



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

16th January 2026

A Slice of Fun! 🍕

Yesterday, our school hall was transformed into a bustling pizzeria! The children had a fantastic time participating in our 'Create Your Own Pizza' lunch. It was wonderful to see the children carefully selecting their toppings of choice. To top off a brilliant lunch, the children enjoyed delicious ice-cream with sauce and sprinkles, which certainly provided a sweet finish to a very popular day. Thank you to our fantastic catering team for making this such a lovely lunch for the children!

Year 6 Step Back in Time 🇬🇧



This week, the Year 6 pupils from Rosecourt Road embarked on a powerful learning journey as they visited a WW2 Immersive Experience in Beckenham.

The children were completely absorbed in the sights and sounds of the 1940s, gaining a profound understanding of what life was like for those living through the war. From exploring the realities of the Blitz to understanding the bravery of the home front, the experience has truly brought their history curriculum to life. The staff commented on the exemplary behavior and insightful questions of our Year 6 students - they were true ambassadors for West Thornton.

The children from Canterbury Road visit in February.

School Uniform Reminder

It has been fantastic to see so many children return after Christmas wearing the correct uniform. We have seen a small number of children return wearing white or coloured footwear - shoes/trainers are to be BLACK with no colour. Please see below for a reminder of our expectations for school shoes.

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 all these classes with Attendance over 97%

- RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class
- RR - Year 5 Cypress Class
- RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

- CR - Reception Ash Class
- CR - Reception Willow Class
- CR - Year 1 Lime Class
- CR - Year 2 Palm Class
- CR - Year 3 Cherry Class
- CR - Year 4 Olive Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week in literacy, we have been focusing our handwriting on the letter family v, s and r. We have also continued to practice writing and reading simple captions including tricky words. We have been challenging ourselves to hold longer sentences in our heads. Such as 'I can hug a cat' and 'I can get a pen'. We have been using our phonic knowledge to help us sound out the words and also need to remember finger spaces in our words to make sure we can read it back.

In maths, the children have been continuing to engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting – to find out 'how many'





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objects there are. We have been recognising and ordering numerals 1-5 and have been thinking about how they make a staircase pattern when they are one more.



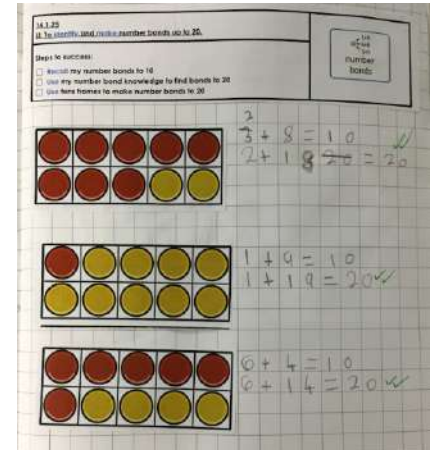
We have continued to learn about the fairy tale Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. This week we have been thinking about what a character is. The characters in Goldilocks are: Goldilocks, Daddy Bear, Mummy Bear and Baby Bear. We have been describing the different characters by talking about their features and using this to help compare the characters and saying what is the same and what is different. We have used this knowledge to help us create our own character masks.

Year One

Year One has had another busy week! In Phonics they have been learning all about different ways to write sounds, through their Grow the Code lessons. They have also been showing all that they have so far in phonics by practicing reading their alien words. They have all been working so hard!

In maths they have been developing what they have already learned about their number bonds to and within 10. They have been applying this learning to solve number bonds to and within 20. The teachers have been so impressed with the presentation in their books as well!

In the wider curriculum, in history they have learnt about leaders at school in the present. They practiced their questioning skills by preparing some questions to ask the headteachers. Then science they have been learning about how the days are shorter in winter and longer in the summer. They shared their understanding of this by showing activities that they could do after school in the summer and in the winter.



Year Two

Year Two has had another engaging week where they have learnt loads of new knowledge. Building on from their previous understanding of shape and their properties they now know how to sort 2D and 3D shapes into different groups. This allowed them to know further the differences and similarities between certain shapes.

In English after receiving letters from their equipment within the classroom, this week they had to now imagine being these equipment, thinking about how they would feel. They imagined that they were either silver or gold crayons and even whiteboard pens. As a result, they were able to



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start thinking about how they would write their own letters. The children really enjoyed coming up with their own creative sentences using exclamation marks, noun phrases and adverbs.

In Science this week we were looking into healthy eating and learning about all the different food groups. The children found out what each specific food group did for their bodies. They realised that the three important rules that these food groups helped our bodies with was protection, growth and energy. After learning all this information they then made their own super healthy lunchbox choosing one carbohydrate, protein and fruit or vegetable. They really enjoyed this!



Year Three

The children in year 3 have continued to demonstrate impressive learning throughout the week. This week, our mathematicians have been working hard on multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. To help the children truly understand the mechanics of multiplication, we have been using a step-by-step partitioning method. First, the children look at the place value of the number to break it down; they then multiply the tens column, followed by the ones column. Finally, they add these two totals together to find the final product. This approach has been brilliant for building their confidence with place value and mental addition, and it was wonderful to see so many "lightbulb moments" as they mastered the process.

Our young writers have been very busy applying the skills they learned last week into their writing. We have been focusing on creating a scientific setting description of the desert. Using their five senses, the children described the scorching heat of the sun, the shifting textures of the dunes, and the sparse sounds of the wilderness. They have focused specifically on using expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to make their descriptions vivid. It felt like we were actually trekking through the Sahara!



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In our Geography sessions, we continued our expedition into the Amazon Rainforest. The children explored the four distinct layers: the *Emergent Layer*, *Canopy*, *Understory*, and *Forest Floor*. We matched various animals—such as howler monkeys, colorful toucans, and jaguars—to the layers where they make their homes. Additionally, we learned about the Yanomami Tribe, exploring their unique culture and how they live in harmony with the rainforest environment.



This week in Science, we have been budding geologists! The children have been learning about the three different rock types: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic. We investigated how each of these is formed—whether through the cooling of hot magma, the pressing of layers of sediment over millions of years, or the intense heat and pressure deep underground.

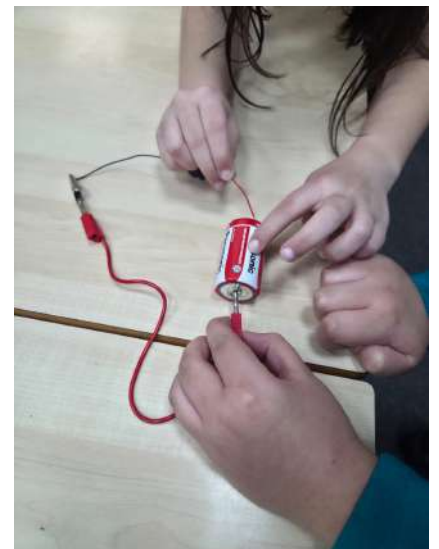
Year Four

It has been an engaging week for Year 4 as we've explored the worlds of mythology, history and science!

In English, our young authors have been crafting informative fact files about Ancient Greek gods. After carefully planning their work, the children have been writing and editing detailed descriptions, focusing on the striking appearances and complex personalities of figures such as Zeus, Hera and Poseidon.

In History, we travelled back in time to explore the question, "What was Ancient Greek culture like?" The children researched key features of this time period, with a particular focus on the rivalry between Athens and Sparta. They compared the different ways of life, learning how the Athenians valued art and democracy while the Spartans prioritised strength and military discipline.

In Science, the children have been learning about electricity by constructing and recording simple circuits. They practised using scientific vocabulary such as crocodile clips, components, cells and batteries, and developed their understanding of how electricity flows through a complete circuit. We were especially impressed by their ability to identify positive and negative terminals and explain why certain materials are non-metals.





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Year Five

It has been another action-packed week in Year 5! From the tropical shores of Jamaica to the furthest reaches of our solar system, the children have shown incredible curiosity and dedication to their learning.

In English this week, our writing has been focussed on flashback techniques, using shared and modeled writing to capture Leonard's emotional departure from Jamaica. The children have worked hard to use descriptive language that contrasts his vibrant life in the Caribbean with the uncertainty of his journey to England.



In our Maths sessions, we have been tackling division. The children have been exploring efficient formal methods to solve complex problems, including those that result in remainders.

Our Science lessons took us out of this world as we investigated the Solar System. We compared the eight planets, focusing specifically on their relative positions from the Sun and the length of their orbits. The children enjoyed discovering how the vast distances in space affect the "year" of each planet compared to our own here on Earth.

In Geography, we've been "jet-setting" across the globe to explore the world's diverse biomes. From the humid depths of the tropical rainforests to the frozen expanse of the tundra, the children have been identifying the unique climates, flora, and fauna that define these different regions.

Year Six

It has been an incredibly busy and productive week for Year 6 as they delved into their global theme 'Peace and Conflict' through our core text 'When the Sky Falls' and learning about World War 2. In History, the children explored the different powers and alliances formed during World War II in Europe, while in English, they continued studying their core text with a focus on using dialogue to advance the action between characters.

Mathematical learning centered on the four operations with decimals, where children worked on the accuracy of their calculations and unpicked the vocabulary within worded problems to deepen their understanding. Scientific investigations also continued,





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with pupils building electrical circuits and mastering the art of drawing accurate diagrams using the correct scientific symbols.

A particular highlight of the week was the exciting Experience Day for Rosecourt Road, where students participated in an immersive theatre day as World War II evacuees. They gained valuable insights into rationing and the lived experiences of children in the 1940s, making for an incredibly informative and memorable event. While Rosecourt Road thoroughly enjoyed this step back in time, the pupils at Canterbury Road are already looking forward to their own experience day coming up in February.

Reading

The Nation Year or Reading was launched yesterday and it is very exciting. Go all in is their theme for the year. If you have an interest like cooking, gaming or football then go all in and learn all you can about it! We are starting to build some book displays in school. Let us know what your interests are so we can see what texts we can find to help you find out more about what you love.



Phrases of the Week



El valor del mes de West Thornton es la RESILIENCIA. - West Thornton's termly value is RESILIENCE.



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Deeyan	Lezan	Vasumathi	Ali-Racim	
Elara	Dania	Ekam	Kiyam	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Keonna	Oliver	Arayah	Arjun	
Ehsanullah	Austin	Jeriah	Mla	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Aaira	Alicia	Immanuel	Hitarth	
Carter	Trey	Cassius	Harriet	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Arya	Ava. M	Nisha	Jordanna	
Chloe	Cheyavan	Serwa	Eesa	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Khaliyah	Rayya	Ester	Romero	Riaab
Anmol	Younus	Ayesha	Melissa	Aathuren
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Joanna	Kyla-Shae	Kyron	Luena	Faizan
Aaliyah	Tamiah	Niyah	Dhanvi	Jahmeil
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nirbhik	Molly	Taksh	Karshmija	Rithika
Tayo	Alexander A	Massita	Alicia	Alaela



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Community

If you are interested in attending the below parent group, please email the school office with your child's full name and year group, expressing your interest for 'The incredible Years Parent Group'. A member of the inclusion team will then make contact to complete the referral form with you.



Croydon MHST Incredible Years Parent Group

This group is designed to **support parents/carers of primary age school children** who struggle with managing common behaviour problems, to build the parent/carer-child bond and improve compliance.

The sessions aim to help participants:

- **Build a positive relationship between parent/carer and young person**
Explore the parent/care and child bond and enhance the relationship through positive strategies such as play and praise.
- **Emotional Regulation**
Introduce practical strategies to support young people in identifying and responding to their emotions in helpful ways.
- **Limit setting**
Introduce practical strategies for giving effective instructions, implementing consequences and establishing routines and responsibilities.

Details

- **When:** 23rd of February 2025 until 11th of May (with 2 weeks Easter break)
- **Day and time:** Mondays 10am-12pm
- **Location:** TBC
- **Number of Sessions:** 10
- **Age Group:** 5-12 years old
- **Referrals:** Please use the Group Referral Form to make a referral.





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The Croydon Support and Interventions team offer parenting programmes for parents and carers of children of all ages from 0 to 18 years.

Parenting programmes can help you:

Learn new skills and strategies to manage challenging behaviour as well as reinforce positive behaviour become more confident in your parenting encourage you to look after yourself gain peer support from other parents and build your own support networks to learn how to promote your child's development.

Who can access the programmes

All Croydon residents have access to the parenting programmes; they are also free of charge and run throughout the year with day and evening courses.

Croydon have a range of different programmes, including:

Mellow bumps programme: a mother-to-be programme that decreases stress levels and helps you develop social interactions with your baby.

Mellow Parents programme: reflective and practical techniques to allow parents to address personal challenges with themselves and their children.

Triple P and Triple P Teen: parenting and family support system designed to prevent, as well as treat, behavioural and emotional problems in children.

Triple P Baby - a group for expectant and new parents with a child under 1, to support their transition to parenthood and develop a positive relationship with their baby.

Triple P Baby and Triple P Transitions online - parents and carers can now access an online version of Triple P Baby (for new and expectant parents) and Triple P Transitions (for separated parents).

Parents are issued an online code allowing them to complete the programme at their own pace. Stepping Stones: a strength-based parenting programme aimed at parents or carers who have a child aged 0 to 12 with a disability or special educational need.

Family Transitions: a group programme supporting parents or carers who are experiencing personal distress from separation or divorce, which is impacting on or complicating their parenting.



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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



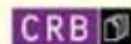
Open Hours:

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