



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

7th November 2025

Welcome Back to the New Term!

We are delighted to welcome all our pupils and families back to school for the new half term. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and is ready for the exciting weeks ahead. Our teachers have been busy planning a range of engaging lessons, activities, and events to make this half term a successful and enjoyable one for every child. We look forward to seeing our pupils continue to grow in confidence, curiosity, and kindness as they take on new challenges and learning opportunities.

As we begin the new term, we'd like to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance. Regular attendance is key to helping children achieve their best, both academically and socially. As the new government guidelines highlight, *"Every day in school counts – children who attend regularly are more likely to achieve well and develop the skills they need for life."* Please support your child by ensuring they arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day.

Finally, a gentle reminder about school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform helps children to feel part of our school community and encourages pride in their appearance and learning. Please check that your child's uniform, including shoes and PE kit, meets the school's uniform policy. Linking closely to this, please ensure your child comes to school with their coat. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards across our school.

If you need any assistance with uniform please speak to our Family Support Workers: Ms Liburd (Canterbury Road) and Miss Williams (Rosecourt Road).



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Attendance

Well done to these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Year 2 - Palm Class

CR - Year 3 - Chestnut Class

CR - Year 4 - Hornbeam

RR - Year 2 Rowan Class

RR - Year 3 Cedar Class

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class

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 celebration of bonfire night. They have spent time making and decorating their own play dough fireworks, as well as using paint and glitter to make firework pictures!

This week in Topic, the children have begun to learn about the new book 'The Squirrel's Who Squabbled' by looking at different pictures of woodlands. We have also been talking about the seasons and the changes that happen. The children have been using adjectives to describe what happens in Autumn, especially how the trees change. We have also been





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looking at the different autumnal produce such as conkers, pinecones and pumpkins.



In maths, the children have been looking at numbers 3 and 4. They have been learning how to recognise the different patterns they make and have even begun to develop their subitising skills! This means that they have begun to recognise an amount without having to count it!

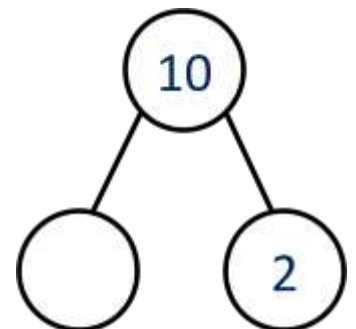
Thank you to all the parents who came to see our art exhibition on Tuesday after school. It was so wonderful to see so many of you celebrating your child's artwork and the children were so excited to show you!

Year One

Welcome back everybody! It's been another exciting and busy week of learning!

This week we began learning about our core text; **Little Red Riding Hood**. The children started by acting like detectives, guessing the main character by finding clues hidden around the classroom. Then they worked hard on understanding the story's structure, sequencing the main events and using time adverbials (like first, next, then) to describe what happened. To consolidate their understanding, the children worked brilliantly in pairs to draw a story map, visually representing the journey and key moments of the tale.

In Maths, we've been strengthening our understanding of addition. The children have been working on solving a variety of addition problems. In order to do this, they needed to use a variety of manipulatives such as cubes and double sided counters. A key focus was on the part-part-whole model, where they practiced finding the missing part of the whole. This is a crucial skill for developing a flexible understanding of number relationships!

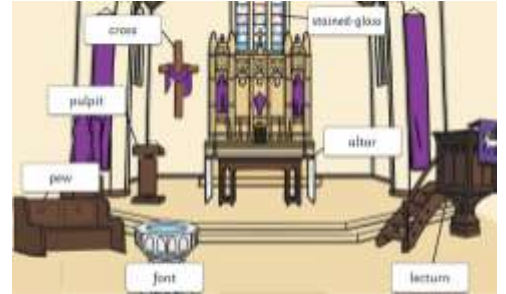




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In RE we began our learning with our assessment question **What places make you feel like you belong?** The children began learning about Christians and where they go to worship and how. We also labelled the different parts of a church.



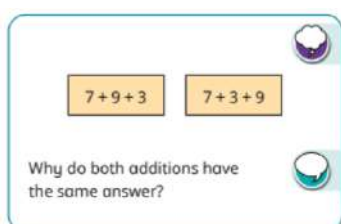
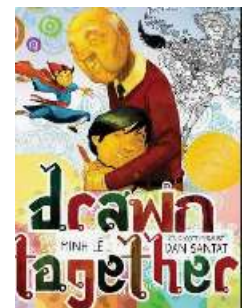
In Geography, we began our learning with the assessment question: What **do you like about where you live?** We explored our local area using Google Earth and Street View. The children loved zooming in to find familiar places and spotting important buildings and features in our community. They discussed what makes our area special and began learning about the difference between human and physical features.



Year Two

We were delighted to welcome the children back after their lovely long half-term break. They have all impressed us with their fantastic learning behaviours and positive attitudes.

In English this week, the children were introduced to our new core text, *Drawn Together* by Minh Lê and illustrated by Dan Santat. This touching story follows a grandson and his grandfather who overcome a language barrier and discover a connection through their shared love of art. The week began with an exciting code-breaking activity, where the children deciphered a hidden message. They then explored the events of the story through drama, sequencing, and finally, by retelling it in their own words.



In Maths, the children have continued to develop their understanding of addition. This week, they focused on calculating three-digit addition problems using the strategy of bridging to the next ten. To support their learning, they used a variety of mathematical resources, including tens frames, counters, and number lines.

As part of their Design and Technology learning, the children have been investigating the features of a fire engine, labelling its different parts and discussing their functions.



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Year Three

Welcome Back!

This half-term promises lots of exciting new topics and opportunities to build on all the wonderful progress made so far!

Maths

In Maths, we have been focusing on using the column method for addition. The children have been developing their understanding of place value and learning how to set out and solve addition problems neatly and accurately. We will continue to build on this by exploring subtraction and problem-solving in the coming weeks.

English

In English, our new core text is **Wendel's Workshop** by Chris Riddell. The children are enjoying exploring this imaginative story and learning how to use **time adverbials** to sequence events in their own writing. We will also be working on expanding sentences with interesting vocabulary and developing our grammar skills.

In Geography, we have been learning all about **maps**. The children have explored the **features of maps**. We're so proud of how well Year 3 have settled back into school life and can't wait to see all the brilliant learning still to come this term!

Year Four

In Year 4, the children started reading their new core text, 'The Girl who Stole an Elephant' written by Nizrana Farooq. In the reading lessons, the children have been focusing on predicting what will happen at different points in the text.

In English, the children have been describing a palace. They used their senses to describe how the main character from the core text, Chaya, was feeling as she touched different items in the palace, what she could see, hear and smell in the palace. The children used expanded noun phrases and figurative language to describe the outside and inside of the palace. They will be using these skills to describe a setting next week.



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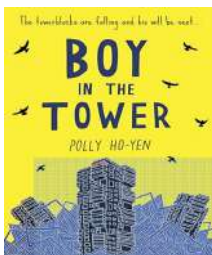
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In the wider curriculum subjects, the children learnt about the ten commandments and how they link with the school's core values in RE. In geography the children learnt about the different climate regions. They learnt that there are six different climate regions; temperate, arid, tropical, continental, polar and mediterranean. In DT, the children researched different types of materials to make bags. This term they will be sewing a draw string bag. In science, the children learnt to compare and group materials together. They learnt what a solid, liquid and a gas is.

Important information for parents: Please make sure that your child practises all of the multiplication tables on a daily basis. The children will be tested on their times tables in two weeks.

Year Five

In English this week, Year 5 children have been exploring our new core text, *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen. This exciting sci-fi story is about a young boy who lives in a tower block that becomes taken over by mysterious plants. The children have been learning about key features of science-fiction stories, such as unusual or mysterious settings, strange plant life, and imaginative characters. They have also been looking closely at how authors use time adverbials to show when events happen, figurative language to create vivid images, and cohesive devices to help ideas link together. These skills will support them as they begin planning and writing their own sci-fi narratives.



In Maths this week, Year 5 have begun their new unit on fractions. They have been learning how to find equivalent fractions and how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions, and vice versa. The children have also practised using bar models and number lines to deepen their understanding. Later in the week, they applied these skills to solve a variety of fraction problems, working carefully to explain their reasoning and show their working.

$$\underset{\times}{3} \overset{+}{\frac{2}{8}} = \frac{3 \times 8 + 2}{8} = \frac{26}{8}$$

Mixed Number Improper Function



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In Design and Technology this week, the children have been researching and exploring a range of soft toys. They investigated different designs, looking closely at features such as shape, fabric, stitching, and decoration. The children discussed what they liked about each toy and how these features could inspire their own designs. They also considered the purpose of each toy, its durability, and how appealing it is to different age groups. These observations will help them plan and create their own soft toys in the coming weeks.



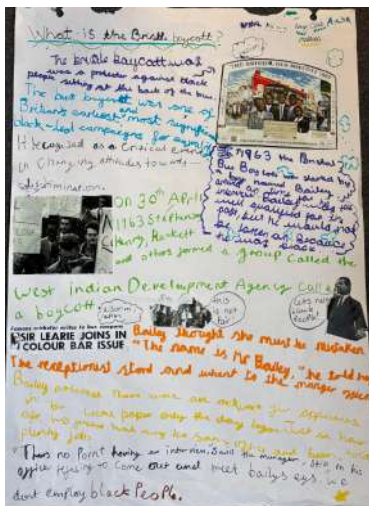
Year Six

WOW! It has been a fantastic week for year 6. The children have come back with great enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

In maths, we have started our fraction unit. The children have used their prior knowledge from year 5 and their times table knowledge to find equivalent fractions and to compare and simplify fractions.

In English, we have started our new core text 'Stella By Starlight'. The children have enjoyed exploring the setting at the start of the book, building up their vocabulary and practising crafting varied sentences to create an eerie atmosphere. The children have generated words and phrases that they could use to describe different events in chapter 1.

In History this half term, we are learning about British human and civil rights. This week the children learnt about the Bristol Bus Boycott. They designed their own poster, explaining who was involved, what it was, where it took place, when and why the Bristol Bus Boycott happened.



Reading



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Phrases of the Week



¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Farisha	Victoria	Bennett	Solomon	
Eza	Sivanika	Bawanika	Prince	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Craig	Austin	Zainab	Anne-Marie	
Daniel	Emaan	Yasiin	Constantin	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole	Ayda	Jessica	Havishh	
Class	Minette	Kavish	Wiktorja	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Zahra	Tesla	Whole	Alayah	
Taraji	Dylan	Class	Muhammad	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Haris	Ishani	Cassidy-Rayn	Gessica	Shahid
Charlotte	Harish	Arayan	Rayan	Joy
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore



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Jarren	Nadiya	Amelia	Yathusha	Whole class
Keshav	Grace	Kuba	Areej	
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Isabella	Kacy	Neva	Whole	Mirudna
Shravan	Uri-Jay	Nithusan	Class	Alvina



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Community

Leading Parent Partnership Award

Last half term, we mentioned going for a '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 need your views to help us to get started. You should have received an email earlier today with a link to a short parent survey for you to complete. It should only take a few minutes. The link to the survey will be available until Friday 28th November. We look forward to working with you all to help to provide the best for our children and the community.

Croydon send service

Kids Disabled children say we can **Term time only**

Croydon send service

Face to face drop-in sessions

Croydon SENDIAS service offer independent, impartial, confidential and free of charge legal advice and support for young people (YP) and families who have children/ YP with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) if you need legal advice, support or assistance with :

- Requesting EHC needs assessment
- Understanding EHCP proces
- Annual EHCP review process
- Appealing LA's decisions
- Discussions and meetings with school/Local Authority on SEND matters

Where: Croydon carers support centre, 24 George Street, CR0 1PB

Time: 10 AM to 12PM, Tuesdays 2025

You are welcome to attend the drop-in sessions on:

- 9th, 16th 23rd 30th September
- 7th, 14th, 21st October
- 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November
- 2nd, 9th, 16th December

For more information contact:
Email: croydon@kids.org.uk
Phone: +4420 8152 4558
Website: www.kids.org.uk
Facebook: Croydon SENDIASS



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Kids

Disabled children
say we can

Sunday afternoon
with
Croydon SENDIASS
at
Legacy Youth Zone

Navigating SEND support

19th October at 4 pm

Discussion about

- Navigating SEND support, including the school duties, identifying SEN in children, and addressing their needs.
- Requesting EHCP
- What to do when draft / proposed amended EHCP is issued.

Address:

Legacy Youth Zone
125 Whitehorse Road, Croydon
CR0 2LG

www.kids.org.uk



Croydon SENDIAS Service offers independent, impartial, confidential, and free legal advice and support to young people and to families with children or young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).



Croydon@kids.org.uk



020 8152 4558



www.facebook.com/CroydonSendiass





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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

UC *Universal Credit*

 **Childcare Vouchers**

Childcare
Choices

CGPS

VISA

MasterCard

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

Ofsted  CRB 

 www.kgdoodles.co.uk
0117-3322-811

*T & Cs apply for emergency sessions.