



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

13th February 2026

A huge thank you to our parents and carers for your patience and flexibility following the recent water issues in the area. We would like to thank those who were unaffected and able to attend their appointments last week. For those whose appointments were disrupted, please remember that the rearranged Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 24th February. We look forward to seeing you then to discuss your child's progress.

Celebrating Love and Kindness

This week, at our Canterbury Road site, parents joined us for a special afternoon celebrating love and kindness💕. Children and families worked side-by-side completing a range of activities honouring, kindness and friendship🥰. The turnout was fantastic and it was wonderful to see. A huge thank you to all the parents who attended.



Valentine's Discos

Our Valentine's Discos held at Rosecourt Road were a great success this week! It was wonderful to see children across all key stages demonstrating kindness and respect with one another. The children had lots of fun and enjoyed spending time with some of the friends and staff they care about.





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Residential Home Visit



Last week, at our Canterbury Road site 12 year 5 and 6 pupils joined Clarendon Residential home, to take part in an intergenerational games morning with residents. They played a variety of games such as: dominos, connect 4 and jigsaw puzzles. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to spend time and socialise with the residents. This was great for their confidence and the children showed maturity and most importantly our school value respect! We look forward to visiting



Clarendon again with another group of children.

Year 5 Windrush Cultural Day



On Wednesday, our Year 5 students hosted a lovely Cultural Day as part of their Windrush Child topic. It was a pleasure to welcome so many families and friends into the school to share in the celebration. The children looked wonderful in outfits representing their own cultures and heritages, and they spoke confidently about the traditions their clothing represented. This made for a very positive

start to the day as everyone shared their personal stories and backgrounds.

The afternoon continued with a variety of activities and the children showed their parents some of the classwork they have produced throughout the term. Everyone then enjoyed a delicious Caribbean meal of jerk chicken, rice and peas, plantain, and coleslaw. To close the event, the children showcased rhythmic drumming routines and recitals of poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah. One child was so happy with their performance they said that it was the best day ever because they were so happy with their performance . Events like these are a great way to bring our history topics to life, and we would like to thank all the families who joined us and helped make the afternoon such a success for the children.



We wish you a wonderful half term break and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 23rd February.



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Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

Extra well done to all the children with 100% Attendance this Half Term

RR - Year 4 Beech Class

RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class

CR - Year 2 Palm Class

CR - Year 4 Hornbeam Class

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception



This week marked the grand finale of our exploration into stories, where the children have become true experts at identifying the key ingredients of a tale: the beginning, middle, and end. To put this knowledge into practice, our classrooms were transformed into mini-theaters. Using puppets and small world resources, the children have been busily developing unique characters, constructing exciting plot twists, and performing their original stories for their peers.

In our writing sessions, we have been honing our fine motor skills and precision. The children are working hard on their letter formation, focusing specifically on starting and finishing each letter in the correct spot. When writing dictated phrases, we have seen a wonderful boost in confidence as the children apply their phonic knowledge to sound out words. We are also very impressed with how they are remembering to use finger spaces and full stops to show that their sentences are finished.

In Maths, we have been "sizing up" the world around us by exploring the concepts of length and height. The children started the week by sorting objects by size and have since moved on to the challenge of measuring. They have enjoyed using various non-standard units, such as cubes or counters, to accurately measure and compare how long or tall different items in the classroom are.





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Year One

Year one have had a great final week before half term! All of the children have completed their Spring 1 phonics assessments. It has been so good to see how much progress they have made and how much more fluent they are with their reading! We are so proud of them!

Writing has kept them busy this week as they have been writing up their recounts of their school trip to the museum. They have shown their knowledge of past tense and conjunctions. They have also used some great adjectives to describe everything they saw and emotion words to recount how they felt at different points in the day.

It has been great to see their art outcomes together with brilliant mosaics in the style of Stephen Wright. They used beads, buttons, gems and pasta to create some beautiful final outcomes.



Year Two

What a great and busy term it has been for Year Two. We have learned loads of new things. All of us have been amazed at the progress all of our children have made in all of their learning. They definitely deserve a restful break next week!

In our English journey this week they all created their very own newspaper article. As we have been imaging ourselves as great detectives, they wrote about solving a mysterious crime about something that had gone missing within their classroom. They really enjoyed using all their key writing skills and pretending to be detectives to talk about what went missing and how they solved the crime by finding clues.

In Maths they have expanded their knowledge on multiplication and division facts. Within their lessons they have found out how to use multiple ways to solve their 2 x tables and divide by 2 calculations. They've enjoyed many practical sessions where they got to work in groups to see how sharing in division can work in various ways.

Science has been very informative for us over the past two weeks. They have learned how keeping their teeth healthy is very important. This week we put together an experiment to see how fizzy drinks can damage our teeth over time. The children made predictions by looking at how an egg being placed inside coke can change over time. The egg represented our teeth and the coke was used for the fizzy drink. This allowed them to see how fizzy drinks are in fact unhealthy for our teeth and how drinking water and milk is much healthier for our teeth!





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Year Three

It has been a spectacular term for Year 3, and we are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm the children have poured into their learning. In maths, they successfully mastered unit conversions and applied their knowledge of this through reading and problem solving questions.

Their geographical expertise reached new heights as they synthesized their skills to produce insightful posters on the Amazon Rainforest, exploring the vital importance of protecting wildlife and indigenous communities.

This term's learning was further enriched by a wonderful trip to the Gurdwara, where the children experienced the warmth of Sikh hospitality and deepened their understanding of community and faith.



Finally, to top it all off, our young engineers brought their designs to life in DT by constructing impressive moving mechanisms, using cams to animate their own bespoke animal creations.

We are amazed by their creativity and growth—well done, Year 3; enjoy your well-deserved half-term break!

Year Four

This week has been another busy one in Year 4, with the children fully immersed in their learning across various subjects. Their hard work and enthusiasm have been evident in all areas.

In English, the children have been writing their own innovative stories, inspired by our core text *The Adventures of Odysseus*. They focused on using descriptive language, developing complex characters, and creating suspenseful plots. The children worked hard to complete their pieces of writing, showcasing their creativity and writing skills.

In maths, we have been continuing our work on perimeters, and the children have developed a strong understanding of how to measure and calculate the perimeter of various shapes. They enjoyed applying this knowledge to solve practical problems and showed great confidence when tackling different challenges.



In art, the children have been working on designing their own ancient Greece-inspired vessels. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the shapes and styles



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commonly used in Greek pottery, using their creativity to design unique pieces. The results have been fantastic, and the children are excited to share their work.

It has been a week full of learning, creativity, and hard work, and we look forward to another productive week after half-term.

Year Five

Year 5 have had a fantastic and productive week of wrapping up this half term's topics!

In English, the children have been writing their own poems inspired by our core text 'Windrush Child', in the role of Leonard's Grandmother wishing for him to return from the UK to Jamaica. We focused on using an ABAB rhyme scheme and incorporating anaphora to create rhythm and emotion within their writing. The poems were thoughtful, expressive and beautifully crafted.

In Maths, we have been learning about decimals to thousandths. The children have developed their understanding of place value and writing these as fractions.

We have also rounded off our Geography topic by creating detailed double-page spreads to showcase everything we have learned throughout this topic. This included our learning around Biomes, Climate Zones and Push and Pull factors for immigration. The children worked hard to present their knowledge clearly and creatively, and the finished pieces look fantastic.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our Windrush afternoon. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged with the different activity stations, and the jerk chicken proved to be the most popular part of the afternoon! A big thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to attend and support this special event – we really appreciate your involvement.

Well done, Year 5, for all of your hard-work this half term. Have a good rest and recharge over half term.

Year Six

This week, Year 6 have demonstrated the true spirit of champions. Inspired by the Winter Olympics, the children have shown incredible resilience when tackling complex problems in Maths. They have been exploring the world of geometry, mastering the vocabulary of shape with great confidence. Alongside this, the class has been working tirelessly on their arithmetic skills. By revising the four operations, as well as fractions, decimals, and percentages on a daily basis, the children are becoming increasingly accurate and precise with their calculations.



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In English, the children have continued their immersive study of World War II. This week, they took on the role of government officials to write informative leaflets for the parents of evacuees, explaining the details of Operation Pied Piper. Their writing showcased a sophisticated grasp of formal language, including the skillful use of modal verbs and the passive voice to convey authority and reassurance.

Our History lessons have seen the children turn into local detectives as they researched the Blitz. They have been investigating how the air raids of 1940-41 affected the lives of people in our local area, carefully exploring historical maps, photographs, and moving first-hand accounts of the attacks.

Finally, in Art, the children have been putting the finishing touches to their clay poppies. As part of our global theme of peace and conflict, it has been truly impressive to see these final pieces come to life. The children worked meticulously to design and craft each delicate flower, ensuring all parts were attached securely.

We would like to congratulate all the children on their hard work this term and wish everyone a great and restful half term!

Phrases of the Week



¡Buenas vacaciones a todos! - Have a great half term everyone!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Whole class	Paulo	Arianna	Muhammed Taha	
	Sivanika	Usman	Kiana	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Zainab	Lemario	Whole Class	Ahana	
Maida	Doresha		Hussain	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Kacie	Athalia	Whole Class	Taliyah	
Husna	Vihaan		Dominic	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Alby	Sajid	Aiden	Ashik	
Asrithan	Loreran	Luxshin	Maya	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Shylah	Sia	Thariz	Melissa	Whole class
Jessica	Jaanush	Meryam	Florjan	
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Maitrey	Faaiz	Kwadwo	Emmanuel	Lathixan
Mya	Zenneyah	Almelio	Alysia	Fatemah
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Manahil	Azna	Kayan	Whole Class	Mirudna
Sophia- Marie	Kishan	Josiyah		Ekhlal



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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.



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Football Coaching: FA Tesco Skills sessions are available for children aged 5-11 across England. <https://www.amateur-fa.com/play>



At Palace for Life, we aim to inspire everyone to engage with football, develop fundamental skills, learn new things and create the foundation for a lifelong love of football.

Our free Premier League Kicks football sessions provide from 5-11 and 11-18 an opportunity to play football in a fun, safe and welcoming environment. These sessions are a great opportunity to either start your footballing journey, develop and learn existing skills, gain confidence, make new friends, and gain extra opportunities within a sporting environment.

Check out our current **free** football sessions below. There is no need to book for these sessions, just show up!

<https://palaceforlifefoundation.sportsfusion.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&ageFrom=&ageTo=&typeId=159®ionId=&venueId=>

Food Bank Support

Name	Type	Key Info
Salvation Army (Old Town) Booth Road, Lower Church Street CR0 1XY	Voucher Required	Hot lunch & parcels on Mondays (11 AM–1 PM).
AR Projects (Thornton Heath) 62 Bensham Grove, Thornton Heath CR7 8DB	No Voucher Needed	Soup kitchen & emergency parcels (Tue/Thu evenings).



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West Croydon Methodist 93 London Rd, Croydon CR0 2RF	Drop-in	Hot meal & small parcel on Wednesdays (11 AM–12 PM).
Purley Food Hub 906 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LN	Voucher Required	Covers South Croydon; items delivered or collected by appointment.

Broad Green Library Begins New Chapter with Asian Resource Centre of Croydon



We are excited to share the Asian Resource Centre of Croydon (ARCC) has taken on the long-term lease of Broad Green Library. ARCC, a respected local infrastructure charity with over two decades of experience supporting Croydon's diverse communities, will lead the transformation of Broad Green Library into a dynamic hub offering flexible, welcoming space for learning, wellbeing, and cultural exchange.

Their vision is to deliver a wide range of services and activities that meet the real needs of the local community. Some of their plans include:

- Education & Learning
- Health & Wellbeing
- Cultural & Social Events
- Celebrations & cultural exchange events
- Outreach & Library Services
- Community & Enterprise Support

ARCC's approach emphasises flexibility, inclusivity and sustainability, ensuring that Broad Green Library remains a valuable resource for years to come. They are eager to hear from local residents and partners. Your feedback is vital in shaping the future of the Community space. Please take a moment to complete our short survey by click [HERE](#).

www.arcc ltd.com



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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

* £12.50 applies for non-eligible children








Reading

Have a go at playing reading bingo in the holidays. How many squares can you fill in?



Reading Bingo

read on your couch 	read to a pet	read your favorite book	read in bed	read wearing a hat
read by the window	read for 20 minutes	read on Friday	read your friend's favorite book	read while eating a snack 
read a book about animals 	read outside	free 	read a fairy tale	read in your pajamas
read for 30 minutes	read a nonfiction book	read to a stuffed animal	read in the grass	read with a flashlight
read to a family member	read a silly book	read under a table	read for 20 minutes	read out loud 

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