woodcutter. The children were able to show their understanding of the woodcutter's problems and how he would have felt. They then went on to use their knowledge of writing a monologue to write a piece of writing about what the woodcutter was experiencing.

In maths the children have continued to look at multiplication and division along with their related facts. The focus has been on multiplying and dividing 2 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. Year 3 used their knowledge of place value charts and part whole models to support their learning. The use of the different methods allowed all of the children to have a clearer understanding of how the related facts work together.

In geography, year 3 used geographical vocabulary to compare the Amazon rainforest and the Galloway forest. They were able to successfully identify the similarities and differences between the localities. They were then able to coach each other, using the correct vocabulary to share the findings.



In DT, the children were investigating different types of cams. They tested and recorded the way each cam rotated. In pairs they discussed what cam would work best in a cam mechanism.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Four

This week in Maths, the children have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. They have used their knowledge to answer some tricky worded problem questions. It has been a fantastic week for times tables in year 4, well done to those children who are practicing after school every single day and increased their score dramatically! Keep up the amazing work!

In writing, the children have been working towards retelling the Greek myth of Cyclops. They first explored the features of a Greek myth and then generated some excellent descriptive language to describe the powerful hero named Odysseus and the terrifying cave he and his men entered before encountering Cyclops. The children then ended the week with some role play, acting as each character to help them record dialogue for key moments in the story.

The children enjoyed a practical science lesson this week with electrical circuits. The children made some circuits and described how electricity flowed. They then experimented with some circuits to understand which key parts were needed to create a complete circuit to either light up a bulb, move a motor or sound the buzzer! Children used their knowledge to identify how they could brighten the bulb in a circuit and then checked their predictions by testing their theory with the circuit.

Year Five

What a fantastic week it has been for year 5! In English, the children have written descriptive setting descriptions based on the Windrush ship at sea. The children used pathetic fallacy, personification and similes to describe what the ship was like at sea and when it arrived at Southampton port.

In Maths, we have been learning about division, using short division (bus stop method). Children have been working hard and using their prior knowledge and times table knowledge to help them understand this.

The children enjoyed the trip to Waterloo station, where they got to see the Windrush monument that they will be recreating in art towards the end of the term using the paper mache technique.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In Science, we have learnt about the movement of the Earth and how other planets orbit around the sun. Did you know, a year on Neptune is 60,190 days!

Year Six

Year 6 have been diving into their new text "Goodnight Mister Tom" through their writing. They have written fantastic setting descriptions based on the evacuation of children at the beginning of World War 2. They have chosen language carefully to describe the setting and atmosphere, focusing on the sensory details and imagery to create a picture in the readers' mind. We are really impressed with the quality of the children's work and it shows how much they have learnt so far in year 6.

In science, the children have continued our learning about electricity, making a variety of different circuits using different components such as buzzers, switches and motors. The children then drew accurate scientific circuit diagrams to represent the circuits they had made.

In maths, Year 6 have continued with their focus on decimal numbers by solving questions involving the four operations. They have practised their fluency and accuracy when adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals before applying these skills in context.

Finally, Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Croydon Fire Station for the TfL Junior Citizenship Workshop this week where they took part in a number of different sessions delivered by the Met Police, London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service. They learnt what to do in an emergency situation, how to travel safely using TfL and how to avoid stranger danger. It was a really informative day and all the children took away some really valuable life skills.



Phrases of the Week



El valor del mes de West Thornton es la RESILIENCIA - West Thornton's value is RESILIENCE.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Amna	Ananya	Keonie	Jasser	
Dillon	Stan	Veeya	Ayran	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Victoria	Asher	Lianne	Hitarth	
Abilene	Hanfa	Liam	Wiktorija	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Ishaan	Mustafa	Reagan	Ayan	
Tesla	Param	Leksha	Seyon	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Anass	Romero	Britt	Khaliyah	Mustafa
Ana	Hanna	Aftah	Georgina	Isabella
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Daniel	Joanna	Fiza	Samuella	Emmanuel
Alana	Ava	Lathixan	Anthony	Alysia
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Elijah B	Isabel	Chantel	Rhonnald	Whole
Srilaya	EKhlas	Aarush	Arham	Class
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Joshua	Mathooshana	Rhonique	Aisha	Whole
Hamna	Umar	Apishiya	Iara	Class
Spanish	KS1 PE		KS1 Music	
Year 3 CR	Alfie Larch		Safiyah Spruce	

Community

English language class for women





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Emmanuel is proud to host SELAM, an English language class for women, run by women. It is a warm, friendly, informal class for all abilities.

We meet on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** during term-time in Emmanuel Centre. The class starts at **10am and finishes at 11:30am**.

All women are welcome, whatever your English-level – we have a creche for children under 5 who are welcome to come with you.

The cost is £1 and includes refreshments. If you'd like more details please contact Rachel on 07881 970009.



Croydon Healthy Homes team are running a series of online and face to face events next week which we are calling Winter Energy Week, some are events we would be running anyway and some additional events. As with all Croydon Healthy Homes events, they are aimed at lower income and vulnerable Croydon residents who live in private sector housing (home owners or private renters). Below is a link to our Winter Energy Week webpage, and attached is a flyer.

[Winter Energy Week 20 to 24 January 2025 | Croydon Council](#)