



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

19th December 2025

This week at West Thornton Primary School has been filled with festive fun and cheer, wrapping up a truly special end to the Autumn term. We were incredibly proud to host wonderful Christmas performances from all year groups, showcasing the hard work, talent, and enthusiasm of our pupils.

As the school doors close for the holidays, we extend our warmest wishes to all our families. We wish you a safe, restful, and joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. This is a well-deserved break for everyone. We hope you have the opportunity to relax, recharge, and make wonderful memories together. We look forward to seeing all the children refreshed and ready for new adventures when they return in January.



Please note that we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school for the start of the Spring term on Monday, January 5th. We are excited to embark on new learning journeys and continue supporting your child's success in the New Year.

Winter Fair Success

A huge thank you to our school community. We are thrilled to announce that our recent Winter Fair was a great success, raising a final grand total of **£2,100!** This was a fantastic achievement that will go towards our school, reducing the cost of trips and towards our next big goal; new staging for our school performances. This will help us to build children's confidence and develop their creativity whilst performing. It will take a little more fundraising to make this goal a reality. Keep an eye out for more upcoming events next year as we push towards achieving this target.



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Staff Updates

We are sorry to share the news that Mr Tutton, a valued teaching assistant at Canterbury Road, is leaving us. We would like to thank Mr Tutton for his hard work and commitment, particularly his significant work with pupils across Key Stage Two and Year 6 in particular. We wish him every success in his new endeavour.

After the departure of Emmanuel Obinwogo in August, we are pleased to welcome Ian Wilson, who will be joining Canterbury Road as our new Site Supervisor. We very much look forward to welcoming him to the West Thornton team.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Cherry Class

CR - Aspen Class

RR - Oak Class

RR - Maple Class

RR - Spruce Class

RR - Magnolia Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been a truly magical week in Reception! The classrooms have been filled with glitter, song, and a wonderful sense of excitement as we dive into our festive celebrations. The children have shown such curiosity and kindness as we explored the traditions that make this time of year so special.

In our curriculum lessons, we have been learning all about the Nativity story. The children enjoyed re-telling the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and discussing the significance of the star and the visitors to the stable. It has been wonderful to see them use our small-world figures to act out the story themselves!



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We have also been looking at how Christians celebrate Christmas today. From decorating trees and giving gifts to attending church services, we discussed the many ways families mark the occasion. To broaden our understanding, we spent time comparing these traditions to other festivals that our families celebrate. We had some lovely discussions about; the beautiful lights of Diwali, the delicious feasts of Eid and the special candles lit during Hanukkah. The children were brilliant at spotting similarities—noticing that no matter the festival, family, food, and kindness are always at the heart of the celebration.

Thank you for all your support this term. It has been a joy to watch the children grow in confidence and spirit. We wish you all a restful and happy break!

Year One

Year One has had a lovely final week. They enjoyed sharing their singing and performance with all the parents and carers. We are so proud of all the hard work that they put into them.

In writing they have been finishing up their final pieces of writing as Little Red Riding Hood. They have reviewed their writer's toolkit and everything that they needed to include in their diaries. Finally they read back through their dairy entries and used purple pens to make edits and uplevel their writing.

In DT the children have been putting the finishing touches on their building projects. It has been great to see so many buildings in Croydon including Lidl, blocks of flats and ASDA come to life in their projects.

In science they have been learning about how the weather is different at different points in the year so they have been watching closely this week and making observations three times a day about what the weather has been like, they will then compare to a week later in the year to see how the weather is different.



Year Two

It has been a wonderful lead up to the end of term in Year 2, who started this week with fabulous performances of their Christmas productions on Monday. We were very proud of our children who sang with such enthusiasm. We would like to thank all the parents and carers for their support with helping the children learn their lines and songs.



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In English, the children finished off their poetry learning journey by combining what they have learnt about poetry and their historical knowledge on the Great Fire of London. They created a three or four stanza poem using their senses and imagining what they could see, hear or smell if they had lived at the time of the Great Fire of London. The children are now getting very good at embedding adjectives into their writing.

In Maths, the children have been consolidating their skills in subtracting by practising how to exchange when taking away. This is a tricky concept for year 2 but they have worked hard to persevere to ensure they have mastered this skill. The children ended the week by working out a mixture of addition and subtraction calculations to apply all the skills they have learnt over the last few weeks.

In DT this week the children have been completing their model fire engines. They collaborated so well when helping each other to make the body of the fire engine. Then used great creativity when adding features such as hoses and ladders before finally adding the wheels and axles. They all look amazing and the children were very reflective in their evaluations too.



Year Three

Year 3 has had a busy but fantastic end to the autumn term! The Year 3 Christmas performance was a resounding success! We were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout of parents and family members who joined us to enjoy it. The children's hard work and dedication really paid off, we are very proud of them! Thank you to parents who took the time to practice lines and perfect those groovy songs!

In English, the children have written their very own newsletter about a fictional visit from 'Rosie Revere'. They were able to include all of the important features of a newsletter correctly.

In maths, they have been working on multiplication and division using their 8 times table. The children were able to identify fact families and use them to solve a variety of problems. They have continued to memorise their 3,4 and 8 times tables.

In geography, year three has gathered all knowledge learnt this half term to answer the big question 'What are the similarities and differences between the River Nile and the River Thames', taking part in a quiz.

DT this term has been a fantastic journey, enjoyed very much by both the children and teachers. They have come to the final week of designing and making their very own photo frame. They ended the journey this





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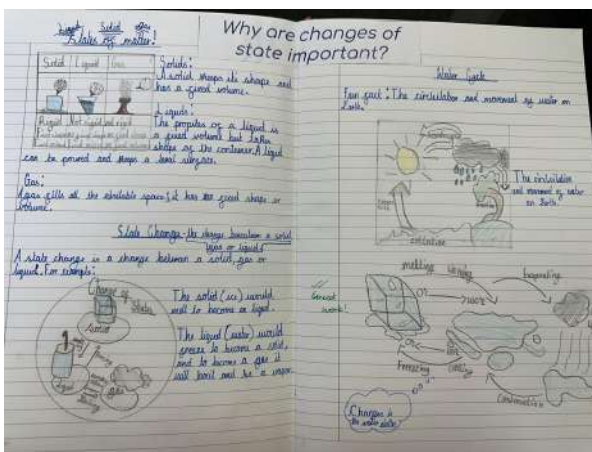
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week by adding the final decorations and piecing it altogether. They can now capture a very special memory in their personalised photo frame.

As we head into the Christmas break, the Year 3 team would like to say a massive thank you for all of your continued support. We wish you all the best for the holidays and a very Happy New Year!

Year Four

This week, year 4 worked hard to publish their narratives based on the core text 'The Girl who stole an Elephant.' Their narratives focused heavily on mastering inverted commas for dialogue and using figurative language, like similes and metaphors, to bring their stories to life. The final "publishing" phase was a huge success; the children's neatly written stories are now proudly displayed for everyone to see, showcasing their ability to control the pace of a story using effective paragraphing.



In Science and Geography, the children became experts on some of the most important issues facing our world today. To showcase their learning, they created stunning double-page spreads—a fantastic way to combine factual writing with creative diagrams. In Science, we explored the States of Matter, investigating how particles behave in solids, liquids, and gases (and even experimenting with how different materials affect the melting rate of ice!).

In Geography, we tackled the complex topic of Climate Change, discussing its impact on our planet and what we can do to help. Their spreads are a wonderful record of their deep understanding and hard work.





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Our classrooms were transformed into textiles studios this term as the children completed their drawstring bags. From the initial research into fabric textures to the final stitch, the children showed great focus. They mastered back stitch to ensure their bags were durable and strong. The final stage of the project was the evaluation, where the children looked critically at their work. They thought deeply about what they were proud of—like

sewing on a tricky button—and what they would improve if they were to take on the challenge again.

Year Five

As we wrap up the final week of the autumn term, the classrooms and corridors have been filled with festive cheer and a huge sense of pride. It has been a busy, productive, and truly heartwarming week for all of our Year 5 children.

The highlight of our week was undoubtedly the Christmas Performance and Talent Show. The children have been rehearsing their songs tirelessly, and it certainly paid off! We were blown away by the turnout of parents, family, and friends. Seeing the children perform with such confidence was wonderful, and the atmosphere in the hall was incredibly moving. Thank you to everyone who came to support—it was a memory the children will cherish.

In our English lessons, we turned our classrooms into busy newsrooms. Inspired by our core text, *Boy in the Tower*, the children wrote their own innovated newspaper reports. They reported on a mysterious invasion in the local neighbourhood, skillfully using both direct and reported speech to capture accounts from local residents, authorities, and scientists.

In Maths, the children have been tackling large numbers with great focus. We have used the formal written method for multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. Beyond the standard, we have also explored efficiency. For example, when multiplying a 4-digit number by 11, the children learned to multiply the number by 10 and then by 1 before adding the parts back together.

Our Design and Technology project has finally come to life as the children completed their hand-sewn soft toys. After weeks of planning, children decorated their designs to look like a colour monster before choosing the most effective stitch they have learned to join their pieces and filling them with soft stuffing. The results are fantastic and show a great deal of effort.



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As we head into the Christmas break, the Year 5 team would like to say a massive thank you for all of your support over this half term. It has been great that we have been able to work together to make sure the children are happy and successful at school. We wish you all the best for the holidays and a very Happy New Year!

Year Six

The year 6 classrooms have been alive with festive spirit and holiday cheer as we celebrated the end of a fantastic term together.

A big congratulations to the year 6 pupils for their spectacular winter concert performance; their confident delivery of imaginative poetry and festive songs were the true highlight of the week!

We are incredibly impressed with the double page spreads children completed for History and Science which combined meticulous detail with beautiful presentation to showcase their amazing learning in these subjects.

The children published biographies on Stephen Lawrence, using advanced grammar to match the importance of his story. Relative clauses were used to embed facts seamlessly, while parenthesis allowed for the inclusion of extra context and dates without disrupting the narrative flow. By using complex subordinating conjunctions like *although* and *despite*, the children were able to link contrasting ideas and explain the lasting impact of his legacy. Together, these features ensured the writing was formal, clear, and professional.

The Year 6 team wishes the children a restful and well-deserved Christmas break. They have demonstrated great dedication this term; we hope they take this time to recharge so they can return ready for the new challenges of the New Year.

Merry Christmas from the Year 6 Team!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Hiwet	Whole Class	Whole Class	Kamiyah	
Cruz			Camil	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Ehsanullah	Whole	Khadija	Whole	
Zeyne	Class	Yoel	Class	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole Class	Trey	Kavish	Andino	
	Vihaan	Cassius	Sophie	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Whole	Whole Class	Whole	Saphira	
Class		Class	Hamza	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Whole	Whole	Aadia	Joshua	Whole
Class	Class	Arayan	Praisejah	class
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Joanna	El Hadj	Sanuthi	Whole Class	Whole Class
Nishtha	Ethan	Emily		
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nirbhik	Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Dzani
Taha				Khashifa



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Community

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the Christmas break, we recognise that while this time of year can be filled with joy, it can also bring unique pressures and challenges for many families. Whether it is managing the holiday's emotional toll or navigating financial constraints, we want you to know that support is available within our community.

Below, we have compiled some local resources focused on mental health and food security to help ensure every family in our community feels supported over the holidays.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Support

The holidays can sometimes feel overwhelming. If you or your child need someone to talk to, these services offer free, confidential support:

- **Mind in Croydon:** Offers a range of services including a 24/7 crisis line and emotional support.
 - **Contact:** 020 8668 2210
- **Off The Record (Croydon):** Specifically for young people (aged 11–25) providing free counseling and online support.
 - **Website:** talkofftherecord.org
- **Kooth:** A free, safe, and anonymous online mental wellbeing community for children and young people.
 - **Website:** kooth.com
- **Shout:** A 24/7 text-based crisis support service.
 - **Action:** Text "SHOUT" to **85258**.
 -

Food Banks & Essential Support (CR0 3BS Area)

For families needing assistance with food or essentials, there are several local organizations near the Broad Green/West Croydon area:

Organisation	Location	Key Information



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Croydon Foodbank (Trussell Trust)	Various locations (inc. West Croydon)	Requires a voucher. You can get one via a GP, school, or Citizens Advice.
The Vine Foodbank	South Croydon	Provides emergency food parcels to those in need.
St. Andrew's Church	Near CR0	Often hosts community kitchen events and food support during winter.
Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA)	London Road	Can signpost you to the nearest "Food Stop" (a low-cost membership shop).

Top Tip: Use the "**Help Croydon**" online directory or contact **Citizens Advice Croydon** (0800 144 8848) if you are unsure which food bank is closest to your specific street.

Urgent Assistance

If you are worried about the immediate safety of a child please contact the **Croydon Council Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** at 020 8726 6400 or call **999** in an emergency.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, or are worried about your safety at home, there are specialist teams in Croydon ready to help. These services are confidential and non-judgmental.

- **The FJC (Family Justice Centre) Croydon:** A local team providing safety planning, legal advice, and emotional support.
 - **Contact:** 020 8688 0100 (Mon–Fri, 9 am–5 pm)
 - **Email:** fjc@croydon.gov.uk
- **Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid:** Support for women and children, including refuge and community support. **Call 020 8313 9303.**
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** Available 24/7 for women and children. **Call 0808 2000 247.**
- **Men's Advice Line:** Specific support for men experiencing domestic abuse. **Call 0808 801 0327.**

Safety Note: If you are in immediate danger, call **999**. If you are on a mobile and cannot speak, press **55** when prompted; this will alert the operator that you need the police but are unable to talk.



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We wish all of our families a peaceful, safe, and restful break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year.



Good Food Matter are excited to share information about creative music sessions with WHITE HUT Studios - hosted at Good Food Matters these FREE sessions will allow young people to write, record and produce their own music.

The sign up form: <https://forms.gle/jv5VQSeDnhv8VDfx9>



Music Studio Sessions

We're bringing the recording studio experience to the New Addington community!

If you:

- live in New Addington
- are aged 7-18
- want to be creative
- love music

then join us at Good Food Matters to **write, record and produce your own track** with artists from White Hut Studios.

Sign up using the QR code below:



<https://forms.gle/HA3PDYwDyigYZuCM4>
Spaces are limited.
Register early to secure your space

Ages 7-11 (Primary) **Thursdays 4-5pm** (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Feb, 5th, 12th Mar)
Ages 11-18 (Secondary) **Saturday 11am -1pm** (24th, 31st Jan, 7th Feb)

In collaboration with:



GOOD FOOD MATTERS
GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

SILVASTONE

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



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Zamariah's
Dance Academy

CHILDRENS PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES



Join our Award Winning school every Saturday!

Boys & Girls aged 18 months - 16 years.

*Classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Acro, Musical Theatre,
Street Dance & Private singing lessons.*

***In-House Children's Talent Agency for
TV, Film & Theatre***



The Shoestring Theatre,
Oakley Road, SE25 4XG

**REGISTER
HERE**



www.zdadance.co.uk



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KG Doodles
CHILDCARE

CROYDON HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD

Ofsted

KIDS FESTIVE CAMP

FUN & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS & GIRLS 4-11 YEARS OLD
3 DAYS, MON - WED

HAF Bookings
22 DEC - 24 DEC 2025
10AM - 2PM

KG Doodles Bookings
22 DEC - 24 DEC 2025
10AM - 2PM

Admission
Fully funded with HAF Voucher
KG Doodles: £20 Per Session

West Thornton Primary School
Rosecourt Road
Croydon, CR0 3BS

Activities

- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Baking
- ✓ Crafting
- ✓ Sports
- ✓ Group Games

Registration Links
www.kgdoodles.co.uk
www.croydon.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food

More Information 07535814004 eclarke@kgdoodles.co.uk
HAF Government Funded: hafprogramme@croydon.gov.uk



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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

* & Cs apply for emergency sessions.