



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

9th January 2026

Happy New Year!

All the children have settled back into school remarkably well following the Christmas break. Their enthusiasm in the classroom and engagement with their learning has been commendable. We are confident that this positive start will set the tone for a successful term ahead.

National Curriculum Assessment Leaflets

We are also sharing updated information leaflets from the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) regarding national curriculum assessments, as pupils at our school will be undertaking these assessments during the 2025 to 2026 academic year. These leaflets provide useful details on what each assessment involves, key dates, and how the results will be shared. They cover assessments such as the Phonics Screening Check, Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), and Key Stage 2 (KS2) tests.

We encourage you to read through these leaflets to help you understand what to expect and how best to support your child. Please see PDF attachments in the Newsletter email.

A Polite Reminder

Please can we have the most updated pick-up list to ensure we have the correct details on file with the office. On some occasions, class teachers will need to check with the office to ensure we have an authorised adult collecting.

Thank you for your continued support!



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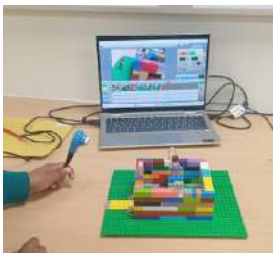
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Our value this half term is **resilience**, which is the ability to bounce back, adapt, and persevere in the face of challenges.

To build resilience, cultivate a positive outlook, develop self-awareness, learn coping skills, strengthen social connections, and practice self-care. Resilience is the ability to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress.



Year 5 Whitgift Primary Project



This week, 30 of our Year 5 pupils went to Whitgift School in Croydon as part of the Whitgift Primary Project. The children immersed themselves in secondary school life, they had Computer Science sessions where they programmed Sphero balls and digital display boards, and even directed their own stop-motion Lego animations. During one coding lesson, two of our pupils shared their ambitious plans to set up their own tech company; while they couldn't quite decide where to base their future labs, they did promise to return to West Thornton to run a masterclass once they are established!

A major highlight for many was the fencing masterclass led by former Olympic athlete Ian Williams. One student shared: *"Fencing was the best part; it was really nice to learn something new that I'd never experienced before. The fencing club is something that I'd like to join!"*



Beyond the classroom, the children were captivated by the school's stunning grounds. They were surprised to find peacocks roaming freely and enjoyed a walk through the Water Garden to see the flamingos and swans. The group even watched tree surgeons scale an ancient Cedar tree that had famously survived a lightning strike. The trip concluded with an exciting science lab session involving Bunsen burners, where the children demonstrated great maturity. Throughout the three days, the staff at Whitgift repeatedly praised our pupils, noting that their exemplary behavior and manners were a true credit to our school.



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Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class

RR - Year 5 Cypress Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been a great start to 2026 in Reception this week! The children have all settled back into school life well and they have been putting in lots of effort into their learning this week.

This week in literacy, we have been working on the letter family b, p, and k. We practiced writing and reading simple phrases to build confidence with sounds and tricky words. Sentences included: *the cat is fat, the sock is red, the shell is big, the dog is wet and the kid is in bed.* These activities help strengthen early reading, handwriting and sentence-building skills.



Our new topic focus is all around fairy tales. This week they noticed that someone had broken into their classroom and had left a broken chair, a bowl and some porridge! The children were very excited to find out who had been inside the classroom and lots of children decided it must have been Goldilocks! The children loved listening to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and have been retelling the story in their own words using a story map to help them. The children have been continuing to explore the story further in the provision, retelling the story using puppets and painting the three bears.

In maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of counting out amounts, as well as using their knowledge of subitising to compose numbers.



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Year One

We have a fantastic start to the new year in Year 1. The children have returned with an excellent attitude to their learning and have been working so hard already!



We began our week by being book detectives in English to look at clues about our new core text 'The King who banned the dark'. The children used torches to investigate a variety of artefacts and photos to guess what the book may be about. We have also been working on past tense vocabulary and generating adjectives to write sentences about the story.



In maths this week, we have been comparing numbers using $<=>$ symbols and ordering sets of numbers from smallest to largest and then the opposite way. We have also been answering a variety of worded questions to find missing numbers that fit.

In Art, we have been learning about our new artist Stephen Wright. He is an artist who uses the technique of mosaic to create various art pieces. This week the children used paper to create a mosaic crown.

Year Two



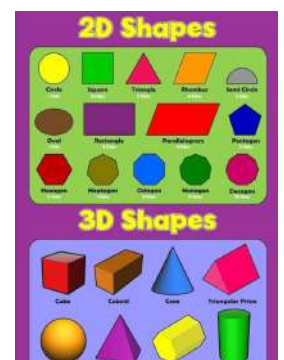
It has been an exciting start for our Year 2 children this week, with them returning to school to find that the white boards pens had decided to quit. The children received a letter of complaint explaining how they feel about the way the children have been treating them. The children went on to explore the features of letters including formal



and informal letters, such as address, greeting, introduction, information, sign off and signature.

They children were then introduced to their new text, 'The Day The Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt.

In maths this week the children have been looking at 2d and 3d shapes, describing their properties using the mathematical language sides, straight,





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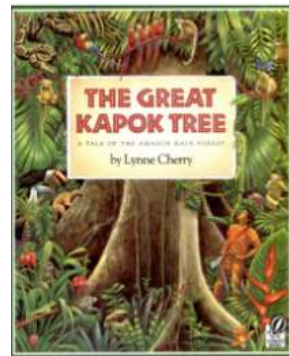
curved, vertices, edges and faces. The children then went on to find vertical lines of symmetry on 2d shapes.



In Geography this week the children have been learning about the countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities, England and London, Scotland and Edinburgh, Wales and Cardiff, Northern Ireland and Belfast. They had to map skills to label these place on a map of the UK.

Year Three

It has been a busy and inquisitive first week back in year 3. In **English**, we have a new core text 'The great Kapok tree'. The students have been practicing their descriptive language skills and extending their descriptions of selected settings by using a thesaurus, research skills, detective skills and AI skills to bring the sights and sounds of the Amazon rainforest to life. This links well with our **geography** learning this term as we are looking at tropical rainforests and the different layers they have.



In **Maths**, we have become "Number Detectives." We've been using the **inverse** (the opposite operation) to solve tricky missing number problems and focused on solving word problems involving multiplication and division.



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Our new **Science** topic is all about **rocks and fossils**. We've started investigating what rocks actually are and how they are formed. We will be looking at the differences between sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks, and even testing their durability and permeability in the coming weeks.

In **Religious Education**, we have been reflecting and expanding our learning on previous knowledge about **Leadership**. We've had some truly heartfelt discussions about what makes a good leader and why. The children have been sharing who their personal inspirations are, ranging from historical figures to members of their own families.

Year Four

The children have returned to school with a fantastic sense of enthusiasm for the new term. In English, our focus has shifted to the legendary world of Ancient Greek mythology. The pupils have spent time exploring the specific conventions of fact files, learning how to organise information clearly for a reader. Alongside this, they have been refining their grammatical skills, specifically focusing on the present perfect tense to describe the long-standing influence and actions of the Olympian gods.



In Maths, the children have been exploring place value and the relationship between digits. They have been learning what happens to numbers when they are multiplied by 10 and 100, observing how the digits shift to the left. Following this, the class moved onto dividing numbers by 10 and 100, developing their understanding of how numbers become smaller as digits shift to the right across the place value column when being divided.

In Science, the children have been investigating the fundamentals of electricity. The children explored the differences between battery-operated appliances and those powered by the mains, identifying how various devices in our homes and school function. A vital part of this unit involved learning about electrical safety, where the pupils discovered how to identify potential hazards and stay safe when using technology and power sources.



In Art, the children have been studying the intricate designs of Ancient Greek pottery. They spent time identifying and labelling the key features of traditional vases, while also comparing the similarities and differences between various



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historical styles. Looking ahead, the pupils are excited to apply their knowledge practically as they begin working with clay to sculpt and design their own Greek-inspired pots.

Year Five

This week in English, Year 5 have been exploring their exciting new core text, *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah. The story follows Leonard, who travels from Jamaica to England with his mother in 1958 to join his father in Manchester. Along the way, Leonard faces challenges such as the cold weather, unfamiliar food, and the harsh reality of racism and bullying at school. To bring the story to life, the children also explored Jamaican culture. They sampled traditional Jamaican dishes and enjoyed listening to lively reggae music, gaining a real taste of the world Leonard comes from.

In Maths, Year 5 have been mastering the bus stop method for division. They started with pictorial representations to build understanding before moving on to the formal written method. The children then challenged themselves by applying their new skills to solve word problems, showing great perseverance and problem-solving skills.

They also worked in pairs to explain their thinking and discuss strategies, which helped them tackle trickier questions with confidence. Many children reflected on how using different methods made the problems easier to solve and more fun.

$$186 \div 6 = \begin{array}{r} 031 \\ 6 \overline{) 186} \\ \underline{6} \\ 18 \\ \underline{18} \\ 06 \\ \underline{6} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

no groups of 6 can be made $3 \times 6 = 18$ $1 \times 6 = 6$

In Science, the children have been reaching for the stars—literally! They have been learning all about Earth and space, discovering the planets in our solar system and what they are made of. The children also conducted research on different planets and proudly shared their fascinating facts with the class, sparking lots of curiosity and discussion.





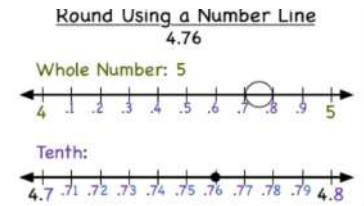
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Year Six

The children are back and raring to go for the important Spring term before SATs!

In Maths this week, we have been exploring the world of decimals and how to round them to the nearest hundredth, tenth or integer. The children have used number lines to check their understanding of where each number lies. We have also included additional arithmetic sessions daily, to make sure the children secure their knowledge before the next set of tests.



To start off English in an engaging way, we played various Second World War sights and sounds of children being evacuated. They then lined up in the hall and expressed whether they felt excitement, anxiety or anger at having been sent away. It links to our core text, **'When the Sky Falls'** about a boy who has to stay with a stranger and experience the Blitz first hand!



Our History theme for this term is the Second World War and its impact on London. The children have timelined the key events leading to the start of the war and the rise of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler. They had lots of interesting questions and look forward to a great WW2 experience later in the term.

Look out for our important SATs workshops in the next few weeks - it would be great to see you there!

Reading



2026 is the National Year of Reading. This is a UK wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading. We all know the benefits of reading, but fewer of us are doing it! Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture



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. It's not about guilt or obligation; it's about helping people see that stories, ideas and imagination belong everywhere. Instead of asking people to "find time to read", Go All In brings reading to them, through their passions. It's about showing that reading isn't a separate world; it's the heartbeat of culture itself.

Whatever people are into – sport, music, food, gaming, film, fashion, or creativity – we use it to draw them into reading. By starting with passions, not pressure, we can create a stronger, more connected reading culture across the UK.

If you would like more information about this National campaign please go to

<https://goallin.org.uk/>

At West Thornton we will be celebrating the Year of Reading through a range of activities throughout the year, including World Book day which is coming in March. Look out for all the fun events coming.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Laura	Harshan	Aliyah	Thiya	
Emmanuel	Aisha	Kairon	Beatrice	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Zach	Noor	Druvan	Sariyah	
Victoria	Zahid	Hephzibah	Kaleem	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Javarie	Shiyo	Eshal	Ayra	
Nazima	Alexis	Anam	Anshika	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Hareem	Khauban	Szymon	Leith	
Yousef	Isis	Tahiratou	Katie	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew



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Anaya	Tulasirajan	Rebecca	Mateo	Whole Class
Neel	Vihaan	Reign	Evan	
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Sapna	El Hadj	Jakub	Emmanuel	Thakshan
Jessinton	Grace	Laanika	Yathusha	Nandini
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Izza	Reggie-Jay	Kavinie	Sharon	Isaac
Arham		Caitlin	Marley	Pahal



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KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL 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 - up to 100% fees paid
- Universal Credit claimants - up to 85% of fees paid
- University Students Childcare Grants CCGPS up to 80% of fees paid
- Childcare choices & Voucher scheme Tax relief

UC Universal
Credit

Childcare Vouchers*

Childcare
Choices

CGPS VISA



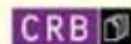
Open Hours:

Monday - Friday Breakfast
07:30 am - 8:40 am
£5.50 per session

Monday - Friday Afterschool
15:15 pm - 18:30 pm
£12.50 per session*

Registered & Approved

Ofsted



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

* £1.00 apply for emergency sessions