

The West Thornton Weekly - 6 March 2020

News from West Thornton Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the launch of our new behaviour policy and reward scheme 'Good To Be Green', on Monday, the children have enjoyed demonstrating our raised expectations of positive behaviour and have engaged positively with it. When you enter a classroom the pupils are keen to share that they have been green all day and have earned their stars. Some of you will have had phone calls over the week, letting you know about great learning and behaviours, our first new certificates will be awarded today and keep an eye out for those postcards landing on your mats.

In assemblies this week we have continued to focus on the value of 'Responsibility'. The children have been reminded about the importance of being responsible for their own actions and being courageous and honest when taking ownership of their behaviour. Often we blame others for our actions before we think about how we could have responded differently, being responsible is about taking back control.

The coronavirus is very much at the forefront of all our minds. Schools are receiving daily advice from the DfE which we are following closely. Currently the biggest impact on keeping safe is personal hygiene and we will be having a whole school focus on washing hands and catching sneezes next week. We have hand sanitizer dispensers on both sites but if you do provide your child with one, please ensure that it is an alcohol free product.

The government has also launched a helpline for schools and parents details of which you will find at the bottom of the newsletter. We will remain vigilant and, of course, we will keep you up-to-date when and if there are any changes to the situation.

There are some exciting events coming up over the next couple of weeks. On Wednesday we have the author M.G. Leonard visit the school and working with Years 5 and 6 and in two weeks Steve Reed MP will be delivering an assembly on responsibility.

Our Learning This Week

EYFS

Reception

Reception had a special delivery of eggs, we didn't have to wait too long before 5 little ducklings hatched their way out! The children have been learning what the ducks need to grow and how to look after them. This week they put them in the water tray and watched them swimming around and diving under the water.

Key Stage One

Year 1

Over the past two weeks, Year 1 has been exploring their core text; The Lonely Beast. They made predictions about the story as well as exploring the main character and sequencing events through role play and descriptive writing. In history children have learnt about

The children were very gentle with the ducklings and amazed that they could just swim by instinct. It was a fun time for everyone!

In maths the children have been putting objects and pictures in order. They have been explaining terms such as biggest, medium, middle and smallest.



explorers throughout time and considered what things they would need to take with them on an expedition.

In science we have been identifying, describing and sorting materials and in maths children have worked practically to solve problems involving capacity and volume. We have also explored addition and subtraction and identified patterns in numbers up to 20.

Year 2

Year 2 has been busy this week. They have been learning about fractions in maths, representing halves and quarters in both pictorially and in numbers.

The children are gripped by their new book *Hermelin* and have been learning all about mice and finding out why people consider them to be pests. From this the children have started to plan and write letters to the residents of Offley complaining about the appalling treatment of *Hermelin the Mouse*.

Lower Key Stage Two

Year 3

The Year 3 pupils have been learning about data and statistics in maths. They have used their new skills and knowledge to present data gathered on recycling habits at home.

A great deal of interest has been generated by the class book *Rosie Rosie Revere - Engineer*. It has led to discussions about our school values, especially how determination, hard work and passion unlock our goals.

Year 4

The children have been reading *Azzi In-Between*, a book about a child refugee in an unnamed country. From this they have written some fantastic setting descriptions using new vocabulary generated from class discussions.

In maths the pupils have converting fractions to decimals with a focus on converting tenths and hundredths and representing these pictorially.

Upper Key Stage Two

Year 5

The Year 5 pupils are immersing themselves in their text, *The Boy in the Tower*, a contemporary tale about strange menacing plants that cause tall buildings to collapse. From this the children are developing their own narrative writing skills, this week they have explored how short punchy sentences can create tension.

In maths Year 5 are coming to the end of the unit of work on fractions. They have been using a range of strategies

Year 6

The Year 6 children have worked well together to create a timeline of Black History in America. As a result, they are getting to realise the true injustice of slavery. *Stella by Starlight* - our core book - has generated many productive discussions about discrimination and equal rights. Year 6 are particularly loving our new reading corner, with its brilliant range of new books to read and borrow.

Dates for your Diary

Reception Rosecourt Road - Trip to Godstone Farm - 10 March 2020
 Reception Canterbury Road - Trip to Godstone Farm - 12 March 2020
 Year 3 Rosecourt Road - Trip to Kidzania London - 13 March 2020
 Year 4 Canterbury Road - Trip to Imperial War Museum - 16 March 2020
 Year 4 Rosecourt Road - Trip to Imperial War Museum - 4.2 going 17 March 2020
 4.1 & 4.3 going on 18 March 2020
 Parents evenings - 1 and 2 April 2020
 Easter Bonnet Parade - 3 April 2020
 Last day of term - 3 April 2020
 First day of term - 20 April 2020
 Mayoral Elections: Both sites closed for children - 7 May 2020
 Bank Holiday - 8 May 2020

Attendance - 24 Feb - 5 March 2020. Well done to Year 3 on both sites and Years 1 and 5 at Rosecourt Road - fantastic attendance!

Canterbury Road

Reception - 96.3%
 Year 1 - 93.3%
 Year 2 - 93%
 Year 3 - 97.3%
 Year 4 - 96.26%

Rosecourt Road

Reception - 93.1%
 Year 1 - 97.6%
 Year 2 - 93.7%
 Year 3 - 98.6%
 Year 4 - 96.5%
 Year 5 - 97.3%
 Year 6 - 93.3%

 HM Government 
<p>DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE</p> <p>0800 046 8687</p> <p>8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)</p> <p>DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk</p>