



## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

17th October 2025

What a wonderful final week of the term it has been here at West Thornton! The school has been buzzing with energy, positivity, and a strong sense of achievement as children worked hard to complete their half-term topics. Across all year groups, we have seen pupils showing excellent focus and determination as they put the finishing touches on their projects, reflected on their learning, and shared their successes with pride.

A highlight of the week was the boys' first football match against Smitham Primary School. The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and school spirit throughout the game.



### 🎉 Black History Month Celebration 🎉

On Wednesday, we had an amazing Black History Month celebration. Each year group focused on an inspiring individual and took part in activities linked to their life and achievements. The children also learnt songs to share during our celebration, and our amazing Year 4 girls rounded off each performance with a brilliant dance 🦸🏾‍♀️🦸🏾‍♀️! A huge well done to all the children for their



confidence, enthusiasm and hard work. Thank you to all the families who joined us to celebrate and to those who stayed afterwards to chat, eat and enjoy the delicious rumless punch! 🍹🍷





# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **Halloween Disco at Rosecourt Road**

What a fantastic afternoon we had at our inaugural Key Stage 1 Halloween Disco yesterday! The hall was filled with an amazing array of tiny vampires, brilliant superheroes, sparkly witches, and spooky skeletons. The children had a wonderfully energetic time dancing, showing off their fantastic costumes, and enjoying their sweet treats. It was a brilliant success and a perfect opportunity for our younger pupils to build friendships and enjoy our school community. Thank you to everyone who supported the event! Looking forward to Key Stage Two's turn today!



The children (and staff!) now have a well-deserved two-week half-term break to rest and recharge. We hope everyone enjoys a lovely, relaxing time off, whether you're spending it with family, travelling, or simply enjoying time at home.

 **Important Reminder:** School will be closed from Friday, October 20, and will reopen on **Monday, November 3.**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed, re-energised, and ready for another exciting half term filled with learning, creativity, and new opportunities.

### **Playground is a phone-free zone**



We have a no-phone policy in the playground to ensure everyone can be fully present. We appreciate your cooperation and a member of our team may gently remind you to put your phone away.

Have a wonderful break, everyone!

## Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

CR- Reception Ash

RR - Reception Oak



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CR - Year 4 Hornbeam  
CR - Year 2 Palm

RR - Reception Pine  
RR - Year 2 Spruce  
RR - Year 2 Rowan  
RR - Year 3 Larch  
RR - Year 4 Acacia  
RR - Year 5 Silver Birch  
RR - Year 6 Juniper  
RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus

## Curriculum Focus

### Reception

To mark Black History Month, the children have been learning the uplifting song 'This Little Light of Mine'. They embraced the song's message of hope and inner light, and it was a joy to see them confidently perform it to one another in class. This activity beautifully tied into our focus on celebrating differences and letting our own lights shine!

In Maths, we've been diving into the fascinating world of number composition. The children are exploring how numbers are made up of smaller parts, specifically focusing on 2 and 3. They've been using the key sentence stems to articulate their understanding: "1 and another 1 is 2." "1 and 1 and 1 is 3." This helps build a strong foundation for future addition and subtraction skills.

Our Writing lessons have seen the children flexing their fine motor skills by



mastering more complex patterns. These patterns are an important step in developing the control and precision needed for forming letters. This focused practice is an excellent preparation for when we begin writing letters next term!

Our core text, 'It's Okay to Be Different', continues to inspire great discussion during Topic time. The children have been exploring the important theme of 'People Who Help Us', talking about the wonderful people who support them every day: at home, in school, and in the wider community. It's lovely to see them appreciate the different roles people play in making our world a safe and happy place!



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### Year One



To celebrate Black History Month, the children in Year 1 learnt all about Mae Jemison. We discussed her life and who she was inspired by to become an astronaut. They then talked about their own hopes and dreams and what they would like to do when they grow up.



In English, the children have been busy independently writing the ending of our core text 'The Lonely Beast'. They have been working hard to remember to use suffixes to write verbs in the past tense.



In maths, they have been writing their number bonds to 10 systematically and in Science, they have tested their boats that they have made to see if they have selected suitable materials.

In Art, the children have been busy creating their flags by printing their created tiles on to fabric. They made their own individual flag and then collaborated to make a class one.

### Year Two



What a great end to the half term it has been! The children have really enjoyed finding out Serena Williams for our **Black History Month Celebration** assembly. They learnt about her character skills and how she has shown these throughout her career. They also really enjoyed learning our song and performing this.



In English the children have been editing and publishing their diary entries in the role of Izzy from 'Izzy Gizmo'. They have shown motivation and perseverance over the week to respond to their teachers feedback and improve their work before publishing in their neatest handwriting. They have also been introduced to the skills of peer and self assessment which will help them in the future to improve their work even further. We will build on these skills next half term.



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In Maths the children have been using their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to make number bonds to 100. They were brilliant at using their mathematical knowledge and applying this when using multiples of 10 (Eg If I know  $7 + 3 = 10$  then I also know  $70 + 30 = 100$ ). They also were calculating addition and subtraction number sentences by using a numberline.

In art the children have enjoyed putting the finishing touches on to their clay tile inspired by Izzy Gizmo. They learnt how to evaluate their art by explaining what they thought they were successful in, and deciding what they would do next time to improve their art skills. We were very impressed with how reflective the children were and the ideas that they came up with to improve their skills.



### Year Three



What a fantastic week it's been in Year 3! To celebrate Black History Month, the children in Year 3 learnt all about Nelson Mandela. We discussed his life and how he inspired lots to think about peace and forgiveness around the world. They then talked about how they viewed peace and forgiveness in their own lives.

Our classroom has been buzzing with creativity and thoughtful discussions as we delved into certain rights as a child. We focused on some very important rights, and the children really thought hard about what these mean for themselves and others around the world. This week, we focused on the fundamental right to **be heard**, to **be able to have an education**, to **have food and drink**.

To help us express our understanding of this right, we became amazing poets! The children used the **AABB rhyming pattern** to create some truly brilliant poems. This is a pattern where the first two lines rhyme, and the next two lines rhyme, making a fun and bouncy rhythm. We also performed our poems to the class.

This week, Year 3 became **Place Value Superheroes!** We've been working on a really important and tricky maths skill: **mentally adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, and 100s** to any number up to **1000**.

The children learned that when you add or subtract a 1, 10, or 100, only **one** digit in the number changes, unless you have to "cross a boundary" (like going past 10 or 100). We have also taken a huge step up in our addition skills as we've introduced the **formal written method** of addition, often called **column addition**.



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We started with a really important step: **adding two numbers with no exchange** (no 'carrying' over to the next column). This step is crucial because it helps the children understand the process before we introduce the complexity of exchanging.

This week, we've focused on ensuring all of our core curriculum work is complete and meets the high **West Thornton standards**. The children have worked diligently, taking pride in perfecting their presentation and detail. We've really enjoyed immersing ourselves and finishing our art work inspired by **Corey Barksdale**, we had great fun trying to **imitate his style** in our own pieces.

### Year Four

This week in Year 4, we have been celebrating Black History Month. The children learned about *Rosa Parks* and her inspiring act of bravery that sparked change around the world. We discussed the importance of courage and respect, and the children created a beautiful "Bus Bravery" display, writing key words and examples of courage on the seats of a paper bus. A few children shared what Rosa Parks' story meant to them, and we ended the session with dancing to the uplifting song *Jerusalema*, reflecting on its message of unity and joy.



In English, the children have been busy writing their own speeches about peace in school, inspired by the incredible Greta Thunberg. They showed great perseverance as they drafted, edited, and performed their final speeches, using a range of persuasive techniques such as emotive language, rhetorical questions, repetition, and the power of three. Their thoughtful ideas and confident delivery were truly impressive — we may have some future public speakers in Year 4!

In Science, the children have worked incredibly hard to complete their double-page spreads, answering the question "*What is the impact of environmental changes on living organisms?*" Their work shows a fantastic understanding of how living things adapt and respond to changes in their habitats.

It has been an incredible term, and we are so proud of everything Year 4 has achieved. We look forward to seeing all the children back next term, ready for another exciting term of learning!

### Year Five



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This week, to celebrate Black History Month, Year 5 learned all about some seriously inspiring individuals. The children have been fascinated by the stories of people who achieved great things and, just as importantly, fought for the rights of others. It was a thought-provoking look at how one person's courage can light up the path for so many others. An absolute highlight was focusing on the incredible poet and activist, Maya Angelou. We read her powerful poem, 'Still I Rise', and talked about how it makes you feel strong and proud. It really sparked something in the children! Inspired by her words, the children then wrote their own amazing poems about what makes them proud of themselves and how they celebrate their own unique strengths. The children bravely shared their poems with the class receiving a huge applause!



In English, children are nearing completion of their innovative letter to a friend. It is wonderful to see every child attempting to use all the literary devices learned so far and making their letters absolutely fantastic to read!

In maths, Year 5 has been focused on revisiting how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000. This continued revision ensures that they will master the concept and do well in their upcoming lessons and assessments.

Art has been so much fun for all the children! They finally painted their drawings of William Shakespear on a newspaper using acrylics. The final pieces look great with bright colours and we have some very proud children who can't wait to show off their work to their family and friends.

We have all had an amazing first term and look forward to seeing the children ready to learn, succeed and inspire in November.

Wishing you all a peaceful break.

### Year Six

This week, to celebrate Black History Month, year 6 embarked on a deeply impactful journey through history, exploring the extraordinary life of Harriet Tubman. They learned about her incredible courage, resilience and unwavering commitment to freedom. The children imagined themselves in Tubman's shoes, crafting diary entries detailing her perilous escape. This activity not only fostered empathy and historical understanding but also allowed our students to connect with



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themes of human rights, bravery, and the fight against injustice which we will continue to explore next half term.

Elsewhere in the curriculum, the children have shown our value of excellence in their English lessons by planning, writing and sharing their own persuasive letters. They chose a topic of interest and planned each paragraph before putting into practice the persuasive devices which they have learnt over the last 2 weeks. It has been incredible to see the children grow in confidence and independence as writers!

In maths, children have been consolidating their learning from this half term on the four operations. They have developed a range of strategies for solving different problems and have worked hard to choose the most efficient method.

Finally, we are so pleased with how the children's final outcomes for art have come together. They have created beautiful mixed media compositions inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's anatomical heart sketches using water colour and sketching pencils. The final pieces look great and the children are excited to have them on display!

### Phrases of the Week



**¡Buenas vacaciones a todos!** - Have a great half term everyone!

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Rayhan	Eliyanah	Isaiah	Ayan-Noor
Amelia	Hareshna	Ali	Aathee
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Jasper	Kevin	Zainab	Areena
Caterina	Sarajmv	Yasiin	Constantin



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Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Aaiza	Hassan	Whole class	Maya	
Lilith	Joseph		Athwin	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Kiera	Ava Odeleye	Powell	Saphira	
Adam	Tracey	Adona	Hamza	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Hoorain	Riian	Aaminah	Jensi	Adhithii
Anaya	Isabella	Meryam	Haroon	Nitya
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Liana	Micah	Sharick	Hazel	Marcel
Aaliyah	Amelia	Karim	Dhanvi	Fatemah
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Avaneesh	Geneive	Asiya	Whole	Neda
Manahil		Faiz		
Harun	Swarnika	Alyan	Class	Daniel

Community



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

# KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

## BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL

### Club



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PRIMARY SCHOOL



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



#### 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



[www.kgdoodles.co.uk](http://www.kgdoodles.co.uk)  
0117-3322-811

\* & Cs apply for emergency sessions.



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