



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

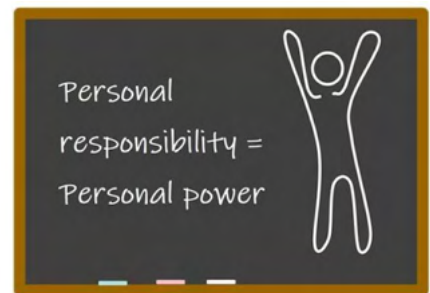
27th February 2026

It's been wonderful to see the children come in settled and pleased to be back at school, ready for another exciting term ahead!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Parents' Evening this week. Your presence not only demonstrates your commitment to your child's education but also strengthens the partnership between home and school, which is crucial for your child's success.

Parents' Evening provides an invaluable opportunity for us to discuss your child's progress, achievements, and any areas where they may need additional support. Your insightful questions, feedback, and engagement during these meetings are highly appreciated and contribute significantly to our efforts in providing the best possible education for your children.

Our core value this half term is **responsibility**, which is the state or fact of being accountable for something. When our pupils embrace responsibility, they develop essential life skills that will serve them well in the future. They learn to make informed choices, take initiative, and contribute positively to their communities. By fostering a sense of responsibility early on, we empower our children to become confident, capable individuals ready to tackle the challenges of the world.



BBC 500 Words Competition Finalist

In November, one of our pupils, Sajoori in Year 6, took part in the BBC 500 Words competition, and we are so pleased to inform you that she has made it all the way to the final (one of the top 50 entries). She attended the Finalist ceremony hosted at Windsor Castle on Wednesday 25th February. The final was filmed for a special 500 Word programme with The





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One Show scheduled to air on Friday 6th March and on CBBC on Saturday 7th March. Click [here](#) to find out more and [here](#) to read her fantastic story.

Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. At Rosecourt Children can come to school dressed in their **pyjamas**. At Canterbury Road children can come into school in **pyjamas or dressed as a book character**. Throughout the day children will take part in a selection of reading activities organised by their teachers.

The Cultural Diversity Team Needs Your Help!

We are working hard to ensure that West Thornton showcases our wonderfully diverse community, but we cannot do this without your voice.

Please follow the link below to a short survey that takes less than two minutes to complete. Your input is vital in helping us create a diversely rich school environment where your child's identity is reflected in our libraries, our curriculum, and our school events.

Click here to take part: <https://forms.gle/JZepGuYgDhgszYMM9>

Whether your family has been here for generations or you have recently moved to the area, we want to hear from you.

Many thanks, The Cultural Diversity Team

Tree Planting at Rosecourt Road



We are delighted to share some wonderful news from our Rosecourt Road site. Following a passionate request from our enthusiastic Eco Team, we have officially planted several new trees across the grounds!

This project is a significant milestone in our ongoing Sustainability Drive, helping to improve our local air quality and provide new habitats for local wildlife. What makes this achievement even more special is that it was funded entirely by our school community. The money raised from our spook-tacular Halloween Disco was put to fantastic use, turning those ticket sales into a lasting, green legacy for our pupils.

A huge thank you to the Eco Team for their leadership and to all our families for supporting our school events - your contributions are quite literally helping us grow!



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Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

Extra well done to RR - Year 4 Beech Class with 100%

RR - Reception Oak Class

CR - Year 4 Hornbeam

RR - Year 4 Acacia Class

RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR - Year 5 Cypress Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

In Reception this week, the children have settled back into school life very well and have been showing great enthusiasm for their learning. In writing, we have been practising the capital letters L, T, I and H and the children have continued to build confidence in reading and writing simple phrases using digraphs. Some of the sentences we worked on this week included *the rain*, *the sheep*, *the light* and *the boat*. These activities are helping the children to develop early reading skills, improve their handwriting, and build confidence in forming complete sentences.

In maths, the children practised recalling and correctly ordering the days of the week and sequencing activities that happen throughout the week. They also practised counting aloud and investigated the '1 more/1 less' pattern within the base-10 counting system. The children began ordering numbers between 1 and 10, noticing the '5 and a bit' structure and described the '1 more/1 less' relationship of numbers to 10 while working collaboratively to develop their understanding further.



Our new topic is based around the book *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers. To engage the children in their learning, we transformed the classroom into a 'space' dark room decorated with space-themed items. The children explored the solar system as a whole and shared what they already knew about space. We also read *Look Up!* to spark curiosity and discussion. They learned a planet song to help remember the eight planets in the solar system and began learning their names.



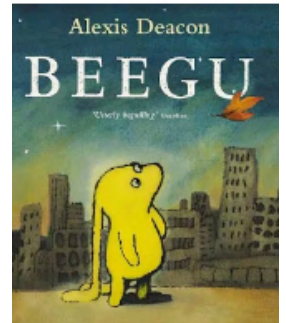


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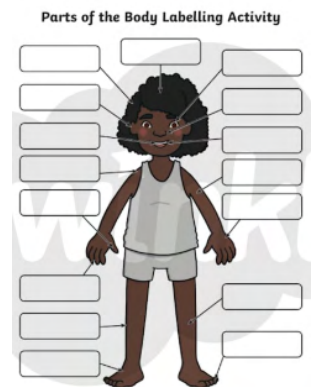
Year One

This half term in English, we are writing a narrative on the exciting new story called *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. We have been exploring using the conjunction 'but' to extend our sentences and using comparative and superlative adjectives. The children have been using their imaginations to try to understand the emotions of Beegu, once she had landed on Earth alone.

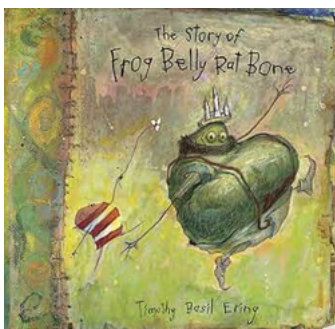


In maths we have been comparing height and length. We first compared each other's height and orally rehearsed our comparisons before feeding back to the class. To help us we have been using key vocabulary such as shorter, longer and taller to compare the different heights of our selves and peers as well as the lengths of objects within the classroom.

In our science lesson this week we sang the 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' song to help us identify where the different body parts were. Then, we had written those body parts (e.g. wrist, knee, nose etc) on sticky labels and then correctly placed them onto our own bodies to show our understanding. We found this super fun because we were able to work in groups with our friends whilst learning about the human body.



Year Two



We are now full way into our spring term and this week we were introduced to another fantastic story about a fictional creature called Frog Belly Rat Bone. On Monday we were immersed into the world of 'Cementland' where we had to use our senses and imagine how it would be to live there. Then throughout the week we have been using this great story to help build our English skills. We re-told the story in our own words, changed sentences from the present to past tense and used subordinating conjunctions to link detailed sentences together.

In Maths this week we are still continuing to develop our understanding of multiplication and division. We have been dividing and multiplying the numbers 5 and 10. By learning great multiplication and division skills it has helped us develop our knowledge even further to help within our learning.

Finally, we have started a new history unit which involves learning about the differences between wealthy and poor Victorian children. The children were really intrigued to find out just how

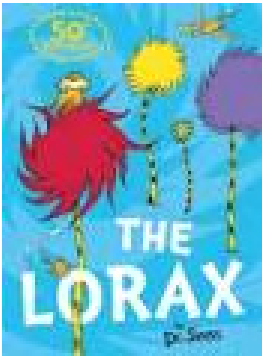


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different it was to live as a child within the Victorian era. They were really shocked to find out that the children had to make their own toys and had to wash their own clothes by hand! They really enjoyed finding out different facts and comparing different pictures to see the contrast between the wealthy and poor children. What a week it has been!

Year Three



This half term in English, we are exploring persuasive writing through our new book, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. To kick things off, we had an exciting visit from our Headteacher, who set us a challenge—to write a persuasive letter convincing her to make our playground more sustainable. This created a fantastic buzz in the classroom, and the children quickly got into the role of persuasive writers! Throughout the week, we have been identifying the key features of persuasive writing. The children have been working hard to enhance their writing using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials

In maths, we have started our exciting new topic on fractions. This week, the children have been introduced to numerators and denominators, learning how they work together to make up a fraction. We have explored unit fractions (fractions with a numerator of 1, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$) and non-unit fractions (fractions with a numerator greater than 1, such as $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{5}{6}$). To deepen our understanding, we have been using practical resources like fraction walls, number lines, and shape models to help the children visualise how fractions work. The children have particularly enjoyed using fraction games and real-life scenarios, such as sharing food, to understand the concept in a meaningful way.

Our new history topic is The Stone Age, and this week we have been developing our understanding of chronology. The children were amazed to learn just how long ago the Stone Age took place! We looked at key periods within the Stone Age—Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic—and placed them on a timeline to understand how human life evolved over thousands of years. The children had great fun creating human timeline across the playground!



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In science this week, the children continued their learning about rocks and explored how fossils are made. They handled a range of different fossils including ammonites, a piece of coral colony and a brachiopod, estimated to be approximately 350million years old!





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Year Four

The children this term will be reading the text 'So You Think You've got it Bad?' This is a fun historical text book with fascinating, light-hearted facts. The book covers everything from bizarre fashion choices (like wearing chitons—basically giant bedsheets) to the strict schooling system, where boys had to memorise epic poems rather than use books. Girls, meanwhile, had even fewer rights, often stuck at home learning household skills. The book doesn't shy away from showing the inequalities of the time but does so in a way that is accessible and thought-provoking for young readers.



Year 4s have dived headfirst into the world of poetry and are loving every minute of it. It's been wonderful to see their talent for rhyming couplets shine through, alongside a real hunger for poetic expression. The excitement continues into next week, when the students will be drafting special, "innovative" poems to gift to their friends.

The children have embraced the challenge of exploring mixed fractions. To develop their fluency in counting with these values, they have successfully utilised a range of visual models and number lines. These scaffolds have been instrumental in helping the children internalise the relationship between whole numbers and fractional parts.

In RE, the children learnt what Vaisakhi is and how the Khalsa community was formed. In DT, the children explored the history behind the great Parthenon in Athens. They were excited to find out that they will be making a parthenon themselves, so were keen to learn how one was made. In science, the children are learning about how sound travels through the air into our ears. To investigate the relationship between sound and vibration, the children conducted a hands-on experiment by placing grains of rice onto a drum skin. As they struck the drum, they were fascinated to observe the rice "dancing," providing a clear visual representation of sound waves as physical energy.



Year Five

It has been an incredibly busy and thought-provoking week in Year 5! The children have shown impressive focus, particularly as they balance new learning with preparation for their upcoming assessments.

This week, our mathematicians have been sharpening their focus on decimals. We've spent time comparing and ordering numbers with up to three decimal





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places, ensuring the children understand the value of each digit. We also moved on to rounding to one decimal place, a key skill for accuracy in real-world measurements. We have been revisiting key topics to ensure everyone feels confident and prepared for our assessments starting next week. The classroom has been buzzing with "maths talk" as students explain their reasoning to one another.



In English, children have been reading our core text, *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll. We have been delving deep into the world of the protagonist, Addie, an autistic girl navigating the challenges of school and home life. We have been identifying and using sophisticated descriptive vocabulary to convey the complex emotions Addie experiences. From the sensory overload of a noisy hallway to the quiet determination she feels when seeking justice, the pupils are learning how to "show, not tell" internal feelings through their writing.

In RE, we have opened up a vital dialogue about our roles within a community. We introduced the concepts of being a 'Bridge-Builder', someone who seeks to reconcile and connect people versus a 'Bystander', someone who witnesses something wrong but remains passive. The children were incredibly brave in sharing their own experiences, discussing times they have played both roles either in the playground or outside of school. These discussions have been instrumental in helping them understand the impact our actions (or inactions) have on those around us.



Year Six

This week, Year 6 have been working hard in different areas of geometry within maths. They have applied their previous knowledge of shape, triangles and angles to work on more challenging reasoning questions. They are now understanding how much additional arithmetic and reasoning knowledge they need to tackle the SATs!

In English, we have started looking at a wonderful short film called 'Alma' where a young girl gets lured into a rather sinister doll shop...only to become a doll herself! A scary suspense thriller that the children will be turning into their own narrative, with a twist at the end.

In History, we are continuing to look at the impact of the Second World War on Croydon and London, exploring how the local area was targeted by the Germans due to places like the Croydon Aerodrome and nearby factories. Did you know that Croydon was the most bombed borough in London?!





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Boosters are up and running on both sites, and the children are back into the swing of preparation for May. Remember to help as much as you can at home and you will see their results improve in no time! They are already making good progress, so let's keep it going!

Reading

World Book Day

Our Scholastic book fairs - started today, Friday 27th February, and will also be in the school halls on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school from 3.30 to 4pm. Come and use your world book day token to get £1 off a book. Online payment only, no cash, sorry.



Redeem your £1 World Book Day Token Online!

Free Postage & Packaging. UK only. Terms apply.

Shop Now

Books2Door is proud to be the first and only online retailer accepting World Book Day £1/£1.50 book tokens.

That means you can now redeem your World Book Day code directly on our website and enjoy the convenience of browsing, choosing, and ordering your child's favourite books from home.

Let's make this World Book Day the most exciting one yet.

This week we have given out world book day tokens to all children. They can be used in supermarkets and books shops to get a free book or they can be used as a £1 off in bookshops and the school Scholastics Book fair. You can also use your world book day tokens to claim a free £1 book online at: <https://www.books2door.com/collections/world-bookday>

Spring Reading Challenge

This term, we're inviting all pupils to join our **Spring Reading Challenge**. We want to see the creative ways our students enjoy their favorite books! For every challenge completed, simply snap a photo and share the magic

with us.

How to Enter:

- **Snap it:** Take a picture of your child completing a reading task.
- **Send it:** Email your photos to **office@inspirewestthornton.co.uk**.
- **Win it:** Each entry earns a point for your child's class. The class with the most points at the end of the term will win a **special prize!**



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Reading Challenges
Spring Menu

Build a reading "nest" or den using blankets and pillows. Take a torch and read for 10 minutes in the dark!

Read the instructions or a "tips and tricks" guide for a game or toy you own. Try out one new move or build based on what you read.

Find a recipe for something you love to eat. Read the ingredients list and the steps out loud while helping an adult make it.

Pick your favourite song and read the lyrics while you listen to it. Is there a word in the song you've never seen written down before?

On your way to school or the park, read 5 different "real world" things: a street sign, a shop window, a poster, a cereal box, and a bus stop sign.

Think of a friend's favorite hobby. Go to the library and find a book you think they would love. Tell them why you picked it.

Find a book, magazine, or article about your favorite sport, hobby, or game (like Minecraft, football, or gymnastics). Tell someone one fact you didn't know before.

Put on an audiobook or a story podcast while you draw, build with LEGO, or tidy your room.

Phrases of the Week



El valor del mes de West Thornton es LA RESPONSABILIDAD. - West Thornton 's

termly value is Responsibility.

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Cairo	Eliyanah	Charlie-Rae	Ekamjot
Farisha	Khalil	Bianca	Prince
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Khavalli	Dhanush	Kavani	Devarshi
Kulture	Sofia	Zayda	Vivaan



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Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Shayan	Alesha	Jesse	Ayra	
Elina	Hassan	Halima	Andino	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Anika	Cheyavan	Bilal	Nihal	
Yousef	Dhanvi	Fatima	Alayah	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Khaliyah	Whole	Thariz	Serena	Talha
Georgina	Class	Campion	Hanna	Keevah
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Zahra	Oresti	Ian	Luca	Adam
Ahmad	Nadiyah	Nesh	Khaleesi	Marcel
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Indie	Aicha	Meeran	Whole class	Alvina
Josiah	Alex S	Richard		Daniel



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Community

Women Supporting Women is a community built on the power of collective uplift. We trade competition for collaboration, providing a dedicated safe space for mentorship, empathy, and shared success. Here, we don't just network—we empower one another to rise, ensuring that no woman walks her path alone.

We hope to see you there!

WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

Tired of navigating the journey alone? Join us at West Thornton for a dynamic collective of women dedicated to lifting each other up.



1 PEER MENTORSHIP

Learn from those who have walked the path before you.

2 NETWORKING

Connect with diverse women from various backgrounds.



3 WORKSHOPS

Skill-building sessions for personal and professional growth.

4 EMOTIONAL PEER COACHING

Skill-building sessions for personal and professional growth.



5 ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Support from another women to represent your rights, views, and interests especially through times of difficulty.

WHERE: ROSECOURT ROAD MAIN HALL
WHEN: 4TH MARCH, 11TH MARCH, 18TH MARCH & 25TH MARCH
TIME: 2PM – 3:15PM

**WHEN WOMEN SUPPORT EACH OTHER,
INCREDIBLE THINGS HAPPEN**





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Free help to buy healthy food for your family

Are you pregnant or do you have a child under four?

You could be entitled to over **£1,000** in free support to help your family stay healthy. The NHS Healthy Start scheme has gone digital, making it easier than ever to get help with the cost of milk, fruit, and vegetables.

What's on the Menu?

If you're eligible, you'll receive a **prepaid Mastercard** that is topped up every four weeks. You can use it at any shop that accepts Mastercard to buy:

- **Fresh, frozen, or tinned** fruit and vegetables.
- **Plain cow's milk** (whole, semi-skimmed, or skimmed).
- **Fresh, dried, or tinned pulses** like lentils and beans.
- **First infant formula** based on cow's milk.

How Much Could You Get?

The payments depend on your stage of parenthood:

- **Pregnant (10+ weeks):** £4.25 every week.
- **Baby (under 1 year old):** £8.50 every week.
- **Child (1 to 4 years old):** £4.25 every week.

Plus, you'll get access to free vitamins for both you and your little ones!

Is This for Me?

You typically qualify if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, and your family receives benefits like **Universal Credit**, **Child Tax Credit**, or **Income Support**.

Community Corner: What's Happening in Croydon?

We love our local community! Here are a few ways your family can get involved and find support right here in the borough:

Free Local Family Fun

- **The Kids' Table @ BOXPARK Croydon:** Free supervised arts and crafts for kids every Sunday (12:00 pm – 4:00 pm). Great for ages 3–10 while parents grab a coffee! [Find out more here.](#)
- **Creative Workshops:** [Mitcham Library](#) (just a short hop away) is hosting a **Broken Umbrella Challenge** for ages 5–9 on **Friday, 13th March**. Register here.

Support for Croydon Families



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Did you know Croydon is expanding its **Family Hubs**? These are "one-stop shops" for support from pregnancy through to age 19 (or 25 for SEND):

- **Local Hub Locations:** The [Woodlands Family Hub](#) (Selsdon) and the [Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Centre](#) (South Norwood) offer everything from parenting advice to health visiting and debt support.

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

* £12.50 applies to emergency sessions