



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

6th February 2026

This week, the children have been working extremely hard to complete their final pieces inspired by their core texts. They have shown great focus, creativity, and pride in their work, and we are really looking forward to seeing and reading their finished outcomes, which will be displayed throughout the school for everyone to enjoy.

This week, Year 4 embarked on a truly memorable expedition to the British Museum to immerse



themselves in the world of Ancient Greece. The children were absolutely captivated by the intricate designs of the Greek pottery collection, sparking a wave of creative energy that we are excited to carry into our upcoming Art lessons. In the galleries, they stood in awe of the Parthenon sculptures, deepening their understanding of the legendary



Greek Gods and the architectural wonders of the ancient world. It was a joy to see them connecting their classroom learning to these world-famous artifacts.

Their curiosity was endless, and they represented the school brilliantly throughout the day.

Parent evenings were a great success, and it was wonderful to welcome so many of our families into school to discuss the progress, achievements, and next steps for their children. These conversations are always valuable in supporting children's learning. If you were unable to attend, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher to arrange a time to talk.

Looking ahead to the weekend, the Winter Olympics begin, offering a fantastic opportunity to enjoy an exciting global event together as a family. We look forward to hearing the children's thoughts and discussing the events and athletes in school next week.



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LPPA Parent Survey Results

A huge thank you to the parents who shared their feedback through our LPPA Parent Survey last term. We are delighted to share that your feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with **10 out of 11 areas** receiving a "Green" rating (scoring 4.0 or higher out of 5).

How We Scored

- **A Warm Welcome (4.5/5):** You told us the school feels friendly and that our office and teaching staff are helpful and approachable.
- **Keeping You Informed (4.3/5):** Most parents find our emails, newsletters, and the Arbor app effective for staying up to date.
- **Clear Policies (4.3/5):** You find our school rules and newsletters easy to read and understand.
- **Supporting New Families (4.2/5):** New parents feel at ease and report that staff help their children build confidence quickly.
- **Help with Learning (4.2/5):** You value the workshops, termly topic information, and homework that help you support your child's education.
- **Learning Together (4.1/5):** Events like reading mornings and school performances are highlights for many families.
- **Transition Support (4.1/5):** Parents feel supported as children move through the school, particularly through "Meet the Teacher" sessions.
- **School Leadership (4.1/5):** Our leaders are seen as motivating and active in the community, especially during gate greetings.
- **Parent Learning (3.7/5):** This was our "Amber" area. While some enjoy volunteering and workshops, we recognise there is room to grow in how we support your own learning journeys.

We have been looking closely at your suggestions for improvement to make West Thornton even better. Our current focus is on parent learning and support. See below for more information.



Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn Class

CR - Year 6 Holly Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class

RR - Year 4 Beech Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR - Year 2 Rowan Class

RR - Year 4 Acacia Class

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class

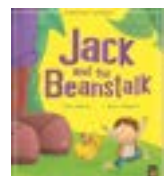
Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week in literacy, we have been focusing on handwriting, revisiting letter formations that need a little more practice and learning about tall and short letters. The children have also continued writing and reading simple captions, including tricky words, such as "her hat is on" and "her dog is big". We have been counting how many words are in a sentence and using finger spaces, as well as using our phonics to sound out words and check that we can read our writing back.

This week in maths, we will be comparing quantities, noticing which groups have more, fewer or the same number of objects and focusing on counting rather than colour, shape or size. In the provision, the children have really enjoyed collecting data about their classmates' favourite fruits and colours. They have been comparing the results, noticing which are liked by more or fewer children and talking about the differences and similarities.

In topic, we have continued learning about fairy tales, focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk. We have been exploring what a character is, identifying the different characters in the story and discussing their feelings, actions and motivations. The children have enjoyed reading the story using different voices for each character,





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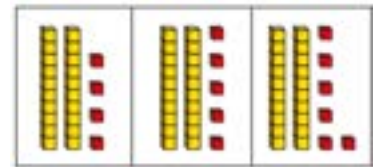
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thinking about how each one might sound or behave. The children have also been creating their own story maps to retell the story and imagining what the characters might do next, helping to develop their storytelling skills and empathy.

Year One

This week in Year 1, the children have been busy working hard on using the skills they have learnt to write a recount of events. They then planned their final outcome ready to write next week about their visit to the Natural History museum.

In maths, the children have been continuing their learning on related facts and writing the 8 equations for each fact family. They then demonstrated their number knowledge by solving worded problems and reasoning skills. They ended the week by beginning to look at numbers to 50 and identifying how many tens and ones are in a number.



In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about how to group animals. This week they looked at the features of fish and mammals and how to identify them. In art, the children used materials to make a mosaic crown imitating the work of Stephen Wright.



Year Two

In English this week, the children have been learning all about contractions and how to use an apostrophe to make one word (E.g. Can not → can't). Even though there are lots of rules, they have shown lots of resilience to keep practising these so they can spell these correctly. They have also been writing their own account of the missing paintbrushes. They have used a variety of conjunctions and adverbs in their writing to make it interesting for their reader.

In maths the children have moved onto division and began the week being introduced to the concept of groupings. They used a variety of practical activities to be able to describe how many counters there are, how many in each group and how many groups there were. Once they mastered this, they moved onto division by sharing.

In art, the children have planned their final outcome based on the work of Sally Morgan. They first decided upon their design before selecting colours





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for their background. They have used what they have learnt this half term on tone and shade to make their colours lighter or darker. Next week they will be layering their art by adding lines and patterns in Sally Morgan's style.

Year Three

It's been an incredibly busy and productive week for Year 3! From environmental conservations to mechanical engineering, the students have been diving deep into a variety of complex topics.

This week, our young writers turned into expert journalists. Using the skills they've discovered over the term, the children produced impressive **non-chronological reports** on the impact of flooding ready to write next weeks' report on deforestation. It was wonderful to see them naturally weaving in **technical vocabulary** and using **relative clauses**—like "The water, which rose rapidly, caused great damage"—to add detail and sophistication to their writing.

In Mathematics, the focus shifted to the precision of measurement. They worked hard on **converting units of length**, mastering the relationship between millimeters, centimeters, and meters - a fundamental skill that they are already beginning to apply in their practical DT lessons.

They worked like scientists and explored the durability of various rocks. Through hands-on testing, the students discovered why **chalk** is an unsuitable material for marking roads, leading to a wider discussion on which rock properties make a material "fit for purpose."

In Geography, they explored our global theme **sustainability**. They looked deeper into the **Amazon rainforest** and engaged in thoughtful discussions on how we can **protect, conserve, and sustain** this vital ecosystem, brainstormed ways to prevent further deforestation, and looked at how we can help the "lungs of the earth" thrive.

The highlight for many this week was the commencement of our **Design and Technology** build! We have officially started constructing our **moving cam mechanisms**. The classroom was a hub of activity as the children assembled their bases. This initial stage required patience and steady hands, and it was wonderful to see the students having so much fun while laying the foundation for their mechanical creations.



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Year Four



The Year 4s have been absolute superstars this week, showing incredible focus across all their subjects!

The highlight of this week was a spectacular trip to the British Museum to deepen the children's understanding of

Ancient Greece. The children were floorstruck by the Parthenon sculptures, particularly the intricate carvings of the Gods' chariots. These ancient artifacts provided wonderful inspiration for our upcoming art project, where the children will be designing and making their own Greek vases back at school. Although it was a long journey to and from the museum, the children showed fantastic perseverance and returned with a wealth of new knowledge.



In Maths, we have been diving deeper into the world of perimeter. The children began the week by applying their knowledge of polygon properties to calculate the perimeter of regular shapes. They then took on the challenge of "inverse" problems—calculating a missing side length when provided with the total perimeter. To wrap up the week, the class sharpened their arithmetic skills by consolidating their work on multiplying 4-digit numbers by a single digit.



In English, there was a real buzz in the classroom as the children began drafting their Greek myths! Following their plans from last week, they have been bringing the tale of Odysseus and the Cyclops to life. It has been wonderful to see them weave in sophisticated writing techniques, including fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions, and realistic dialogue. We've also been particularly impressed by their use of "show, don't tell" to create vivid imagery for the reader.

Year Five

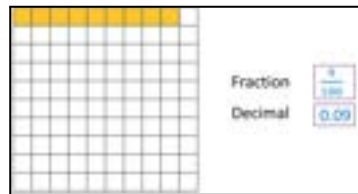
In English, our focus turned to the art of the didactic poem. The children have been exploring how poets use literature to teach lessons or offer moral guidance. To bring their own ideas to life, they spent time generating banks of rhyming words and experimenting with anaphora—the deliberate repetition of phrases at the beginning of lines to create a powerful, persuasive rhythm. It was wonderful to see them use these poetic devices to give their writing a distinct and authoritative voice.



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The momentum continued in Maths, where the children tackled the relationship between fractions and their decimal equivalents. This week was all about building fluency; for instance, understanding that $\frac{1}{4}$ is equivalent to 0.25. They didn't stop at simple conversions, however. The students put their knowledge to the test by solving complex worded problems, demonstrating that they can apply these abstract concepts to practical, real-life calculations with growing confidence.



Finally, our Design and Technology sessions were a hive of activity as the children put the finishing touches on their Windrush-inspired statues. These sculptures, created in honor of the Windrush generation, were built from the ground up using foil armatures, masking paper, and layers of papier-mâché. The level of detail and care taken during the final decorative stages has been remarkable, resulting in a series of moving tributes that showcase both their technical skill and their historical empathy.

Year Six

In English, our focus turned to the precise features of the instructional pamphlet, specifically linked to our immersive theme of World War II. To bring their writing to life, the children explored the history of evacuees sent from the cities to the unfamiliar landscapes of the countryside. They spent time generating banks of technical vocabulary and experimenting with imperative verbs—the authoritative language needed to guide a young evacuee through their journey.

The momentum continued in Maths, where the children tackled the intricate relationships between decimals, fractions, and percentages. This week was all about building fluency; for instance, understanding that $\frac{1}{4}$ is equivalent to **0.25** and **25%**. They didn't stop at simple conversions, however. They also put their knowledge to the test by calculating percentages of amounts, solving complex worded problems that demonstrated they can apply these abstract concepts to practical, real-life calculations with growing confidence.

Finally, our Science sessions were a hive of activity as the children conducted an investigation into the physics of light. Their focus was to determine how specific variables can affect the lux reading of a lightbulb.



Reading

Top tips for Parents

1. **Read together.** Whether your child is discovering picture books or reading independently, sharing stories will give you a chance to spend valuable time together, relax and bond over things you both find interesting.
2. **Find time to share stories.** Life is busy! But if you can try and find 10 minutes a day to read with your child, no matter their age, it can make a big difference. Choosing the same time to share stories each day will help reading become a normal part of your daily routine.
3. **Bring stories to life.** It can sometimes feel embarrassing to do but your child will love you using different voices and sound effects to bring stories to life. Our [latest research](#) shows that listening to audiobooks together is another great way to experience lively storytelling, as well as to encourage reading and enhance reading enjoyment.
4. **All reading counts.** Tapping into your children's interests is a great way to get them reading, learning and having fun. If they love football, read the sports pages of a newspaper together; if they love dinosaurs, find a roar-some magazine to explore; or if they enjoy baking, find a recipe book.
5. **Find inspiration at your local library.** Discover a wide range of free books, ebooks, audiobooks, comics and more to borrow and take home from your library, as well as engaging events for the whole family to enjoy. [Find your local library.](#)



Phrases of the Week



¿Cómo estás? - How are you?

Estoy muy bien. - I am very well.



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Keziah	Dunya	Alea	Mohamed O	
Sara	Zayd	Isaiah	Kiyon	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Jasser	Olivia	Yasiin	Amelia	
Kamsi	Asa	Amna	Stan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Noah	Liam	Musa	Wiktorja	
Denis	Kehlani	Hanfa	Anshika	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Harry	Mahir	Reagan	Jaxon	
Mirabel	Jewel	Szymon	Ivie	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Whole Class	Rian	Kaiden	Osasu	Keyaan
	Yathusha	Aaminah	Rayan	Nishany
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Helna	Mohammed	Alana	Veera	Adam
Joshua	Bogdan	Persis	Allwin	Adon
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Zaina	Ziana	Tanuj	Whole Class	Najla
Harun	Pusti	Lucy		Ismail



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Community

YOU SAID...

Scores showed you wanted more opportunities to develop your own learning.

Some parents mentioned that not being "tech-savvy" or having English as a second language made school info harder to access.

You asked for better networking to bring parents closer together and build community.

You expressed a desire for more face-to-face engagement and supportive language in school communications.

...WE DID!

NEW for Next Half Term: We are launching a series of adult learning and community workshops!

ESOL Classes: Weekly sessions to support English speakers of other languages to build confidence and connection.

Coming soon: Empowering Women & Empowering Men's Group: Dedicated sessions focused on personal growth, confidence, and community leadership.

Face-to-Face Support: These sessions will provide a space to talk, learn, and grow right here at our school.

Keep an eye on the Arbor app and our weekly newsletters for further information, sign-up details and session times.



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Please complete the Google form by copying and pasting it into your browser, to inform us of your attendance for the session below if you are interested: <https://forms.gle/Zm6g6173JfxyXAio8>

CALAT English Course

- Available to parents at West Thornton Primary School
- Classes take place every Tuesday and Thursday at Rosecourt Road
- Starting Tuesday 24th February until Thursday 26th March
- Classes run from 9am-12pm
- Please bring ID and a drink/snack



- Improve your English language skills
 - Support your children in school and at home
 - Get help accessing local services
 - Work towards an English qualification
 - Make friends, socialise and become part of the community
- Venue: West Thornton Primary School-Rosecourt Rd-CR0 3BS



www.calat.ac.uk



Croydon Adult Learning and Training



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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 MasterCard

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 CRB



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

* & CC apply for emergency sessions