



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

21st November 2025

The nights are drawing in, the weather is getting colder and our Winter performance rehearsals are well underway. The children are joining in enthusiastically. Please help your children to learn their songs and lines so that the presentations will be of the usual amazing standard and better than anything you might see in the West End!



Fundraising Update

Today your generous donations for the Hurricane Melissa fund have reached **£466** and counting!

Last week for Children in Need we raised **£531**.

The Phonics and Early Reading Workshop led by Mrs Benham was well attended and parents reported that they found it incredibly useful.

Next week you are warmly invited to two further parent sessions at Rosecourt Road:

Wednesday 26th November 8:45am:
Strategies to supporting children to manage their behaviour and emotions through a trauma informed approach (Mrs Callaghan)

Thursday 27th November 8:45am:
SEND Coffee Morning - Dyslexia (Ms Greene)





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Leading Parent Partnership Survey - last few days

Please follow the link below to complete the parent survey before the **28th November 2025** to ensure your feedback is included in our planning. All responses and suggestions will be carefully considered and used to plan a range of school improvements.

Link to survey: <https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/690ddb4b6a8ca>

West Thornton Winter Fair - Thursday 4th December 2025

Our Winter Fair will be taking place next month. This year, it will be based at Rosecourt Road.

How you can help

If there are any parents who have their own business and are interested in donating a prize for our raffle then do let us know. Any donation, whether it's a product, service, or even a cash prize for the raffle would be greatly appreciated and would help to make the event a success.

Parent volunteers are always needed to help run the fair as well as in the build-up to the big event. If you are able to donate your time, look out for further information on how you can support.

Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97%

Extra well down to Palm Class with 100%

RR Year 1 Maple

RR Year 2 Rowan

RR Year 3 Larch

RR Year 3 Cedar

RR Year 4 Beech

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus

RR Year 6 Juniper

CR Year 4 Olive

CR Year 4 Hornbeam

CR Year 2 Palm

CR Year 6 Holly

CR Year 6 Acer



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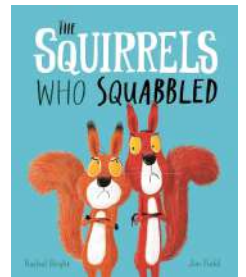
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Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week, our learning has been packed with creativity, exploration, and numerical discovery!

We took inspiration from our core text, 'The Squirrels Who Squabbled,' to explore the fascinating world of forest animals and how they prepare for the colder months. The children loved learning about different forest creatures. Following the theme of storing food, the children acted as designers and engineers to create their very own bird feeders! These wonderful creations have been hung in the playground, giving our local birds a lovely spot to feed and enjoy.



In Maths this week, the number five has been the star of the show! We explored places where we see patterns of five, such as five fingers on a hand and five spots on a standard die. The children have been looking at different ways to represent the number five. We have started to explore how the number five can be composed of other numbers (e.g., $4 + 1$ or $3 + 2$).

The children have continued working hard to develop their literacy skills! They have continued to practice accurate letter formation with the letters O and C and we have continued to focus on applying our growing phonic knowledge to successfully spell simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words.

Year One

Year One has had another busy week. In phonics, they have been focusing on learning lots of new digraphs. They have also been working on blending sounds together in their heads to read words automatically and fluently.





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In writing the children have loved creating their own characters, then generating adjectives to describe their innovated character's personality and appearance. They ended the week by writing some fabulous character descriptions.

In DT they have reviewed different buildings in the local area and then drawn their own plans to create their own models next week. Their drawings were so good including labels about the different materials that they will use. They can't wait to get started on their final projects. In RE they have enjoyed continuing to learn about special places of worship. This week they learnt about the Mandir or temple Hindu's special place of worship. They shared their knowledge through sorting artefacts that would be found in a Mandir and explaining the purpose of each one.

Year Two

Year Two have been innovative writers this week and have enjoyed planning their own version of our core text 'Drawn together'. They have been writing in first person as the boy and creating their own story where they decided upon another activity like 'cooking' to communicate with grandpa. They have used emotive language and a range of adjectives to tell their story.

In maths, the children have been learning how to subtract by crossing over a ten. They have been using part-whole models to partition the number being taken away so that they can solve the number sentence more easily. They first subtracted one part to make the previous ten and then the remaining part. They have shown such confidence when explaining the steps they needed to make.

In history this week the children have enjoyed building upon their knowledge of the great fire of London. They were investigating how the fire spread quickly by building their own bakery and identifying flammable features of the houses. Each class then made a model to look at how it spread and worked together to find fire breakers to quickly stop the spread of fire.

In science the children looked at the results of their investigation into waterproof materials from last week. They learnt how to write a conclusion using sentence stems before considering what material would be the most waterproof and best material for a hat in the rain. They looked back at their predictions to say whether their prediction was correct or not correct.

Year Three

This week, Year 3 channeled their creativity by becoming fantasy writers and solving appliance mysteries! We drafted top-secret explanations for how our kitchen gadgets really work. Children



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wrote hilarious, detailed explanations about tiny fire people living in toasters and freezing tales about ice dragons lurking in freezers. We focused on using detailed descriptions and fun language, making our imaginative explanations come alive on the page!

Our mathematicians have been tackling some challenging problems this week. We learned the key skill of estimating to check our answers and ensure they are reasonable before calculating. This helped us tackle complex, multistep worded problems with confidence. The children showed excellent focus and problem-solving skills when breaking down these challenging tasks into smaller, manageable chunks.



In Geography, we've travelled the world without leaving the classroom! We spent time comparing the physical features and cultural importance of the mighty River Thames in London with the enormous River Nile in Egypt. This study is excellent preparation for our exciting trip next week, where the children will get a unique bird's-eye view of the Thames from the London cable cars!

Our D&T journey has begun with a focus on form and function. The children have been busy generating design ideas for their own photo frames. They showed great enthusiasm discussing what shape and what materials they need to use to make a strong frame. They considered the best decoration ideas, ensuring their final designs will be both aesthetically pleasing and structurally sound.

Year Four

In Maths, Year 4 have been getting to grips with the 3 and 6 times tables and using these to deepen their understanding of division. The children have also been learning how to recognise numbers that are divisible by 3 and 6, using simple rules and patterns to help them work it out quickly and confidently. This has really strengthened their mental fluency and used these skills to answer some worded problems and multi-step questions.

In Writing, the class have produced some fantastic innovated setting descriptions inspired by the shabby workshop in our core text, *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*. The children have been challenged to include a wide range of descriptive techniques, such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and figurative language. Their vocabulary choices have been impressive, and it has been wonderful to see them crafting vivid images for the reader.

In Design Technology, the children have begun honing their sewing skills, learning how to complete a neat and secure backstitch. They have shown





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great focus and patience as they practise this new technique, which they will later use when designing and making their very own drawstring bags.

In Science, Year 4 has been exploring how materials change state, with a particular focus on melting. The children carried out a comparative test to investigate which type of chocolate—dark, milk, or white—melts the fastest. They made careful observations and discussed why different chocolates behave differently when heated. It was a very popular experiment!

Year Five

In English this week, Year 5 have been busy generating ideas for their upcoming narratives about Ade, a young character whose mother is experiencing mental illness. The children have handled this sensitive topic with maturity and empathy, exploring how a story can show emotion through actions and description. They have been practising a range of key writing skills, including using relative clauses to add detail, time adverbials to sequence events, and prepositional phrases to build atmosphere. The class has also been working hard on their 'show not tell' techniques, finding creative ways to hint at a character's feelings without stating them directly. These skills will support them in producing powerful, thoughtful stories next week.

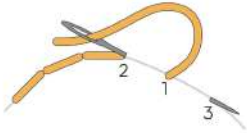
In Maths, the children have been completing their end-of-term assessments. They have shown fantastic focus and determination, applying everything they've learned over the past weeks to reasoning and arithmetic questions. We are incredibly proud of the effort each pupil has put in. They approached every challenge with resilience, showing a real growth mindset. The assessments have also given us a clear picture of areas to revisit so that we can continue strengthening their confidence and fluency in the coming weeks.

In DT, Year 5 have enjoyed a hands-on and creative start to their textiles unit. This week, they explored a variety of stitching techniques including the over stitch, back stitch and cross stitch. The classroom has been full of concentration as children carefully practised each method, preparing themselves for the next stage of the project—designing and creating their very own stuffed toys. They have been enthusiastic and patient as they developed these new skills, and we are excited to see their imaginative ideas come to life soon.

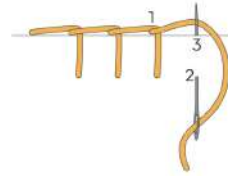


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Back stitch



Over stitch

Year Six

The children have had a very productive week, focusing intently on their recent assessments and brilliantly showcasing all their hard work. We've been so impressed with their focus and determination throughout this process!

In English, the children started an exciting new writing outcome: dialogue narratives based on our core text, *Stella By Starlight*. They generated rich vocabulary for depicting character emotion, specifically learning to "show, not tell," analysed examples of successful dialogue in extracts to identify key techniques, and prepared language they will use within their own narratives.

In Maths, children deepened their understanding of fraction operations. They successfully applied the skill of finding the lowest common denominator (LCD) to fluently add and subtract fractions and used this mastery to solve complex, contextual problems.

In Design and Technology, children finalised the plans for their pneumatic hearts, as they skillfully designed their models and compiled a detailed list of all the materials they will need for the final construction phase.

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué tiempo hace? - What's the weather like?

Hace mucho frío. - It's very cold.



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Faaris	Dunya	Essa	Kiyan	
Jaaziha	Khalil	Sahaja	Adam	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Bethel	Dhanush	Druvan	Daneya	
Maida	Chengetai	Saleem	Blake	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Anaum	Aadhith	Pranitha	Harriet	
Ismahan	Alicia	Musa	Ryan	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Asrithan	Paari	Whole	Daisy	
Harry	Shayan	Class	Jason	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Jessica	Trevor	Akosua	Hanna	Talha
Neel	Dev	Reign	Hela	Britt
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Whole Class	Mohammed	Aliza	Chimay	Fiza
	Zenneyah	Daniel G	Yathiusha	Samira
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Arham	Swarnika	Meeran	Amelia	Bilques
Maja				
Izza	Rhianna	Taksh	Esha	Adnan



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Community

Free football opportunities

All sessions are entirely free thanks to funding from the Premier League, and open to all within the specified age groups, irrespective of ability:

Monday

Home School Football, 5-8 years / 9-13 years, 11.30-12.30pm, Selhurst Sports Arena SE25 5PH

Tuesday

Football, 5-13 years, 5:30 pm – 6:30pm, Archbishop Lanfranc School CR9 3AS

Football, 14-18 years, 6:00 pm -8:00pm, Archbishop Lanfranc School CR9 3AS

Saturday

Football, 5-13 years 9:00 pm – 10:00am, Archbishop Lanfranc School CR9 3AS

Sunday

Football, 18+ 7:00pm – 10:00pm, Selhurst Sports Arena SE25 5PH

Community Fun Day at Canterbury Children's Centre

Jingle Mingle
COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Join us for lots of fun!

- Face painting
- Art & Crafts
- Dance performance
- Paper plate decoration
- Mini Christmas tree decorating
- Henna & Nail Painting
- Tombola
- Christmas Carol singing
- Burgers
- Hot dogs
- Popcorn
- Cakes
- Tattoos
- Hot chocolate
- Santa's Grotto
- Lucky bags

And much more!

Saturday 6th
December
From: 12pm to 3pm
At Canterbury Children's Centre

Jingle Mingle



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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
0117-3322-811

*T & C's apply for emergency sessions.