



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**5th December 2025**

Year 4 had a spectacular day stepping back in time during their recent visit to Hampton Court Palace. This immersive trip brought their history lessons to life. It was a fantastic opportunity for hands-on historical learning and a truly memorable experience for all.



Our annual Winter Fair was a wonderful success, bringing our entire school community together for a festive afternoon! Thank you to all the families who came out to support the event and a huge thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen. The children had a brilliant time, decorating gingerbread people, attempting the tombola, and visiting Santa's Grotto.

Congratulations to Aamir in Holly Class and Melania in Cypress Class, both winners of the 'Guess the Sweets' game.

Last year, the money raised by the PTA contributed to enrichment activities across the school including an increase in trips and workshops. Trips such as Year 1's visit to Littlehampton and the Year 6 World War 2 Experience Day would not have been possible without your generous donations - thank you. So far, we have raised around £1,500 and counting! More information about plans for this year's fundraising efforts will be shared soon.



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### Attendance

Well done to these classes with Attendance over 97%, extra well done to both Eucalyptus and Larch class with attendance over 99%

RR - Year 1 Maple Class                      CR - Year 3 Cherry Class  
RR - Year 3 Larch Class                      CR - Year 6 Acer Class  
RR - Year 4 Beech Class  
RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class  
RR - Year 6 Juniper Class  
RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

The children in Reception have been showing incredible dedication and talent as they continue to practice for their upcoming Christmas performance! In our curriculum lessons, the focus has been on refining their beautiful singing. We are so proud of how they are paying close attention to the pace and rhythm of the music, singing in time, and ensuring their voices are clear and audible for their audience. Furthermore, they have been working on their stage presence by sitting up straight and smiling to engage everyone watching. They are sounding fantastic, and we can't wait for you to see them shine!

Our writing lessons have been busy this week! The children have been hard at work developing their confidence with the letters n, m, and h. They are becoming much more secure in knowing exactly where each letter starts and finishes. In addition to letter formation, we have introduced a crucial element of writing: finger spaces! The children are learning about the purpose of these spaces to separate words and have successfully started writing short captions, such as "a man" and "a pin."

This week in Maths, we introduced the concept of parts and a whole. This is a foundational idea that will support their understanding of number composition later on. The children have been actively exploring this concept by looking at various pictures and objects that are made up of



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smaller parts. They used real-world examples like their own bodies (head, arms, legs = whole body), toys, and puzzles to identify the smaller components that make up a complete whole. This practical exploration is building a strong base for confidently composing and decomposing numbers in the future.

### Year One

We have had another exciting and busy week of learning in Year 1!

In English, to support our understanding of Little Red Riding Hood, we generated adjectives to describe what we could hear, see and feel. The children enjoyed using their senses to bring the forest setting to life and expand their descriptive vocabulary.

In Maths, we've begun learning our numbers up to 20. We have been exploring and making different representations of double-digit numbers using manipulatives such as counters, tens frames and base-ten equipment. This hands-on practice has helped us understand how numbers are made.

In RE, we went on an exciting trip to a church in our local area. We learnt about how Christians worship and why Christmas is important to them. The children were wonderfully curious and respectful—we had a lovely time!

In Science, we continued learning about Autumn and discussed what we should wear during the season. We explored how the weather changes and why warm clothing is important at this time of year.

In DT, we have begun making our buildings. We chose boxes based on our designs and will start constructing them soon. The children are very excited to see their ideas come to life!

Finally, a reminder that our Christmas Play is on the 15th of December. We would love for you to come and watch us perform!

### Year Two

This week in English, the children have been learning about four-line stanza poems. They explored features such as repetition, ellipsis, and the use of commas. Using a model example, the children then wrote their own four-line stanza poem called "*I Am Afraid of Flying.*"

$$36 + 23 = \square$$

In maths, the children practised adding two two-digit numbers using the column method with Base 10 equipment. They worked on both non-crossing-ten and crossing-ten calculations. When their addition crossed ten, they used the Base 10 equipment to



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exchange ten ones for one ten. They then applied these skills to solve missing-number equations and word problems.

This week in DT, the children showcased their creativity by designing a model fire engine. They used the knowledge of fire-engine features that they had researched in previous lessons to help guide their designs. They added labels to their drawings and created a list of materials they will need to build their model fire engine.



### Year Three

It has been a busy week of learning in year 3 this week as we near the end of a fantastic half term!

In English, the children have been building their knowledge of the skills needed to write an exciting newsletter. They have been using subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions as well as inverted commas to write quotes from eye witnesses!

The children have been busy little mathematicians this week, tackling the tricky 3 times table with enthusiasm and determination. Through the use of number lines, arrays, and repeated addition, our pupils have been visualizing the concept of multiplication and division and using these to learn the 3 times tables.

In DT the children have been hard at work transforming their imaginative designs into photo frames. This week, they've been assembling their frames, drawing on the skills they've honed in previous lessons. From precise measurements to careful cutting and gluing, our young designers have been showcasing their creativity and attention to detail. We're excited to see the final results and celebrate their artistic achievements!

Our scientists have continued to explore the world of 'force', using their knowledge of how magnets work to attract and repel they have investigated different items around the classroom to see whether they are magnetic or not.

Finally, a reminder that our Christmas performances of 'Groovin' the nativity will take place on Tuesday 16th December, make sure you have your tickets!



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### Year Four

It has been another wonderful week, in Year 4. In English, the children have been planning and writing their own narrative. They had to use a lot of skills; fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and complex sentences using subordinating clauses. The children showed off these skills by writing the story 'A Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. They learnt how to write a setting description, building up a problem and how to write the ending.



The core mathematical objective this week was the consolidation of multiplication and division fluency for the 6, 7, and 11 times tables. Children progressed from fundamental recall to successfully applying this essential conceptual knowledge to practical, real-life problem-solving contexts, emphasising the requirement for absolute command of these number facts.

The definitive highlight of the week was the successful educational visit to Hampton Court Palace. Children engaged actively in exploring King Henry VIII's historical quarters, securing numerous factual insights. This immersive experience provided a valuable cross-curricular link, directly informing and elevating the quality of their descriptive writing.



In the wider curriculum subjects, the children learnt what climate change was and what causes it. Also they thought about the negative impacts of climate change on our planet. In DT, children have started their designs on their draw string bags. In science the children described observations using scientific vocabulary.





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## Year Five

It has been a very exciting week for Year 5 as the children began researching the features of a newspaper report in their English lessons. They have been immersed into visual and auditory versions of newspaper reports and snippets of newsround which have all contributed to children becoming more knowledgeable and confident to write their own newspaper report in a few weeks time.

In maths, converting mixed numbers into improper fractions has become second nature to most children! They have worked very hard to master the concept and are becoming efficient in finding common denominators to add and subtract fractions.

In R.E, as Christmas draws closer, Year 5 has moved on to revisiting the Nativity story by recalling what happens and the significance of it. They have also been busy practising their Christmas songs, ready to showcase their singing talent to parents in the Christmas show.



In DT, the hard work of the children is evident in their efforts to plan, learn to stitch and create their own soft toy monster. Their excitement, while planning, designing and creating a prototype was wonderful to see. The children are very much looking forward to taking their toys home to share with the family. We definitely have some budding toy creators in our classes...watch the space!

Science has been very interesting. Children loved the hands-on experiments with soluble and insoluble materials which increased their curiosity as to what they might put into a liquid next, to see whether it will dissolve or leave sediments...if anything suddenly disappears in your home, we at West Thornton take no responsibility!

## Year Six

Year 6 have been continuing their dedication to daily mental arithmetic and developing faster strategies for the four operations. We have moved on from fractions (much to the relief of some!) and are starting to look at metric measures. The children have been converting from Kg to g; mm to cm; m to Km; ml to litres and so on. At home, encourage them to look at measures around the





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house and estimate the capacity or mass of different objects. How many litres does your kettle hold? What is the mass of an apple?

In English the children have just completed their narrative dialogue to show character. They have been using specific verbs and adverbs to show how the children act, then linking this to the dialogue they would use in that situation. Their characters have been reacting to finding their Mama in the woods with some sort of injury. How will they help her? Do they remain calm or panic?

Science has been fun this week, discovering whether yeast is a microorganism. Following an investigation using sugar, yeast, warm water, a plastic bottle and a balloon, the children could see that yeast behaves like a living thing. It ate the sugar and rehydrated in the water, enabling it to create Carbon Dioxide (respire) and move up the bottle. So, to conclude, yeast is a microorganism that eats, breathes and moves!



Finally, we all have our Christmas performances in the early stages of rehearsal and organisation and greatly look forward to seeing the parents in two weeks time!

### Phrases of the Week



**?Como estas?** - How are you?

**Estoy muy bien.** - I am very well.



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### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	RR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Thomas	Moksha	Nithish	Thiya	
Mateo	Rhea	Arianna	Ekamjot	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Kulture	Kayla	Druvan	Sariyah	
Kamsi	Thishan	Chaneline	Hiyan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Aaiza	Mark	Ayaan	Hitarth	
Denis	Simeon	Mehrab	Khemyra	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Mirabel	Loreran	Reagan	Kyarah	
Ayan	Noah	Aryan	Manvay	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Adriel	Sia	Whole	Kavinu	whole
Hillel	Diyone	Class	Izabelle	class
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Moksh	Anthony	Karim	Shrishanth	Whole Class
Subhan	Jewel	Aliza	Veera	
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Whole	Alex	Tanuj	Giovanni	Diaa
Class	Yasmine	Meeran	Malaika	Pirateesh



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### Community



BOX PARK: FREE CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY

Tue 23th & 29th Dec

1pm - 5pm

Looking for fun ways to spend time with the kids this summer?

Join us TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER AND MONDAY 29TH

DECEMBER 1PM – 5PM at Boxpark Croydon for a Family Fun

Day packed with creative activities, party games, face

painting, balloon modelling, music, dancing, and more!

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-family-fun-day-tickets-1961977019079?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&gl=1\\*ds89cj\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MjMwNTEzNDg2LjE3NTg4ODY4Mzc.\\*\\_ga\\*Y14P0WGD1\\*cze3NjQ4NTAzNDQkbzlkZzEkdDE3NjQ4NTAzODAkajl0JGwwJGg3MTA3MTg5MDQkZGRWRDRQVFWTG1CRjh3OFh6S1V0M1Y0OFMyQ215T1M2M3c.&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-family-fun-day-tickets-1961977019079?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&gl=1*ds89cj*_gcl_au*MjMwNTEzNDg2LjE3NTg4ODY4Mzc.*_ga*Y14P0WGD1*cze3NjQ4NTAzNDQkbzlkZzEkdDE3NjQ4NTAzODAkajl0JGwwJGg3MTA3MTg5MDQkZGRWRDRQVFWTG1CRjh3OFh6S1V0M1Y0OFMyQ215T1M2M3c.&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp)

### **Festivals and events**

- [A Very Croydon Christmas](#): A free festival from December 5-7, 2025, with various activities around the Croydon Clocktower, including outdoor performances, craft workshops, and music.
- [Museum of Croydon](#): Offers free crafts and activities, including a festive trail and handling trolley.
- [BOXPARK Croydon](#): Features a free 15-foot Scout Elf for photos from December 1-24.
- [Centrale & Whitgift Centre](#): Provides a free Giant Christmas Pudding photo opportunity until December 24 and hosts various free festive activities and performances.
- Festive Entertainment: Enjoy free live entertainment and performances at various locations, such as the free festive music and a quiz at The Spread Eagle (Dec 21-22).
- Christmas Lights and Decorations: Enjoy wandering through Croydon to see the Christmas lights and decorations.
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**KP**  
KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICE

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

**CROYDON  
HOLIDAY  
ACTIVITIES  
AND FOOD**

# WINTER KIDS CAMP

Join us for a magical winter adventure filled with fun outdoor games, and snowy surprises and family Christmas lunch!

**22-24** Canterbury Community Center 93-97 Canterbury Road CR0 3HH  
Dec 2025  
9am -1pm

## FUN ACTIVITY

Campfire Sing-Along  
Hot Cocoa Time  
Pajama Movie  
Snowball Toss

For More Information ,please contact :  
E: [knowledgepractice11@gmail.com](mailto:knowledgepractice11@gmail.com) , T: 07572877378 .



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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

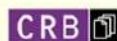


#### Open Hours:

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

\* & Cs apply for emergency sessions.