



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**26th September 2025**

As the sunshine continues to brighten our days, we are delighted to have welcomed parents back into Key Stage 1 for our reading mornings. It has been a joy to see so many of you join us, and your support makes a real difference to the children's learning. If you haven't already make sure you book your parents evening slots before bookings close on Sunday 5th October. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and collaborate with teachers to support their learning.

#### **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.



Well done to Geneive - gold medalist in a recent karate championship! A fantastic achievement! We are very proud of you. Well done!

#### **Attendance**

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

CR - Year 1 Elm Class

CR - Year 2 Palm Class

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class

CR - Year 4 Olive Class

CR - Year 4 Hornbeam Class

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn Class

CR - Year 6 Acer Class

RR -Year 1 Hazel Class

RR -Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class



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### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

Things have been very busy in Reception this week! The children have continued learning new sounds in phonics and started applying those sounds to blend simple CVC words. There was a great turn out for our 'Meet the Teacher', it was lovely to see so many parents keen to hear how they can support their children during their reception journey!

In maths the children explored the concept of matching and how items match when they are the same. They then expanded that learning to creating matching sets of objects and to sort objects by a type, such as all the bears are small or all the bears are yellow.

For topic this week, the children were exploring self-portraits in connection with our core text 'It's okay to be different'. They learnt what a portrait is and experimented with drawing different lines and around shapes before drawing their own portrait.

#### Year One

We have had a wonderful week in Year 1 with lots of exciting learning taking place. Here's what we have been up to:

In english, the children have been preparing and planning to write their poems based on the story My Shadow is Pink. They have been generating and applying verbs to describe what their shadow likes to do and adjectives to describe what their shadow is like. The children have enjoyed being creative and imaginative with their ideas.

In maths, the children have been working on their knowledge of place value to ten. They have been finding one more of a number and using comparative language to compare numbers. We have been practicing these skills through games, challenges, and problem-solving activities.

In history, the children have been investigating toys from the past and present. This week they inspected a range of toys, identified the materials used, and explained why certain materials were chosen. They were fascinated to see how toys have changed over time.

In science, the children have been investigating the properties of different materials. They tested materials such as wood, metal, and plastic to see how they behaved and thought carefully about which materials are best suited for particular purposes.

In RE, the children identified the different ways we should show gratitude and discussed why being thankful is important. They shared thoughtful ideas about how we can express gratitude at school, at home, and in our community.



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### Year Two

This week in Year 2 we have looked at an array of topics. In English the children began the week with writing their own adapted ending to our core text 'The Billy Goat's Stuff'. Later in the week we introduced our new core text 'Izzy Gizmo' which follows a young inventor, therefore the children looked at different tools used when inventing.

In Maths, the children looked at numbers on a numberline and learnt how to estimate where a number would be placed based on its value- we created a human numberline to example this. The children applied their prior place value knowledge to help the tackle this topic.

Finally, we covered a variety of curriculum subjects but it was Art this week that particularly stood out to the children. We looked at the work of Hilde MacIntyre, who uses clay to create imagery. Year 2 made their own clay tablets, drawing and carving their own designs while learning skills needed in clay work.

### Year Three

In Maths, the children had a productive week working with number lines and comparing numbers up to 1000. They practised estimating the position of various numbers by identifying the starting, middle, and end points on the number lines. Using blank number lines, the children tackled these challenges while also applying their understanding of finding half of a number.

In Art, the children enthusiastically applied the various drawing techniques they've learned to create artwork inspired by the style of Corey Barksdale. Using their creativity, they were given chalk pastels to complete their pieces by drawing the other half. The children had a fantastic time experimenting with the materials and expressing their artistic skills.



In History this week, the children worked collaboratively to research and use their inference skills to explore the similarities and differences between two famous Egyptian queens—Nefertiti and Cleopatra. Using both primary and secondary sources, they discovered fascinating facts about each queen. After discussing their findings, the class created Venn diagrams to compare and contrast the lives and legacies of Queen Nefertiti and Queen

Cleopatra, deepening their understanding of these historical figures.



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### Year Four

It has been an extraordinarily challenging week for the Year 4 children this week. They started the week by planning their innovated manifesto on becoming a JLT assistant. To use persuasive language techniques has been particularly tricky for the children. However, they have persevered and completed their manifesto. They then moved onto comparing and contrasting persuasive speeches.

In maths, the children continued to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. They then moved onto addition and subtraction of four digit numbers. In this unit, the children will be solving worded problems on the two operations. They need to ensure that they show their working out clearly.

In the wider curriculum subjects, the children recapped their learning on the five pillars of Islam in RE. In art, they used shades of the same colour to explore depth in painting. In science, the children classified different animals into reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds and fish. In RHE, the children learnt what bullying was the impact this can have on individuals. They also found out who a bystander, victim and who a witness was.

### Year Five

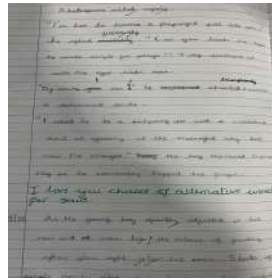
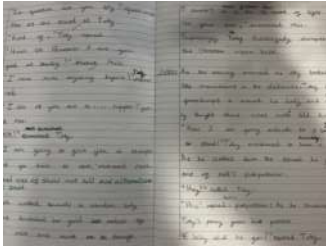
Year 5 children this week have had the opportunity to continue to develop their skills in mathematics to add and subtract numbers with more than 4 digits, using part whole models, bar model and number lines to consolidate their understanding in place value.

In English, Year 5 children have been writing their own narrative based around our core text. They had the choice to either continue the narrative as Toby becoming a playwright or a pickpocket. All of the children were able to use cohesive devices effectively and accurately. These included personification, metaphors, similes, relative clauses and hyperbole. Children have enjoyed experimenting with these literary devices and it has improved their descriptive writing.



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In reading, we have started a new book *Romeo and Juliet*, and the children are enjoying the intricate plot line. As well as developing their expanded Shakespearian vocabulary.

In History, Year 5 children have been grappling with the concept of the Tudor Class system. They were able to discuss what and why different classes of people would have had different diets and the impact it would have had on their life. The children then went on to link the class system to their school life, putting the head teacher at the top of the school hierarchy



### Year Six

In Maths, we dove into prime, square, and cube numbers. The children were fantastic at using their existing knowledge of multiplication tables to identify these different types of numbers. We had a great time finding prime numbers on a number grid and discovering the patterns that emerge when we work with squares and cubes.

English was all about improving our writing with descriptive details. We continued to read our core text, "Pig Heart Boy," and used an extract from the book to practise writing vivid descriptions. The children worked hard on using cohesive devices to link their ideas together and make their writing



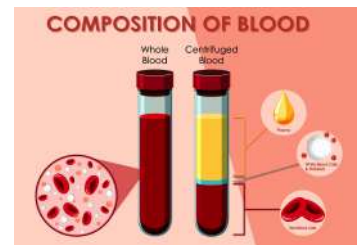
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flow better. We also focused on using relative clauses to add extra detail to our descriptions of a setting.

In Geography, we looked at land use in Croydon and discussed how our local area has changed over the last 120 years. The children were able to identify different types of land use, such as residential, commercial, and green spaces, and think about why certain areas have developed the way they have.

We had a very interesting week in Science, where we learned about the components of blood and their vital roles in the human body. Children enjoyed comparing these roles to real life jobs to help reinforce their understanding of the different components.



### Phrases of the Week



¿Cómo estás? - How are you?

Estoy bien - I'm well. 😊

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Roman	Zimal	Maulisha	Camil
Arham	Dania	Ekam	Kiana
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Viron	Asa	Ayan	Hussain
Zainab	Keonie	Khyla	Ahana
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Moiz	Vihaan	Nesma	Tharun



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Husna	Israa	Asher	Jessica	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Chloe	Maryam	Seth	Ashik	
Safiyah	Aayla	Leksha	Nihal	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Anmol	Kylie-Shae	Emily	Melissa	Leonardo
Elena	Kiran	Kirlore	Kavinu	Afrah
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Joanna	Aras	Hasan	Khaleesi	Ella
Elias	Joel	Almelio	Nevaeh	Eagan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nistha	Alexander	Massita	Aayan	Fardusa
Avaneesh	Miliani	Taksh	Areha	Maalik

## Community

As the deadline for Y7 applications approaches, please remember that you can apply for a bursary to help with private school fees, as many private schools offer means-tested financial assistance to students from low-income backgrounds or whose families might struggle to afford the full fees. Eligibility is based on a financial assessment of your family's income and assets, and you'll need to complete a declaration form. You should also find out if your child meets the school's academic entrance criteria, as this can be a factor in bursary decisions.

### How to Apply

**Research Schools:** Check the websites of independent schools you are interested in to see if they offer bursaries and what their criteria are. Many use a financial calculator on their site.

**Check Eligibility Criteria:** Bursaries are means-tested, so you will need to provide details of your family's income, assets, and other dependents.



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**Pass Entrance Exams:** Your child will likely need to sit entrance exams and show academic aptitude to be considered for a bursary.

**Complete the Declaration Form:** You'll need to fill out a financial declaration form, providing evidence of your circumstances. Be honest and thorough in your application.

**Meet Deadlines:** Be aware of application deadlines for admissions and financial assistance for the relevant academic year.



**Charitable Support:** Consider charities like the [Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation](#) which work with schools to provide bursaries.

[Bursaries and scholarships | Christ's Hospital](#)



Ikea, Croydon: Warehouse Assistant (part time)

[Warehouse Assistant at IKEA](#)

An apprenticeship combines training in a job with study and anyone aged 16 years old or above can apply.

As an apprentice, you'll earn a wage, get holiday pay, study usually one day a week and work alongside experienced staff.

[Search and apply for an apprenticeship | Croydon Council](#)



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### 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. We look forward to working with you all to help to provide the best for our children and the community.

**FREE FOOTBALL WITH  
SUTTON UNITED**

*Aged 8-14*

**COMMUNITY FOOTBALL SESSIONS  
TUESDAYS 18:00 - 19:00  
PHOENIX CENTRE, SM6 9NZ**

- FREE SESSION
- PROFESSIONAL COACHES
- FUN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

**FOOTBALL FOR ALL**

**SUTTON UNITED FOUNDATION**

**Premier League Fans Fund**

*United in the Community*



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## DROP IN ADVICE HUB FOR REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM



**Free confidential advice regarding immigration**



**Information around key services in Croydon,  
including English language classes and volunteering  
opportunities**



**Wellbeing support for you and your child**



**Free childcare and activities**

Where: Rosecourt Road hall  
When: 14<sup>th</sup> October 9am - 9:45am





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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:

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

\*T & Cs apply for emergency sessions.