



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

31st January 2025

It's been another wonderful week of learning at West Thornton this week. As half term approaches, the children have been continuing their hard work in writing by beginning to plan and produce their final outcomes. It's been fantastic to see so many enthusiastic writers visiting SLT to share their poetry, monologues, narratives and more. We can't wait to see the finished results over the final weeks of the term!

Across the wider curriculum, the children have been planning and carrying out investigations in Science. In Year 6, the children have been investigating circuits and how changing components can change how the circuit operates. In History, Year 4 has been learning about all things Ancient Greece and Year 1 has been gearing up for their upcoming trip to the Horniman Museum.

Once again, we would like to thank parents for their participation in the parental engagement sessions. This week we welcomed Year 6 parents to an information session on the Reading SATs papers. The next session will take place next week, where Year 6 parents and children are invited to discuss the Maths SATs papers. Also, a reminder that 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 at Rosecourt Road.

We hope you have a restful weekend and look forward to welcoming the children on Monday for another week of learning.

Attendance

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

RR Year 3 Larch Class

CR Year 1 Lime Class

RR Year 4 Beech Class

CR Reception Willow Class

RR Year 5 Cypress Class

CR Year 6 Holly Class



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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 lessons this week the children have discovered that a setting is a place where a story happens. They have explored a range of settings from different stories they know, including their current core text 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children have enjoyed describing their own settings by writing sentences about what they can see.



In maths lessons the children have continued to develop their understanding of number. Using their newly acquired knowledge of numbers 6,7 & 8, they have explored the patterns of odd and even numbers and how to distinguish between the two. They then built on this learning by experimenting with number doubles. They enjoyed collaborating with each

other to find matching number pairs before counting both parts to find the total.



In topic lessons the children have been finding out about the Lunar New Year. They have been introduced to the story of the great race which determined the order of the zodiac years. They were excited to find out that this year is the year of the snake. After exploring the different traditions that are observed when celebrating the Lunar New Year the children each experienced the gifting and tasting of fortune cookies.



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Year One

We have had a fantastic week in Year 1, filled with exciting learning experiences! Here's what we have been up to:

This week, we focused on editing and improving our character descriptions of The Paper Bag Princess. The children worked hard to add more detail to their writing. We also wrote a recount of our school day, practising our sequencing skills and using time connectives.

In maths, we have been exploring related facts, helping us understand the relationships between addition and subtraction. The children have been using their number bonds to create fact families and develop their problem-solving skills.

We had an exciting time in science learning about the features of amphibians, reptiles, and birds. The children enjoyed comparing these different groups of animals and discussing their unique characteristics.

Our art lessons have been especially creative this week as we began designing our crowns! The children have been using a variety of objects, including gems, pasta, and buttons, to create their masterpieces. We can't wait for you to see them!

A quick reminder that our school trip is on **Wednesday, 5th February**.

Please ensure your child dresses warmly and brings a packed lunch. We are looking forward to a wonderful day out!

Year Two

It has been a lovely learning week, this week in Year 2. In English we have started our new detective text called 'Hermelin' by Mini Grey. The children are now looking at features of a newsletter and will eventually have the opportunity to write their own. In Maths this week, we have been learning about multiplying and dividing by 10. These have been successful math lessons because the children have now become more confident in their use of mathematical vocabulary with words such as dividend, divisor and product and the methods used to get the correct answer.

In Science this week, we have been looking at personal hygiene. The children were learning about the importance of regular hand washing to avoid germs which could cause disease. In this lesson, the children shook hands with one another whilst they had their hands covered in one colour of paint. Towards the end of the exercise the children had their hands smothered in a multitude of colours, which represented just how many germs we come across on a daily basis.

Additionally, in RE this week, we have been learning about the importance of prayer in Hinduism. We then created Pooja Trays which are used during prayer in Hinduism and





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contain items which are symbolic within the religion. The children created their own Pooja Trays which contained items that are meaningful and symbolic to them.

Year Three

It's been a busy week of learning in year 3! In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of measurement. They have been learning the difference between units of measurement and measuring objects around the classroom using centimetres, metres and millimetres.

In writing, the children have delved into the world of leaflets, analysing their features and then using their learnt knowledge about the Amazon Rainforest to conduct research and take notes in order to be able to create their very own informative leaflets over the next few weeks!



In the wider curriculum, the children's creativity has been flowing as they generated ideas and designs for their moving pictures in DT, reflecting on the materials they will need to be successful when they begin construction. Finally, in geography, they have been investigating the issues of deforestation, exploring its causes and consequences.

Year Four

This week has been very exciting as Year 4 has developed many new skills and mastered important concepts.

In maths, children began with multiplying 2/3 digit numbers with 1 digit and later delved into the world of division which proved challenging at first but nothing they cannot master! Children learned new vocabulary such as dividend, divisor and quotient to help them to understand how division worked.

In English, they are continuing to write and edit sections to describe their chosen story setting, protagonist and antagonist ready to use when they draft their final copy of their own Greek myth. Children have tried to include features that they have learnt previously and are always trying to uplevel their work independently.

Our little scientists were great at creating closed circuits using the bulbs, cells and wires. They went a step further by removing one component each time to see if they could replace it with a



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different material like rubber, paper or a metal coin and investigate whether their circuit would still work and light the bulb. When the bulb lit up with aluminium foil, their faces lit up with it!

In art, children are continuing to use clay to practice and learn new techniques that can be used to make their final piece of work - a clay vessel used in ancient Greece. Adding to the fun they had in learning how to score, blend, and do the slip and pinching technique, they have now learnt how to use the coil to layer their pottery.

Year Five

This week in Year 5 English, we have been learning about the features of poems and how to identify what the theme is of poems. Our key text this week has been 'If' by Rudyard Kipling, and his poems' overarching theme is about living by positive values such as; integrity, rightful behavior and self-development. Students have started to relate this theme back to our Spring 1 core text, The Windrush child and are beginning to write their own poem based on the two texts.

We have started a new topic this week in Maths of multiplying a fraction by an integer (whole number). Students have been using their prior knowledge of fractions that we learnt in Autumn 2 and answering questions related to the topic.

In Art this week students practiced sketching their table partner's portrait in proportion, without lifting up their pencil, which had its challenges as it was difficult to move to different parts of the paper without leaving unwanted lines. This was a great activity to get their creativity started going into the rest of the lesson. Students used these skills and started to design their own sculpture within proportion.

Year Six

This week, Year 6, have worked incredibly hard in English to complete their monologues from the perspective of the evacuee children during WW2. Within their writing they worked hard to select effective vocabulary and phrases to convey mood and atmosphere. During the editing process they also worked hard to ensure they used a variety of conjunctions and punctuation to support their writing. In Maths, children have also deepened their understanding of fractions, decimals and percentages and have learnt how to convert and compare between them. In reading children have also worked hard to use the clear strategy to answer questions around the text. It is important that children are continuing to read everyday and complete weekly homework so learning is consolidated.



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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	
Arayah	Hussain	Minahil	Khavalli	
Aiza	Stefan	Jayson	Zainab	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Ismahan	Esther	Trey	Dominic	
Aisha	Kymirah	Alexcya	Sophie	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Katie	Kyarah	Benjamin	Anika	
Dhanvi	Ali	Kaiara	Eugithan	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Riian	Jensi	Keyaan	Hillel	Mercy
Ishani	Kayalvily	Nizar	Elena	Meryam
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Salome	Daniel	Elhaan	Ethan	Aatheesh



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Hasan	Precious Subhan	Adam	Nadiya	Dhanvi
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Satvic	Neda	Kaira-Leigh	Izza	Denephia
Lucy	Pirateesh	Uri-Jay	Arham	Yassine
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sanvi	Shaniya	Smriti	Madushen	Josiah
Cush	Mohamad	Zahra	Samra	Confidence
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	
Reign Chestnut	Seth CR Liam	CR Grace	All of Year 2	



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Community

WILFRIED ZAHA ACADEMY

Instagram, Facebook, Twitter icons
@wzacademy

HALF-TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

17 - 21 FEBRUARY

GIRLS & BOYS ■ ALL ABILITIES ■ AGES 4-12

9:30 AM - 3 PM ■ EARLY DROP OFF - 8:45 AM

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£15 PER DAY | **£70 FULL WEEK**
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