



## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

1st November 2024

### Inspection of West Thornton Primary School

Rosecourt Road, Croydon CR0 3BS and Canterbury Road, Croydon CR0 3HH

Inspection dates:	1 and 2 October 2024
The quality of education	<b>Good</b>
Behaviour and attitudes	<b>Outstanding</b>
Personal development	<b>Outstanding</b>
Leadership and management	<b>Outstanding</b>
Early years provision	<b>Outstanding</b>

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from the email regarding our successful Ofsted inspection, we wanted once again to thank you for your continued support. We consider ourselves extremely privileged to be part of this community and to work with you and your children. As we said in the email, we look forward to building on this success and achieving even greater heights in the future. If you haven't yet had a chance to read the full report - please see some of the highlights below,

Thank you also for your many kind words of congratulations - we want to extend these to you as well, because educating our children is always a joint venture. Thank you!!

- **A Commitment to Excellence:** The report commends West Thornton's ambitious and meticulously sequenced curriculum, which is designed to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding in all subjects. The school's dedication to providing high-quality subject-specific training for teachers ensures that pupils receive engaging and effective instruction from knowledgeable and passionate educators.
- **Nurturing Early Years:** West Thornton's Early Years Provision received an Outstanding rating, reflecting the school's relentless focus on developing language and vocabulary in Reception. This emphasis on communication skills provides children with the essential foundation they need for success across the curriculum and in their future learning.
- **Fostering a Love of Reading:** The report praises the school's highly effective phonics programme, which is delivered with precision by well-trained staff. This approach ensures that pupils become fluent readers quickly, fostering a lifelong love of reading that is evident throughout the school.



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- **Exceptional Personal Development:** West Thornton goes beyond academic excellence, providing pupils with exceptional opportunities for personal development. The school's unique 'global curriculum' weaves together themes of social justice, diversity, and inclusion, empowering pupils to become responsible and compassionate citizens of the world.

### **Rosecourt Road Congestion**

Can we please ask parents, carers and children to be mindful of others when walking through congested areas around the playground at collection and drop off times? Your patience whilst waiting to pass others would be much appreciated.

### **Collection at the end of the day**

Parents and carers are politely requested to collect children from the line once the children have been brought out by the class teacher. Please refrain from collecting children as they come out to line up.

### **Curriculum Newsletters and Knowledge Organisers**

Parents and carers will notice that curriculum newsletters and knowledge organisers for Autumn 2 will have been received by the children today. The knowledge organisers include all of the key vocabulary and sticky knowledge the children will be assessed on at the end of the term so please take the time to support your children to learn this information as it will support them in their lessons for the rest of the term. If there are any questions, please speak to your child's teacher.

May the Festival of Lights fill your homes with joy, prosperity, and good health.  
Happy Diwali to all who celebrate!

## Attendance

Well done to these classes with Attendance over 97%.

### **A special well done to Cherry and Holly class with 100% attendance**

CR Year 3 - Chestnut  
CR Year 3 - Cherry  
CR Year 6 - Holly

## Curriculum Focus

### Reception

It has been a lovely start to the new half term in Reception! The children have started off their week by looking at the different celebrations happening this week, such as Diwali and bonfire night. They have spent time making and decorating play dough Diya lamps, using scissors and



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glue to create their own paper lanterns as well as printing using paint to make firework pictures! The children have been able to discuss what festivals they celebrate, such as Christmas, birthdays and Eid and have used their knowledge to discuss what is similar and different about these celebrations.



In literacy this week, the children have begun to learn about their new book 'The Squirrel's Who Squabbled' by looking at different pictures of woodlands. They have learnt that a woodland has lots of trees and have used words such as 'big', 'green' and 'thin' to describe the leaves, twigs and trees that they can see in each picture. Some children have also begun to use their phonics skills to write the first sound they can hear in words such as



an 'l' for 'leaf' and 'b' for 'big'. It has been wonderful to see!



In maths, the children have been looking at numbers 1, 2 and 3. They have been learning how to recognise the numeral, count the amount and have even begun to develop their subitising skills! This means that they have begun to recognise an amount without having to count it!

Thank you to all the parents who came to see our art exhibition on Tuesday after school. It was so wonderful to see so many of you celebrating your child's artwork and the children were so excited to show you!

## Year One

This week in Year one, the children have had a great start to the new term! They started off by exploring their new core text Little Red Riding Hood by Lari Don. The children recapped their learning of different fairy tales and looked at their features. They then generated vocabulary to write sentences to describe the main character Little Red Riding Hood.



In maths this week, the children have been continuing to work on their number of bonds to 10 and writing them systematically. They have also been working on their addition skills and using this knowledge to answer worded problems.

In the wider curriculum, the children learned about where Christians go to worship and labelled the parts of a church. The children shared their own experiences of visiting a church and what happens there. In geography, the children learnt about the 4 countries that make up the UK and labelled these on a map.

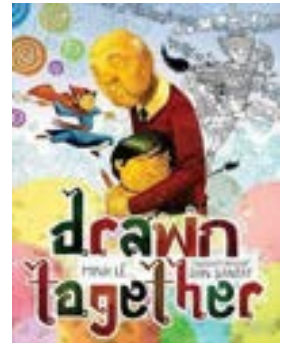


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### Year Two

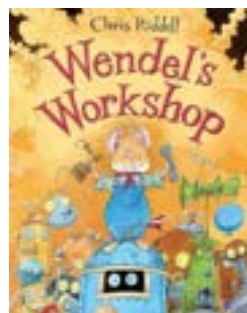
What a great start to the new half term! We have been exploring our brand new core text called 'Draw Together', a lovely story about breaking barriers through drawing. The children enjoyed listening to the story and making connections to their own experiences. They learnt what chronology meant and ordered the events in the story using time conjunctions. The characters in the story experience a variety of emotions so the children discussed what the character's were feeling during key points and why they might be feeling this way.



In Maths children have begun to learn about making and counting to the next ten in preparation to learn how to bridge ten. They used manipulatives to help them understand this concept such as tens frames and dienes. They have been learning how to calculate efficiently by using their knowledge of number bonds. In DT, the children have begun their exciting journey into the world of flight! They have looked at aeroplanes from the past and compared them to modern day aeroplanes. They were very surprised to learn that the first aeroplane was steered with the pilot's feet!



**The Wright Brother's Flyer**



### Year Three

It's been a fantastic start to the new half-term, the children returned to school with great enthusiasm and have been ready to dive back into learning!

This week, our English lessons have been all about instructional writing! The children have explored what makes a set of instructions clear and easy to follow. They learned about the importance of sequencing their ideas in a logical order and using specific vocabulary, like "first," "next," "then," and "finally," to guide the reader through each step smoothly. The children also practised including imperative verbs—action words like "brush," "pack," and "tie"—to make their instructions direct and precise. They've enjoyed applying these skills by writing their own instructions for getting ready in the morning before school, from brushing their teeth to tying their shoes.



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In maths this week, the children continued working on their place value skills, with a focus on addition and subtraction using the column method. They practised adding and subtracting two- and three-digit numbers without needing to exchange, carefully aligning numbers to ensure accuracy and understanding the importance of place value in each column. A big part of the week involved problem-solving with missing numbers. The children learned to approach these questions by thinking in reverse, using subtraction to "fill in the gaps" when a number was missing. This not only reinforced their addition and subtraction skills but also encouraged critical thinking and logical reasoning.

This week, we introduced our new topic on rivers, which will be part of lots of exciting lessons coming up (including a trip this month). We began by revisiting our locational knowledge of Egypt, a country we studied earlier in the term, and the UK, and explored their unique geographical features. Using a world map, the children identified Egypt and located it in relation to the UK, noting key geographical differences and similarities between the two countries.

### Year Four

This week, Year 4 has started several new topics, continuing with our global theme of peace and conflict. We have started our new core new book called 'The girl who stole an elephant'. We loved how exciting and interesting it was when Chaya ran away with the jewels! In English, we have started to generate our vocabulary about the palace, focussing on creating expanded noun phrases, and turning them into descriptive sentences by using our cohesion skills and imagination.

In Maths, we have enjoyed several practical lessons on understanding and calculating area, and we are beginning to recall and use our shape knowledge within our reasoning questions. Please continue to work on times tables at home - the knowledge will help us to work more efficiently in our maths lessons!



In DT, we have started to research different materials, and have enjoyed our practical investigation into which material would be best for a bag. We learnt about synthetic and natural materials, and why those materials might be used.



Geography has been very eventful this week, as within the lesson we developed our maps skills to locate climate regions. Unfortunately our planned visit from our local MP Sarah Jones, who is the current Minister of State (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) has had to be postponed. We are hoping she will come and visit us soon!

### Year Five

Year 5 have started their new topic in Geography - How has Croydon changed since the Tudor times? This week we have been learning the skill of finding the grid reference on a map and familiarising ourselves with geographical symbols.

In English, we have been reading the book *The Boy in the Tower*. The children have enjoyed empathising with the character's feelings and will be using this information to write a detailed diary entry on Friday.



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In mathematics we have finished the topic of numbers, i.e. cube numbers, multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000 and next week we will be looking at fractions. Please practise with your child with multiplication and division facts so that they feel confident in class when doing this.

In Science, we have started a new topic of materials. This week we have looked at various materials around us and have looked closely at their properties in order to sort them into a sorting diagram (Venn Diagram). As with all lessons the vocabulary is key and children have been thinking about the meaning of opaque, soluble, thermal and conductivity.

### Year Six

This week in year 6, children have had a great start to the term absorbing themselves into our new topics. In maths children have been revising and building their knowledge on fractions. They have focused on finding equivalent fractions and ordering and comparing numbers with different denominators and numerators using their knowledge of factors and multiples.

In English children have begun to immerse themselves in our new text *Stella by Starlight*, written by Sharon, M Drapper, a book based about a young girl who must learn to be brave in the face of violent prejudice in her segregated southern town. In History children have begun to look at what is meant by civil and human rights and how acts have come into place to protect people.



In DT children have started to research pneumatics and how to use air to make them work. Below is an example of an annotated diagram of how a familiar object uses air to create movement.



### Community

Date: Sunday, 10th November

Time: 12 - 2pm

Location: Mickleham Way New Addington CR0 0PN



# WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

**AFRICAN  
DANCE, DRUMS AND  
FOOD**


**UBUNTU**  
Making it possible




FREE EVENT @GOODFOODMATTERS  
MICKLEHAM WAY NEW ADDINGTON  
CRO 0PN SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER -  
12 TILL 2 PM- BOOK VIA EVENTBRITE

**N** DANCE  
NATURED UP THRIVE

**DANCE TO THRIVE-NATURED UP AFRICAN DRUMMING & DANCE.  
THE FOLLOW-UP.**

**ON THE BACK OF THE SUCCESSFUL LAST EVENT, UBUNTU  
MAKING IT POSSIBLE AND PARTNERS ARE BRINGING THE  
RHYTHMS AND MELODIES OF AFRICA TO GOOD FOOD MATTERS.  
COME JOIN THE FUN AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS TO EXPERIENCE IN NATURE WHILST INTERTWINING  
WITH MELODIES, RHYTHMS AND AFRICAN DANCE MOVES WITH  
SOME DELICIOUS FINGER FOOD.**



   Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Phrases of the Week



**¡Felicitaciones a todos por un excelente informe de Ofsted!** - Well done everyone for a great Ofsted report!



### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Khyla	Oliver	Vishesh	Maida	
Lacey	Doresha	Benjamin	Mohammad	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Kacie	Ayaan	Simeon	Ranesh	
Eloise	Maher Zain	Israa	Elikem	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Tesla	Ashik	Luxshin	Jahnai	
Jaafina	Eesa	Davia	Jansi	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Adonia	Methupa	Zion	Khaliyah	Meryam
Kylie-shae	Imani	Adhithii	Adil	Mariama
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Sharick	Muhammad	Fiza	Grace	Ravani
Sanuthi	Lano	Adon	Jewel	Hazel
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Kavinei	Khasifa	Kaira-Leigh	Izza	Parthan
Romarie	Agyeiwaa	Yaroslav	Michelle	Muhammad
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Prince- Isaac	Ayushi	Layad	Rex Harrison	Faith



# WEST THORNTON

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Tamera	Umar	Anaya	Rihan	Chrisandra
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Whole School				