



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**24th January 2025**

It has been another incredible week at West Thornton. This week has been filled with exciting learning. Children have been engaged in a wide variety of activities from exploring rocks in science to creating beautiful artwork in their art lessons. We're incredibly proud of their efforts and the progress they are making.



We would like to express our sincere thanks to all parents who have been able to attend our parental engagement workshops so far this year or have requested to see materials shared in the sessions if they have not been able to attend. Your active participation in your child's education is invaluable. Next week, we will continue to hold focused workshops for parents of our Year 6 pupils to help you to prepare for the upcoming End of Key Stage assessments in May. We encourage you to attend. It is a great way to practically understand what is involved and get ideas on how best to support them.

The meeting regarding the trust's proposed trial of a change to the school timetable has been rescheduled and will now take place on Thursday 6th February. Please see a letter sent out to parents/carers earlier this week for more information.

We are almost halfway through the academic year. This provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on your child's progress. You should have received a letter with details on how to book a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss your child's learning journey. Parents' Evening (Guardian Consultations) will take place in the last week of term.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend! See you on Monday!



## Attendance

Well done to the following classes with 97% and above,

RR - Year 3 Walnut Class                      CR - Year 3 Chestnut Class  
RR - Year 4 Acacia Class  
RR - Year 5 Cypress Class  
RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

### 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

Another exciting week in Reception! The children began the week by exploring our new core text - The Gingerbread Man. They made their own salt dough gingerbread man puppets by combining salt, flour, and water and customized them with paint, glittery, and other material to bring them to life. They then used them to help orally retell the story of The Gingerbread Man.





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In Maths, the children continued growing our knowledge of number composition by looking at the numbers 6,7, and 8. They explored different ways to make 6, 7, and 8 using both a part-part-whole and a 10s frame. They also looked at different ways to represent 6, 7, and 8 and created their own representations of these numbers through drawings, dots, and tallies.

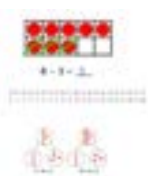
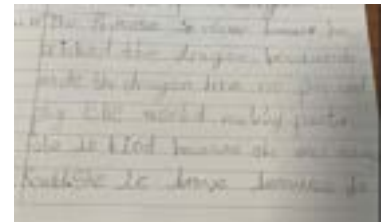


For topics this week, the children identified the people in our lives who are special to them - such as family members, teachers, friends, and neighbours - and explained why they are special. They then looked at their bodies and different ways to keep them safe from harm as well as the important things there are at school that help keep their bodies safe while they are at school, like the fire alarm, key code doors, and what the lanyards that adults have to wear mean. They then showed their knowledge by creating a safety poster.

### Year One

Year 1 has had another great week and would like to say a big thank you to all the parents that came in to watch the phonics gallery at Rosecourt Road on Thursday, the children loved showing you their learning.

In English this week, the children have been showcasing their writing skills by independently writing a character description of the character Elizabeth from the story 'The Paper Bag Princess'. They have used adjectives and conjunctions to add lots of description in their writing.



In maths, the children have been learning about subtraction and finding the difference between two amounts. They have demonstrated this in numerous ways including crossing out on a tens frame, using part,part whole models and using a number line.

In Science, the children have been looking at how to group animals and this week they looked at animal classification groups. They looked at the two groups fish and mammals and which features each of these have.

### Year Two

Year 2 have continued to work hard this week on the genre of letter writing in English. Over the week they have planned and begun to write a formal letter with a focus on asking for a class pet. They have worked hard to include features of a formal letter such as:



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- recipient's address
- date
- salutation
- first person
- Introduction
- paragraphs
- exclamation sentence
- sign off



In maths, the children have been learning about multiplication and division. Over the week the children practiced the skill of grouping a number of objects by sharing then recording this as a division calculation. The children concluded the week multiplying and dividing by 2.

There are 14 socks.



Ben puts them into pairs.

**a)** How many pairs of socks does he have?  
**b)** Write a division to show this.

In Science this week the children have been investigating the effect of exercise on the body. They all had to perform a range of exercises for 1 minute, then wrote observations of changes to their body such as increase in breathing, heart rate and temperature.

### Year Three

It has been another fantastic week in Year 3, with the children working extremely hard and making great progress across all subjects.

This week, Year 3 tackled the challenging task of dividing two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers using flexible partitioning. The children have used tens and ones counters to help them visualize the process of exchanging when dividing. They started by partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones and then explored how to divide these parts step by step. Through practical activities and guided discussions, the children developed strategies to handle tricky remainders and explain their thinking.

In English, we have been focusing on descriptive writing, specifically using expanded noun phrases to bring our writing to life. We have been exploring the Amazon rainforest as our setting, and the children have been using their five senses to create vivid and engaging descriptions. To bring the Amazon Rainforest to life in their writing, the children explored the use of adjectives, prepositions, and sensory language. For example, they described the vibrant emerald canopy



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stretching across the sky, the chorus of chirping crickets and squawking parrots and the earthy scent of damp leaves after the rain. Through shared writing, peer editing, and independent tasks, the children built beautifully detailed paragraphs that captured the magic and mystery of the rainforest.

In our RE lessons this week, we have delved into the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. We have explored the concept of the Four Noble Truths, learning about the nature of suffering and how to overcome it. The children have shown a keen interest in understanding how these teachings can help us lead happier and more fulfilling lives. To bring these ideas to life, we engaged in a creative drama activity, reenacting key moments from Siddhartha Gautama's life and reflecting on his journey towards enlightenment.

### Year Four

Year four have worked very hard on completing their recount of Odysseus and the Cyclops, and are now brainstorming and beginning to describe their own mythical creature to include in a narrative.



$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

In maths, we have been introduced to both long and short multiplication via manipulatives, to solve multiplication problems. We will continue to work hard on this skill!

$$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 71 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

During Science, children have continued to create and investigate circuits. They have discussed and tried out several ways to complete an incomplete circuit, and have begun to explain why a light or buzzer isn't working, and solve the issue.

In Art, children have built on last week's skills when making a tile; learning to make slip and blend and score. They have now made their first pinch pot with clay! We're really looking forward to creating our own Ancient Greek vessel and painting it!

### Year Five

In Year 5 this week, our students have embarked on an exciting journey of learning and discovery! The children have been delving into the fascinating world of words, exploring a range of literary and structural techniques to make their writing even more engaging. From mastering the art of personification to weaving in the atmospheric effects of pathetic fallacy, they've been crafting sentences that brim with creativity and depth. By incorporating prepositional expressions to add



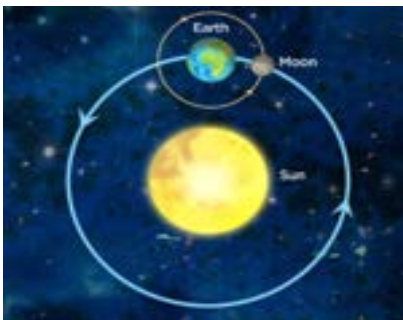
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vivid detail, our budding writers are truly transforming into skilled wordsmiths. It has been a week brimming with imagination as they work diligently to craft stories that captivate and inspire.

In Maths, our Year 5 students have been diving into the world of division, focusing on the short division method, commonly known as the bus stop method. This technique is helping them break down complex problems into smaller, manageable steps, fostering their confidence in tackling challenging calculations

In Science, the children have continued their exciting exploration of space. This week, they delved deeper into the movement of planets, uncovering fascinating facts like how the lengths of days differ dramatically between planets. For example, a day on Venus is longer than a year on Earth! The children were captivated by the vastness and diversity of our solar system, sparking thought-provoking questions about how these movements influence life and the universe beyond. Their curiosity and enthusiasm for space continue to grow, laying the groundwork for a lifelong love of scientific inquiry and discovery.



### Year Six

Another jam-packed week for Year 6 has flown by this week! The children have thrown themselves into the Spring Term with focus, responsibility and resilience. In English, children have been learning the skills they need to write a monologue which entertains an audience. The piece, which they will write next week, will be a present tense internal monologue of an evacuated child as they wait to be selected in a village hall in the countryside. The children have worked hard on developing their vocabulary and cohesion and we are looking forward to seeing the results.

In maths, there has been lots of fantastic learning going ahead on both sites. The children have shown confidence when manipulating decimal numbers by rounding, adding and subtracting while some classes have moved on to looking at the relationships between decimals and fractions. They have become increasingly accurate in their arithmetic and are able to spot patterns between numbers which shows a depth of understanding useful for future maths learning.



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In history, the children continued their learning about World War 2 by researching significant leaders during WW2. They read some information and took notes about each person before writing a paragraph about them and the impact on the war. It was impressive to see children improving their note-taking and summarising skills. Science this week has been a deeper look into circuits: children have spotted problems with circuits in which the bulb doesn't light up and they have drawn accurate circuit diagrams to solve the problem.



The children have enjoyed their art lessons too; they have been experimenting with the medium of clay, practising making a variety of shapes and joining pieces together ready to make our final piece this half term.



### Phrases of the Week



**¿Qué tiempo hace hoy?** - What's the weather like today?

**Hoy hace mucho viento.** - Today it's very windy.

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Hephzibah	Yuvaan	Aniyah	Caterina
Yoel	Tyrone	Luca	Izabel
Y1 Elm	Y1Fir	Y1Lime	Y1 Maple
Evelin	Musa	Emma	Ryan
Ahyaan	Cassius	Simeon	Amani- Rae



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Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Thanushik	Alice	Raphael	Jakepaul	
Ava M	Muhammad	Ohm	Krishiv	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Harish	Serena	Elizabeth	Whole	Thariz
Anamika	Melissa	Rachael	Class	Cassidy
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Almelio	Elias	Eagan	Sophia	Areej
Sharick	Zahra	Sebastian	Amelia	Brianna
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Richard	Khasifa	Azna	Avaneesh	Malaika
Aneeqa	Loredano	Arianna	Amir	Muhammad -Yahya
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sahra	Annalisa	Divine	Bailey	Maliyah
Katrina	Mailee-Jo	Rahma	Ammar	Keisy Anne
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Sianna Acer	CR - Zohal RR - Taliyah	CR - Aadia RR - Harish	Abdullah Pine	Ava Eucalyptus