



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

28th March 2025

What a wonderful week of special celebrations. Our school community is thinking about Eid, Holi, Mother's Day and Easter. The Reception Children experienced Holi in the powder paint photos you can see below, and the Mehndi henna design workshop.



Some of the adults joined in too. The intricate designs were created freehand rather than using a stencil. How amazing! A huge thank you to our talented parents for coming in. At the upper end of the school, the Year 6's continue to impress us with the hard work they are putting in when they attend booster sessions at the end of a busy school day.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the term comes to a close, our clubs have wrapped up. Mrs. McDermont & Mrs Balakrishnan led a sewing club, where the children crafted some beautiful bags and purses.

We could easily see these on sale in a shop window or on Etsy!



Attendance

Well done to the following classes with 97% and above

RR Year 1 Fir Class

CR R Willow Class

RR Year 3 Larch Class

CR Year 2 Aspen Class

RR Year 5 Silver Birch Class

CR Year 3 Cherry Class

RR Year 5 Cypress Class

CR Year 4 Olive Class

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

CR Year 5 Sycamore Class

RR Year 6 Juniper Class

CR Year 5 Hawthorn Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception



Reception has had such an exciting week! It was all about celebrations this week. The children first learnt about the Hindu festival of Holi and how it marks the beginning of Spring. They also learnt that it is celebrated to remember that good always triumphs evil. To celebrate Holi, the children had a colour festival! They threw coloured powder at each other and had the best time! Later

on in the week, the children learnt about Eid and how people celebrate by having Mehndi on their hands. The children had the opportunity to experience this and have some henna patterns done!





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In literacy, the children continued to learn about planet Earth and looked at habitats. They understood that a habitat is where something lives and looked at different ones, such as the desert, forest, arctic and city. They wrote sentences about the animals that lived there as well as writing descriptive sentences of the habitat itself.



In maths, the children have been looking at patterns. They have been making their own complex patterns following different rules, such as AAB, AAB and ABB.

Year One

Year 1 has had another busy week. In English the children have learnt about the different features of a diary including first person, past tense and emotion words. Then after a chance to practice those skills they have started to write their own diary entry from the perspective of Grandad in their core text Grandad's Island.

In maths they have been working on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Not only have they mastered counting in different ways they have also been able to explain the patterns that they can see when counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Finally they have been applying these skills to solve problems.

In wider curriculum, they have had a busy week making their final outcomes of their DT learning outcomes. There have been so many great projects displaying the different mechanisms that they have learnt about this half term including levers and rotating mechanisms. They look great and the children can't wait to bring them home to share with you. In RE they have finished their learning journey about stories that are important to them by learning about the Hindu story of Krishna and Draupadi. They then reflected on what makes a good friend and acted out their own stories about friendship.

Year Two

After Year 2s exciting trip to the London Zoo last week, the children have been buzzing with energy to write their non-chronological report about an animal. They started this week by looking at the features of a non-chronological report. They learnt that it is written in the third person, uses present tense and has headings and subheadings. They then later wrote a non-chronological report on birds.





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

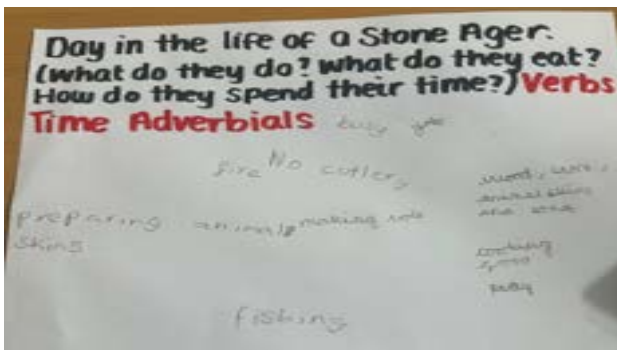
In maths the children started the week by solving worded problems on the four operations. They then learnt what mass was and used key vocabulary to describe which object was lighter or heavier than others. They then used scales to measure the weight of certain objects in grams.

In DT, the children have been developing their skills of how to do a running stitch and over stitch. They have started their hard work on making a hand puppet. Their puppets have been inspired by their London Zoo trip, they have a choice of whether they want to make a tiger, penguin, lion, giraffe or monkey.

In RE the children reminded themselves of the holy books in different faiths and then they wrote why some books are special and discussed how to treat these books. In history, the children reminded themselves of their learning of Dr Barnados and what life was like for a Victorian child. They rehearsed and practised what they learnt and did a presentation to the class.

Year Three

Another busy and productive week has flown by in Year 3! Our English lessons this week have



been filled with creativity and storytelling! We began the week by immersing ourselves back into our core text, **"The Stone Age Boy."** The children enthusiastically retold parts of the story using drama, bringing the characters and events to life through their acting and expression. They thought carefully about the literary techniques we have been studying, to enhance their dramatic retellings and make them even more engaging. We have also delved deeper into the characters within the story. The children took on the

challenge of retelling the character description of Om, the main character, but this time, from the perspective of the boy in the story. It was wonderful to see their imaginative interpretations!



In Maths this week, we continued our exploration of measurement. We started the week by revisiting **mass and weight**, focusing on comparing different masses and learning how to add and subtract them. Building on this, we then moved on to explore **millilitres and capacity**. We discussed how we

use these units in our everyday lives, from measuring liquids for cooking and baking to understanding the capacity of containers. The children engaged in practical activities, measuring liquids and estimating capacities, which helped them to develop a real-world understanding of these important mathematical concepts.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

This week in DT, our designers have been putting their skills to the ultimate test! We have been busy producing our final outcomes for our **Bologan Cloth** topic. The children have been combining all the techniques they have learned over the past few weeks. They have been experimenting with a variety of patterns and designs to bring their creative visions to life.

Year Four

This week, Year 4 have been building their non-fiction writing skills in **English**, focusing on how to construct an informal, but factual, explanation text. They have used techniques like rhetorical questions and exclamations to grab the attention of the reader - some writers have even used humour to entertain their audience! Wouldn't you like to find out more?

In **Maths**, the children have started to make important links between tenths as fractions and tenths as decimals. They have used different representations, such as number lines and bar models, to embed their knowledge. Using place value charts, the children are beginning to understand the purpose of the decimal point and what happens to numbers when they are smaller than one.

It has been a huge technical effort for the Year 4 children to build each step of their model Parthenons in **DT** (with a little bit of help where needed!). The models are really starting to take shape and will soon be completed, to the great delight of Zeus and company!



We have been busy comparing modern Greece to the UK and presenting ideas about how it would feel to represent a citizen from each of the countries. The children are finally thinking about which country they would like to visit or even live in!

Times table scores are continuing to improve across the classes, but we still urge all parents and carers to allow children to practise for 20 minutes a day to prepare them for the MTC.

Year Five

This week in English, Year 5 children have been exploring the key features of flashback narratives. They have learned about important elements such as a 'shift in time,' the triggers that prompt the flashback, and the use of sensory language to bring the memory to life. The children have worked hard to generate dialogue combined with actions, ensuring that their flashback narratives are engaging and authentic. They have also given thoughtful consideration to how the main character feels, showing a deep understanding of the character's emotions. This has enabled them to empathise with the character and craft a compelling opening to their narratives.

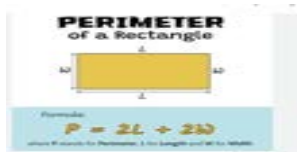
In Maths this week, Year 5 children have been focusing on calculating the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. When working on perimeter, they have applied their knowledge of shape



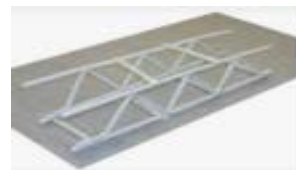
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

properties to work out missing lengths, enabling them to calculate the total perimeter accurately. In terms of area, they have explored different strategies for solving problems and have gained confidence in tackling more complex shapes. Their growing understanding of these concepts has been impressive!



In DT, we have reached the exciting stage of constructing our final bridges. After weeks of researching, experimenting with different materials, and carefully designing their structures, the children have decided on what they believe is the strongest shape for a bridge. Next week will be the moment of truth, as we will complete the construction and put the bridges to the test to see how much weight they can hold. The children have shown fantastic teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout the process — we can't wait to see the results!



Year Six

It has been a busy and highly productive week for Year 6 as they have been diligently revising in anticipation of their upcoming SATs examinations. The ongoing determination and resilience demonstrated by the children have been truly impressive.

In their writing lessons, children have been engaged in crafting suspense narratives, building upon previously acquired skills to achieve their final outcome. This process has included proofreading and editing to further develop their narratives and ensure accuracy and cohesion.

In Science this week, the children explored the formation of shadows through a hands-on activity involving a book and a torch. Following this, they drew diagrams to clearly illustrate how the book casts a shadow that replicates its shape. This activity helped pupils understand that the shape of a shadow is directly dependent on the shape of the object obstructing the light source. They learned that because light



shadow of puppet



shadow of toy cow



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

travels in straight lines, the resulting shadow will mirror the outline of the object.

In History, our focus was on the impact of the Second World War on the role of women. As men went to fight on the front lines, women were called to support the war effort at home. They took on crucial roles previously considered exclusively male, working as mechanics, engineers, and munitions workers. They also served as air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers, and in numerous other essential services.



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



¡Feliz EID a todos! - Happy EID everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Lacey	Sariyah	Kayla	Emmanuel
Tiana	Isaac	Austin	Mohammad



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Zohal	Kymirah	Khalise	Harriet	
Eloise	Jesse	Hassan	Elrick	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Tracey Tracey	Jason	Norah	Safiyah	
Cheyavan Cheyavan	Alice	Aaron	Aiza	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Younus	Arham	Lucas	Aadeesh	Campion
Riian	Praisejah	Mariya	Shakarn	Emily
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Victoria	Jessinton	Farzan	Aras	Ravani
Amelia	Melania	Stanley	Joel	Hazel
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Meeran	Whole class	Sophia	Kaydon	Amelia
Faiz		Aarush	Amir	Yassine
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Prince-Isaac	Shaniya	Rahma	Autumn	Keisy Anne
Tamera	Kayden	Affan	Rihan	Chrisanda
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE		
Years 4,5,6 RR		Elijah. S		



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Community



Advice, Rights & Advocacy: We have a full-time, in-house, very experienced Advice & Rights Advocacy worker who helps support individuals and families with issues including

insecure housing, school exclusion, education rights, domestic abuse, welfare benefits, unemployment, training, debt & money management.

Counselling in the Community

If you are aged between 10 to 25 years old our counsellors can offer you free face-to-face or online counselling.

Sessions last 40-50 minutes. We will offer you 6 sessions to start with at a regular time every week where you can talk safely without being judged about what's happening with you. We'll help you to figure out your individual challenges and find solutions. We are good listeners and will treat you with respect.

<https://croydondropin.org.uk/young-people/counselling/#form>



On Tuesday 18th March, you would have received an email or text message from Holiday Activities

(hello@holidayactivities.com) with the subject line 'You have been issued a voucher'. This email will guide you through the simple process of registering or signing in to the booking platform and

claiming your child(ren)'s voucher for **FREE** childcare . Once you've claimed your voucher, you can link it to your Holiday.



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**We Raised
a TOTAL OF**

£113

**FOR West Thornton
School**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



in partnership with
Parentkind

Registered charity number 1072633. Limited company by guarantee and registered in England number 03660271.



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FREE Family Fun! Keep the kids busy this Easter

7th to 16th April • All materials provided

Create your own Easter art

Dip dyed collaging

Fun with paper cut-outs

Decorate Easter cupcakes

Family engineering challenge

Soft toy sewing

Sustainable sewing

Taskmaster



Fun and Free! For parents, carers and children over 5 (unless stated), this is an amazing opportunity to create and learn in a nurturing and inclusive setting.

Central Croydon • New Addington • Purley • Thornton Heath



Croydon Adult
Learning And
Training

To book your places, scan the QR,
pop in to one of our centres or email:

familylearning2@croydon.gov.uk

www.calat.ac.uk/easter-family-fun

CALAT



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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 cash for emergency sessions