



West Thurrock Academy

Newsletter No 17 - 2nd February 2024

The next school holiday is -

February Half Term -

Monday 12th Feb 2024 - Friday 16th Feb 2024

Future Holiday dates -

Easter Holidays - Friday 29th March 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024

May Half-Term - Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

INSET Day - Friday 21st June 2024 and Monday 24th June 2024

Last Day of Summer Term - Friday 19th July 2024 - 2pm Finish

Dates for your Diary -

Monday 5th February 2024 - Chinese Lion Dance (Year R/5)

Tuesday 6th February 2024 - Internet Safety Day

Thursday 8th February 2024 - Year 6 Gaming Trip - Liger

Friday 9th February 2024 - Year 6 Gaming Trip - Lion

Friday 23rd February 2024 - Maths Escape Room Experience (Year3 - 6)

Monday 26th February 2024 - Internet Safety Workshops

Monday 26th February 2024 - Internet Safety - Zoom Parent Session @ 8pm

Thursday 29th February 2024 - Author Visit - Anna Kemp

Friday 1st March 2024 - Author Visit - Anna Kemp

Thursday 7th March 2024 - World Book Day - Alice in Wonderland themed

Tuesday 12th March 2024 - Author Visit - Rashmi Sirdeshpande (Year 5)

Friday 15th March 2024 - Sport Relief 2024 (Year 3 to lead)

Monday 18th March 2024 - Year 1 – Sharing Assembly

This week's attendance levels -

Lynx - 85.2%

Leopard - 97% - Key Stage 2 Winner

Panther - 80%

Lion - 87%

Bobcat - 93% - Key Stage 1 Winner

Marozi - 88.5%

Bengal - 92.9%

Cougar - 96.3%

Liger - 95.6%

Ocelot - 86.7%

Jaguar - 88.2%

Puma - 91.4%

Tigon - 96.3%

LUNCH MENU – WEEK BEGINNING 5TH FEBRUARY 2024

Monday	Spaghetti Bolognese	Tomato Vegetable Pasta	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Syrup Sponge with Custard
Tuesday	Sausage with Chips, Beans or Peas	Vegan Sausage with Chips, Beans or Peas	Ham Baguette, Tuna Baguette or Cheese Baguette with Chips	Chocolate Cookie
Wednesday	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables and Cauliflower	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables and Cauliflower	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Mixed Berries & Cream
Thursday	Pepperoni Pizza with Crispers, Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Crispers, Garlic Bread and Sweetcorn	Ham Baguette, Tuna Baguette or Cheese Baguette with Potato Crispers	Ice Cream Roll
Friday	Fish Fingers with Mash, Peas or Beans	Vegetable Fingers with Mash, Peas or Beans	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling	Fruit Cocktail

African Dance Workshop

This week, the children in Year 2, 3 and 6 had the chance to learn and perform some African dances with our visitor George. The sessions were loud and full of music, laughter and enjoyment. I know classes have uploaded some of the pictures onto their Seesaw accounts.

Whole School Poetry Competition

On Thursday, the school held its first poetry competition. Each class had two entries into the competition - a large group entry (which consisted of every member of the class) and a small group entry (which consisted of no more than 12 children from the class). Each class performed their poems in front of the rest of the children from their Key Stage. After the performances, the children voted for their favourite recitals. During Friday's celebration assembly, I announced the top three in each of the categories. The final results can be found below:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Best Small Group Performance - Nursery/ Reception/ Key Stage 1	Lynx	Jungle Cats	Marozi
Best Large Group Performance - Nursery/ Reception/ Key Stage 1	Wildcats	Bobcats	Lynx
Best Small Group Performance - Key Stage 2	Jaguar	Tigon	Leopard
Best Large Group Performance - Key Stage 2	Jaguar	Lion	Puma
Best Overall Performance	Jaguar (LG)	Jaguar (SG)	Lynx (SG)

I am extremely proud of the entire school - every child performed brilliantly! I am already looking forward to next year's competition!

Half Term

Next week will be our last week before half term. The Half Term dates can be found on the front of this newsletter. **School will reopen Monday 19th February 2024.**

World Book Day 2024

We are delighted to announce our plans for World Book Day this year; our theme will be a celebration of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and will take place on **7th March 2024**. As part of our efforts to improve the children's engagement with the arts and increase their cultural capital, we are taking part in the 'Thurrock Trailblazer' programme. Each year group is currently taking part in different creative, cultural and artistic projects. One of these projects is 'Create and Dance' where the children in Year 3 and 4 are learning about the artists, dancers and set designers for the ballet 'Mad Hatter Alice in Wonderland'.

On Thursday 7th March 2024, the children are invited to dress up as a character of their choice from Alice in Wonderland or come in wearing their very own hat inspired by the Mad Hatter and to take part in our Mad Hatter's Fancy Dress and Hat Parade. There will be prizes for the Most Creative Costume and Maddest Hat!

Internet Safety - Zoom Parent Session

On Monday 26th February 2024, all parents and carers are invited to attend an online session which will focus on Internet Safety, Criminal Exploitation and Online Child Sexual Exploitation of Children. The session will be led by John Woodley and John Staines also known as 'The 2 Johns'. These sessions are hard hitting and so informative. I encourage anyone who is free from 8pm to join the session. Every parent and member of staff who has attended their training sessions before have always found the sessions extremely useful.