



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

12th September 2025

We are delighted to see how well the children have settled into their new classes and adapted to the routines of the new school year. A special welcome goes out to our new Reception children and their families. We are confident they will have an amazing start to their time at West Thornton. We look forward to getting to know each of you better and hope that you will feel happy as part of our school community.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the recent year group welcome meetings. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share our expectations for the year ahead and to give you an insight into what your children will be learning. We greatly value the partnership between home and school, as it plays such an important role in supporting each child's learning journey.

We also want to thank you for your patience and understanding at the end of the school day. We appreciate your feedback around this and are always looking at ways to make the transition home as smooth and efficient as possible.

Thank you once again for your active involvement in your child's education. Together, we can make this academic year a rewarding and successful one.

Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

CR - Reception Ash Class

CR - Year 5 Sycamore Class

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class

RR - Reception Pine Class

RR - Reception Oak Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attendance and punctuality are two fundamental aspects of a successful educational journey, and we'd like to emphasise their importance. Good attendance and punctuality are not only valuable but also essential for your child's educational development. Research has consistently shown that attendance and punctuality in line with the national average are directly linked to improved educational attainment and overall performance.

Moreover, being on time to school has an additional benefit that directly impacts our pupils' well-being. Arriving promptly reduces anxiety in pupils. When children arrive at school on time, they have the opportunity to settle into their daily routines calmly. This helps them feel more relaxed and prepared for the day's learning activities. On the contrary, arriving late can cause stress and anxiety, making it challenging for children to transition smoothly into their learning environment.

We want to reassure you that we continue to closely monitor children's attendance and punctuality. If we identify any challenges in this regard, we are committed to working collaboratively with families to provide the necessary support to improve attendance and punctuality where necessary. Together, we can ensure that our children have the best possible start to their educational journey.

Curriculum Focus

Reception

Reception children have continued to settle beautifully into their new learning environment this week. They have been busy making new friends and learning the rules and routines of the classroom.

We have enjoyed reading *The Colour Monster* as part of our focus on emotions. The children have been learning to recognise different feelings and exploring ways to manage them effectively.

Throughout the week, we have also continued our baseline assessments. These have included activities such as matching numerals to quantities, recognising numbers, and practising writing their names.

We are so proud of how well the children are settling in and engaging with their new learning!





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year One

Year One has had another amazing week! This week in English they have been reviewing their prior learning all about writing simple sentences. Having looked at pictures they were able to write simple sentences about what each of the characters were doing. They all remembered to include capital letters, full stops and finger spaces.

In maths they have been securing their knowledge of numbers 1 to 10. At the beginning of the week they focused on sorting the objects based on their different characteristics. Then they reviewed their counting skills counting different objects and representing the numbers in different ways.

In RE they have been thinking about things that they are grateful for including their homes, families and school. Then they made some lovely thank you cards for different people that help us around school including the cleaners and cooks. The children also loved PSHE this week where they learnt about different families and shared through some lovely drawings all about their own families.

Year Two

The children have had a magical start to their English learning with a special Fairytale Day! They came to school dressed as their favourite fairytale characters, which created a wonderful buzz of excitement. Together, they explored traditional fairytales and discovered the common features that make these stories so timeless. As the week went on, the class were introduced to their core text, *The Three Billy Goats' Stuff* by Bob Hartman, a fun twist on the much-loved classic *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children enjoyed sequencing pictures to retell the story and spent time thinking about the characters' feelings and emotions, helping them to connect more deeply with the story.

In Maths this week, the children have been building on their understanding of place value. They explored partitioning numbers in greater depth, using place value charts and part-whole models to support their learning. The children particularly enjoyed using the base-10 equipment to investigate the different ways two-digit numbers can be partitioned.

In R.E the children have been exploring different beliefs about how the Earth was created. They learned about the perspectives of Christians, Muslims, and Jewish people, as well as the views of Humanists. This gave them a chance to see how people's ideas and beliefs about our world can be similar in some ways and different in others.

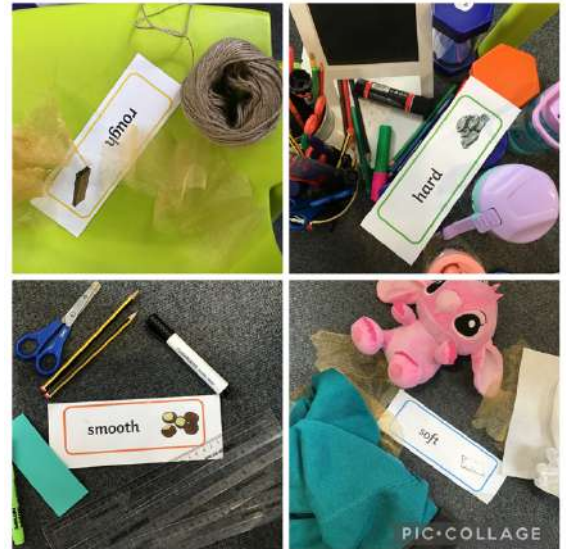
In Science this week the children thoroughly enjoyed being scientists and going on a hunt around the classroom to find different materials to figure out their properties. They learned how to



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

describe the properties of different materials in four distinctive ways by using their senses. This allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of what different materials can feel like and how they could describe them.



Year Three

It's been a truly productive and busy week for Year 3 as they get into the full swing of learning. They've been working so hard across all their subjects and we're all so proud of their efforts.

In English, we've continued our learning journey on biographies. The children have become experts on pronouns and have been using them to make their sentences more interesting. They've also been learning all about how to write a great paragraph using our fantastic "burger model," which helps them to remember a clear structure. To prepare for their own writing, they've also been practising sorting relevant and irrelevant information—a super skill for any budding writer! We ended the week by starting their very own biography on the incredible Katherine Johnson, and we know they're going to be amazing to read.

In Maths, we have had a fantastic and hands-on week continuing our work on place value. The children have been busy exploring the value of hundreds, tens, and ones in three-digit numbers. They have been using concrete resources like Dienes blocks and counters to represent and build a solid understanding of what each digit is worth. A key focus has been developing their mental maths skills by finding 1, 10, or 100 more or less than a number.

In history, our lessons have taken us on an incredible journey back in time to ancient Egypt. The children have been fascinated by the Egyptian system of writing called hieroglyphs, which uses



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

over 700 tiny pictures instead of letters! The children had a fantastic hands-on experience by making their very own papyrus paper, just like the Egyptians did thousands of years ago.

Year Four

What a fantastic week in year 4! The children are focussed and ready to learn. In writing, we have started writing our first manifesto, creating a persuasive and strong argument as to how we can improve our school playground. The children have used Logos and Pathos to form their arguments while maintaining the use of formal language. They have been excellent so far, well done year 4 we look forward to reading the full manifesto when complete next week.

In maths, the children have been developing their place value skills up to 10,000 with flexible partitioning and working with number lines. We have also started working on times tables and practicing them as much as we can. Keep up the hard work year 4 and make sure you practice over the weekend!

In science, we began looking at the natural impact of seasons on animals in their natural habitats. The children used secondary sources to explain what changes happen from winter to summer and the process and point of hibernation and migration for many animals. Keep up the great work year 4!

Year Five

This week, Year 5 have been reading extracts from our class core text 'The Boy and the Globe' and trying to improve them by including what they learnt last year, such as cohesive devices to make writing flow, similes, personification and metaphors to create interest and dialogue to advance the plot or action. Many children have begun to use extremely fascinating figurative language making their writing a treat to read!

In maths, children are recapping using part-whole models for partitioning, and using number lines, albeit with much greater numbers like 1,000,000 this year! They have tried to understand and use the power of 10 and have been learning strategies to find 10 to 100,000 more or less of large numbers using place value and gattegno charts. Additionally, they have begun to compare and order numbers up to 100,000.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In science this week, Year 5 have been building their knowledge of life cycles by looking closely at the life cycle of plants. They were able to order the stages of a plant's life and create a storyboard from beginning starting as a seed to the end during seed dispersal.

For art, Year 5 delved into the world of bright colours and pop art inspired by artist Venus Art. Through class discussions, they collated information about different pieces of artwork and reflected on the mood the art conveyed, the mediums that were used and provided justification for which was their favourite piece.

In RE, children discussed and noted how and why different communities feel the need to look after the planet, what they might do to keep the planet clean and habitable and if all people, regardless of whether they follow a religion or not, feel the same.

Year Six

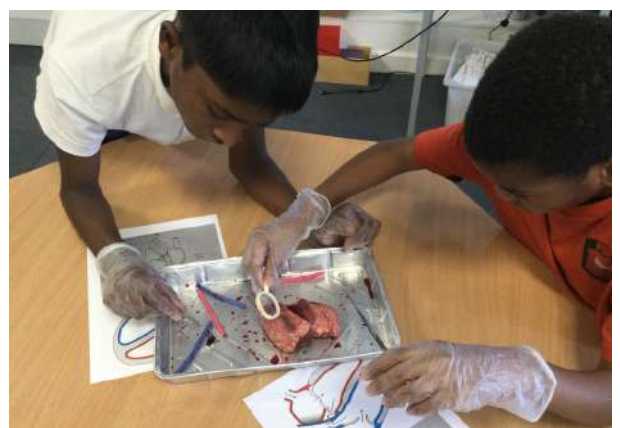
The children have been working hard across all subjects this term, demonstrating great enthusiasm and a deepening understanding of various topics.

In Maths, our focus has been on mastering place value. The children have become proficient in rounding numbers, carefully following the steps to achieve accurate results. They've also been encouraged to articulate their thinking, using precise mathematical vocabulary to explain their methods. This not only reinforces their own learning but also helps them communicate complex ideas clearly.

In English, the children wrote compelling diary entries from the point of view of a character named Cameron, exploring a life-changing event. We have focussed on sentence accuracy, punctuation and the use of adverbials. The children successfully used a range of adverbials to provide the reader with key information about *when*, *where*, and *how* the events in Cameron's diary unfolded.

Science has been particularly engaging as the children continued their learning about the heart and the circulatory system. To truly explore its structure and function, the class had the unique opportunity to participate in a dissection. This hands-on experience provided a memorable and effective way to understand the heart's anatomy.

Finally, in Geography, the children have been honing their map skills. They have been learning to read and interpret different types of maps and have





WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

progressed to using both four and six-figure grid references. This has allowed them to locate places on a map with increasing accuracy.

Phrases of the Week



El valor del mes de West Thornton es LA BONDAD - West Thornton's termly value is KINDNESS.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Elara-Ka'Liyah	Paulo	Areesha	Mohamed	
DeqaKafia	Aisha	Nivaan	Hadiyah	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Zion	Khamari	Whole Class	Kaleem	
Hazel	Austin		Amelia	
			Jasmita	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole Class	Trey	Kyrie	Bhumi	
	Athalia	Branavi	Ranesh	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Jayden	Gracella	Arhaan	Maya	
Aiza	Sajid	Mustafa	Chris	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Ikrah	Rayya	Donald	Romero	Rathurshan



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Shaylah	Cherish	Cassidy Rayn	Hanna	Mariya
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Ava	Liana	Kyron	Oksanaa	Layla
Aiden	Amaya	Salome	Luena	Stanley
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Naila	Noah	Ameen	Kiven	
Sophia Maria				
Rhonnald	Pusti	David	Suela	

Community

Leading Parent Partnership Award

As part of our drive to strengthen our relationships within the school community and help children in our school to reach their full potential, we will be going for a 'Leading Parent Partnership Award' over the next 12 to 15 months. We will follow a framework that will help us to celebrate what we are currently doing well and what we can do to improve. Look out for more information.



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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



Open Hours:

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Breakfast 07:30 am - 09:00 am
Afterschool 15:15 pm - 18:30 pm

Breakfast £5.50 / Afterschool £10.50 per session*

Registered & Approved



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0117-3322-811

*T & Cs apply for emergency sessions.



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ZAMARIAH'S DANCE ACADEMY

AWARD WINNING DANCE SCHOOL

In-house Children's Talent Agency For
TV, Film & Theatre



Every Saturday - Term Time
The Shoestring Theatre,
Oakley Road,
South Norwood,
SE25 4XG

ZDA STUDENTS AUDITION SUCCESSFULLY FOR:



AWARD WINNING DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES

In-house Children's Talent Agency For
TV, Film & Theatre



Zamariah's
Dance Academy

Why choose ZDA?

- First class free

Try us with no commitment

- Small class sizes

Individual attention and better progress

- Affordable prices

High-quality training at accessible rates

- Sibling and multi-class discounts available

10% sibling discount and up to 12% multi class discounts

- In-house talent agency

Opportunities in TV, West End productions and commercials

- Work towards exams and performance goals

ABRSM Singing exams, ISTD Ballet, Tap & Modern exams, Yearly xmas performance in our in-house theatre, bi-annual big show in professional theatre.

- Award Winning Dance School

We won Dance School Of The Year Award 2025

- We're a dance family, not just a dance school

Supportive, inclusive and community-led



www.zda-agency.co.uk



www.zdadance.co.uk



WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCPA WEEK DAY CLASSES



• MONDAY •

INCPA Selsdon

7-11 years

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Selsdon Primary & Nursery School
South Croydon, CR2 8LQ

• TUESDAY •

INCPA Pockham

7-11 years

3.30pm - 4.30pm

St Francis Catholic Primary School
Friary Road, Pockham, SE15 10R

• THURSDAY •

INCPA Croydon

7-11 years

4.30pm - 5.30pm

West Thornton Primary School
Croydon, CR0 3BS

• THURSDAY •

INCPA Adult Acting

18 years +

5.45pm - 7.00pm

West Thornton Primary School
Croydon, CR0 3BS

• THURSDAY •

INCPA Well-Being Men's Acting Programme

18 years +

7.00pm - 9.00pm

West Thornton Primary School
Croydon, CR0 3BS

How to book with INCPA:

 b.hutton-wood@incpa.org.uk  07535 408 348



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