



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

28th February 2025

We've had a fantastic week yet again at West Thornton, with children excited to start learning their new topics, read their new core texts and of course, see their friends again. Year 6 have enjoyed an immersive World War 2 experience (please see the Year 6 section!) swimming lessons have continued in Year 5 and everyone has been working hard to improve their times tables!!



Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Children can come to school dressed as a book character, Superhero or in their pyjamas. To further develop our love of reading, we are very excited to announce that we will be running the Scholastic **book fair** between Friday 27th February and Wednesday 5th March in the school halls at the end of the day. Please pop along to this always very popular event and please note that we will only be able to take payments online - no cash can be taken at the fair.



Calling all Canterbury Road parents and carers. Join our Local Community Council as a Parent Governor! The Local Community Council is the vital link between our school and its community. By gathering feedback and providing constructive challenge, the LCC will ensure local voices are heard in school development and trust strategy. Are you passionate about your child's education and the wider community? Do you want to help shape the future of our school? We are looking



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for a Parent Governor to join our Local Community Council working together to ensure the best outcomes for all children. As a parent governor:

- You are the Trust's community champion.
- You will attend two meetings a year in person.
- You will visit the school at least three times per year to talk to pupils, staff and parents including attending key celebrations and providing a written report to share at LCC meetings and with the Trust Board.
- You may need to participate in any disciplinary and complaints panels.

No prior experience is needed - just a commitment to making a difference! Interested? Contact a member of SLT or The Office by Friday 7th March to learn more. Your voice matters!

Attendance

Well done to the following classes with 97% and above

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn

RR - Year 2 Spruce

CR - Year 2 Palm

RR - Year 3 Larch

CR - Year 4 Hornbeam

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch

CR - Year 2 Aspen

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn

CR - Year 3 Cherry

Curriculum Focus

Reception



The children have settled back in very well after the half term break. They have been introduced to our new topic about Space and have loved learning about the planets. The children started the week by visiting space and understanding how dark it is. In literacy, they have learnt about two planets a day and have compared them. They have written simple sentences, such as 'It is red.' and 'It has rocks.' using their phonic knowledge.





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In the provision this week, the children have been immersed in space activities. They have painted the different planets, drawn their own galaxies as well as making playdough aliens!



In maths the children have been learning about the numbers 9 and 10. They began the week by recognising the numerals and then sorting different representations of the numbers. They then found different ways to make the numbers 9 and 10 as well as representing numbers to 10 pictorially.

In topic, the children have been learning about healthy eating. They have sorted healthy foods and foods that are less healthy and understand that there needs to be a balance with their eating. They have learnt that exercise is important to look after their bodies.

Year One



Year One have returned to school ready for the new half term. On Monday morning they were surprised to find a box with an alien from another planet. They agreed how they should treat it. They agreed that they should take care of it and help to get it back to its parents.

In maths they have been finishing up their unit on place value within 50. The children began the week finding missing numbers up to 50. Then they have been finding one more and one less.

One of the highlights of this week was in science where they were learning all parts of the body. They impressed their teachers with their knowledge of parts of the body. Finally they draw around each other and labelled the different parts of their bodies. In RE they have been learning that stories can have meaning. This week they read the Starfish story, they learnt that it is an important story to Humanists because it teaches about kindness.



Year Two

In English, Year 2 children experienced their classroom being turned into a junk yard as part of the immersion lesson. They then sequenced the story 'Frog Belly Rat Bone'. The children then made a story map to help them retell this story.

In maths, year 2 children have continued with their learning on money. They started the week by calculating how much money they could see in a purse, by adding the different bronze and silver coins. They then used notes and





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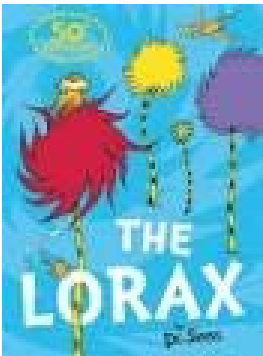
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coins to find the total. The children soon built their confidence in finding different ways of making the same amount using plastic coins. E.g. they made 80p using different ways. After this, they started comparing different amounts of money using the symbols for greater than, less than and equal to.

In RE, the children found out the special book for Jews: the Torah. They had a go at writing in Hebrew and made a promise which was written on a scroll. In history, the children were excited to find out about Dr Barnado. They then wrote down questions about this historical figure after reading information about him. In DT, the children will be making hand puppets, so they looked at various types of hand puppets.

Year Three

This half term in English, we are exploring persuasive writing through our new book, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. To kick things off, we had an exciting visit from our Headteacher, who set us a challenge—to write a persuasive letter convincing her to buy new playground equipment. This created a fantastic buzz in the classroom, and the children quickly got into the role of persuasive writers! Throughout the week, we have been identifying the key features of persuasive writing. The children have been working hard to enhance their writing using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. Additionally, we have explored cause and effect, linking it to events in *The Lorax*. The children are now beginning to apply these techniques in their own persuasive writing, and we are looking forward to seeing some brilliant letters next week!



In maths, we have started our exciting new topic on fractions. This week, the children have been introduced to numerators and denominators, learning how they work together to make up a fraction. We have explored unit fractions (fractions with a numerator of 1, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$) and non-unit fractions (fractions with a numerator greater than 1, such as $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{5}{6}$). To deepen our understanding, we have been using practical resources like fraction walls, number lines, and shape models to help the children visualise how fractions work. The children have particularly enjoyed using fraction games and real-life scenarios, such as sharing food, to understand the concept in a meaningful way.

Our new history topic is The Stone Age, and this week we have been developing our understanding of chronology. The children were amazed to learn just how long ago the Stone Age took place! We looked at key periods within the Stone Age—Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic—and placed them on a timeline to understand how human life evolved over thousands of years. The children had great fun working in groups to create their own Stone Age timelines,



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piecing together key events. We also discussed what life was like for early humans, comparing it to our lives today. The children had some fantastic discussions about how humans survived without modern technology!

Year Four

Year 4 were raring to get back to work as soon as they stepped through the gates!

In English, we cracked straight on with performing poems with our best prosody skills. The children read aloud a range of poems about Ancient Greek gods/goddesses, and gave each other valuable feedback about their technique and delivery. We even read some amusing poems in Reading, but we will leave it to the kids to tell you about the rude one!

The children are now moving onto fractions in Maths. They have been doing really well to recall their Year 3 knowledge and then build upon this by making the whole. They must remember that fractions are 'equal parts' of a whole shape, quantity or amount. Times tables are still a big focus, and the children should still be practising as much as possible at home. This could be on TTRS, [Timestables.co.uk](https://www.timestables.co.uk), or simply the old way of writing them down and being tested daily! Please focus on the 6,7,8 and 9 times tables in particular.

We have begun to immerse the children in life in 'modern Greece' and have been reading 4-figure grid references to prepare them for comparing the UK to Greece. They should be able to navigate themselves around the local area by now!

We are greatly looking forward to our trip to the Science Museum on Tuesday 11th March, and hope that we can have a few more parent volunteers to support on the visit. It will be a lot of fun in the Wonderlab, for children, and for adults!

Year Five

Year 5 had a fantastic start to the term, diving into exciting learning across different subjects!

In **History**, students explored the Windrush generation and key events that shaped their lives in Britain. They put historical events in order, from the arrival of Caribbean migrants in 1948 to the Notting Hill riots of 1958 and the impact of the Human Rights Act in 1998. Through discussions and research, they gained a deeper understanding of migration, equality, and protected characteristics.

In **Science**, students investigated forces and motion, exploring how Newton's and Galileo's theories explain the way objects move. They learned that forces, like gravity and friction, affect movement and that pulleys and levers can help make tasks easier.



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In **English**, Year 5 started reading *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll. They took part in role-play activities to bring the story to life, explored Autism through engaging tasks, and even stepped into character for a 'Hot Seating' activity to deepen their understanding of the book's themes.



It's been an inspiring and thought-provoking week, and we can't wait to see what else they will discover this term!



Year Six

This week has brought an exciting new start for the second half of the Spring term in year 6. Children have been hard at work finishing their instruction texts by writing a guide for how to survive the Blitz. They have thought carefully about the language they chose, focusing on devices such as modal verbs, imperative verbs, passive voice and the subjunctive mood to change how information is presented. Children have seen the start of a new topic in maths: shape, with a focus on area and perimeter this week. They have built on their learning from year 5, recalling the formulae needed to calculate area and perimeter and applying them in different contexts.



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Children at Rosecourt Road were the first to take part in a World War 2 experience day run by actors. The children got into the spirit of the 1940s by dressing up as evacuees before being greeted by billeting officers who guided them through the experiences of children their age at the



beginning of World War 2. It was a fantastic day out and we are looking forward to children from Canterbury Road taking part in a few weeks' time.



Reading

Please remember to record your reading in your Reading Records at home - it would be amazing to see some of the comments you are making being based on the strategies you are focusing on in school.

Phrases of the Week



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¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Mason	Oliver	Joziah	Melvin	
O'Brian	Amelia	Thasviga	Keonna	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Javarie	Haad	Khalil	Tilly	
Kacie	Nesma	Abinaya	Jayce	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Noah	Skyler	Kaiara	Masroor	
Loreran	Nihal	Seth	Aadam	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Cherish	Kaiden	Marianna	Aj	Srisa
Christabel	Gessica	Britt	Adriel	Rebecca
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Arthur	Precious	Nandini	Kanish	Srishanth
Aarav	Sapna	Marcel	Liana	Luena
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Caitlin	Zayne	Kavya	Narayan	Aamir
Nithusian	Agyeiwaa	Nusaibah	Maja	Deniphia



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Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Tamera	Kyron	Drisna	Minal	Antoni
Ilyas	Isla-Mae	Rahma	Yasmin	Jayden
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE		
Years 4,5,6 RR	CR - Jaafina	CR - Romero Caitlin		

Community

Parking at Canterbury Road - Showing the School Values

We would like once again to remind parents and carers that you should not park on the yellow lines outside our school, or outside the homes of our neighbours on Canterbury Road, where parking is not permitted. There was a serious accident outside the school recently, where thankfully no members of our community were hurt but please understand that if you are parking illegally, you are endangering the lives of yourself, your own children and others.

We were also very disappointed to hear that a member of our school community did not show our school values, when parking illegally outside, knocking over the cones that are in place. We expect all members of our community to show the school values both on and off our premises.

Please walk to school or take public transport wherever possible and if you must drive, park somewhere safe and suitable, and take a short walk to the school gates. Members of staff will be outside on Canterbury Road moving forward and expect any reasonable requests to move vehicles to be met with the respect and kindness that they will be delivered. Thank you.



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KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL

Club



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COME ON IN NOW!

Are you entitled to Zero or Discounted Fees

- On Full Benefits and going back to Work or College - upto 100% fees paid
- Universal Credit claimants - upto 80% fees paid
- University student - Childcare Grant Payment upto 80% fees paid
- Working - Childcare choices & Voucher scheme Tax relief

UC Universal
Credit

Childcare Vouchers*

Childcare
Choice
Scheme

CGPS

VISA

MasterCard

Open Hours:

Monday - Friday
Breakfast 07.30 am - 09.00 am
Afterschool 15.15 pm - 18.30 pm

Breakfast £5.50 / Afterschool £10.50 per session*

Registered & Approved

Ofsted CRB

www.kgdoodles.co.uk
0117-3322-811

* £2.00 per session for emergency sessions