



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

6th March 2026

World Book Day

We had great fun celebrating World Book Day in spectacular style yesterday! From heroic protagonists to mysterious villains, it was wonderful to see so many children (and staff!) dressed as their favorite literary characters or wearing their favourite pair of cosy pyjamas. Beyond the wonderful costumes, the day was filled with a genuine 'buzz' for books and reading; we enjoyed shared stories, reading activities, and even some surprise 'Mystery Readers' who shared their favorite stories.



Rosecourt Road welcomed author Chris Callaghan, who spent an inspiring and fun-filled afternoon with Year 3. The children were captivated as he shared the secrets behind his fantastic books, including *The Chocolate Chocoplot*, *Shinoy and the Chaos Crew Adventures* and his latest release *When the War Comes In*. During a high-energy workshop, our Year 3 pupils had the chance to sharpen their own story writing skills, inventing panic-inducing stories about the end of their favourite foods, hobbies or belongings under Chris's expert guidance. It was a fantastic opportunity for

the children to see how a simple spark of an idea can turn into a published story!



Events like these remind us that reading is not just a vital school skill, but a gateway to infinite worlds and adventures. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your incredible effort with the costumes and paper plate book character designs and for continuing to foster a love of reading at home.





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Empowering Women Session



A huge thank you to everyone who joined our very first Women Empowering Women session! This week, we shared an honest look at the "invisible load" we carry as women and mothers, reflecting on our wellbeing and identifying paths for personal growth.

We're just getting started and would love to have more of you join us next week. Let's continue building this safe, supportive space together.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

- RR - Reception Oak Class
- RR - Year 1 Maple Class
- RR - Year 2 Rowan Class
- RR - Year 3 Cedar Class
- RR - Year 4 Beech Class
- RR - Year 4 Acacia Class
- RR - Year 4 Yew Class
- RR - Year 5 Silver Birch Class
- RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class
- RR - Year 5 Cypress Class
- RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

- CR - Year 1 Elm Class
- CR - Year 3 Chestnut Class
- CR - Year 5 Sycamore Class
- CR - Year 6 Holly Class

Reminder - please make sure your children are at school on time

Every Minute Counts

5 Minutes late a day = 3 days lost per year

10 Minutes late a day = 6 days lost per year

15 Minutes late a day = 10 days lost per year

30 Minutes late a day = 19 days lost per year



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

Our space exploration has reached new heights this week as we looked at the best ways to travel across the galaxy. We've been zooming in on rockets, identifying their key features like the nose cone, fins, and boosters. The excitement is building as we begin to design our very own model rockets. We've been discussing which materials would make our spacecraft sturdy enough for a lunar landing!



A Festival of Color 🌈 We had a wonderful time celebrating Holi. The children showed great respect and curiosity while learning about Hindu traditions. We discussed the significance of the festival before diving into the celebrations ourselves. The



playground was a sea of joy as we experienced the traditions of dance and—the clear favorite—color throwing!



In our writing sessions, we are working hard on applying our Phase 3 digraphs (two letters that make one sound, like 'oo' and 'ar'). It is wonderful to see the children spotting these sounds in their reading and using them to build words in their writing.

Our handwriting Focus this week has been on perfecting our capital letters. We've focused specifically on the formation of: E, F, A, and K.

In maths we have been busy comparing and sequencing numbers up to 8. The children have been using physical blocks to build a "staircase" pattern, helping them visualize how each number grows by exactly one more. To help us explain our thinking, we have been using our mathematical sentence stem: "___ is more than ___"

Year One



In English this week, the children have been busy writing the Story of Beegu. They have been filling their writing with some amazing superlative and comparative adjectives which have been very impressive! They have also planned and innovated the narrative in a completely





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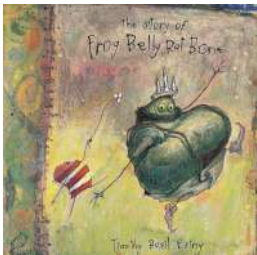
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different setting to write next week so, watch this space for some more amazing writing!

In maths this week, the children have been learning about measuring. They have been using non standard units and CM to measure objects in the classroom. They then moved on to learning all about how to measure mass and comparing objects to see which ones are heavier or lighter.

In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about the United Kingdom and this week we focused on the country Wales. The children enjoyed learning all about the capital city, the Welsh flag and famous landmarks. In DT, the children explored learning how to make a lever moving picture.

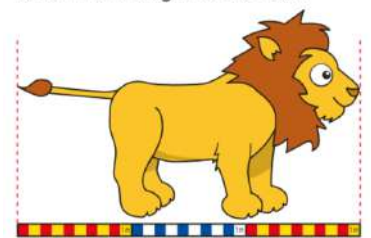
Year Two



This week in English, the children have been exploring the unique writing style of *Frog Belly Rat Bone*. They focused on mastering third-person pronouns, commas in lists, and past-tense verbs, while also experimenting with similes and dialogue. To wrap up the week, the class created their own original characters and treasures, setting the stage to write their own versions of the story next week.

In maths the children have been enjoying practical lessons measuring the length and height of everyday objects. They learnt that when using rulers the object needs to be lined up with the 0 and were really engaged when using non-standard units, centimetre rules and metre sticks in the classroom. They then moved on to solving problems that involve measurement.

What is the length of the lion?



In DT this week, the children showcased their creativity while mastering the fundamental skills of puppet making. They practiced marking out designs using a template and focused on accurate cutting and joining techniques. To complete their projects, they applied imaginative details to bring their unique finger puppets to life.



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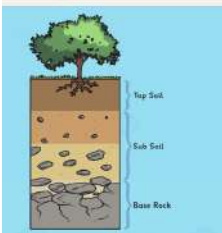
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Year Three

This week, our writers stepped into the whiskers of The Lorax. Continuing our work on persuasive writing, the children wrote heartfelt letters to the Once-ler. Their mission? To convince him to stop cutting down the beautiful Truffula trees! We focused on using emotive language and "rhetorical questions" to make our arguments more powerful. It was wonderful to see the children show such empathy for the environment while honing their formal writing skill.

In Maths, we have been diving deeper into the world of fractions. We have looked at Non-unit Fractions: The children have been identifying numerators and denominators where the numerator is greater than 1. We then moved onto looking at Fractions as a Whole: We explored the concept that when the numerator and denominator are the same, we have a "whole". Using bar models and counters helped the children visualize how these parts fit together to make a complete object.

Layers of Soil



Our young scientists have been getting their hands dirty this week exploring soil. We investigated what soil is actually made of (did you know it's a mix of organic matter, air, water, and tiny bits of rock?) and how it is formed over thousands of years. We also mapped out the "Soil Profile," learning to identify the different layers: Topsoil: Where the nutrients and roots live. Subsoil: The layer beneath the surface. Bedrock: The solid rock layer at the very bottom.

At Rosecourt Road, we were incredibly lucky to celebrate World Book Day with a visit from the brilliant author Chris Callaghan. He captured everyone's imagination by talking about his book, *The Chococalypse*—a terrifying tale of a world where chocolate has completely run out! Inspired by Chris, the children were set a creative writing challenge: to plan their own story based on the mysterious disappearance of something they love. We had everything from the "Pizza-pocalypse" to the "Video-game-vanishing"!



Year Four

This week has been another busy and productive one in Year 4, with the children showing great enthusiasm and focus across all of their learning.

In English, the children have been writing their own innovative poems based on a friend. They explored how to use the AABB rhyming scheme in their writing and practised using expanded noun phrases and pronouns to make their sentences more detailed and cohesive. The children



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worked hard to develop their ideas and structure their poems carefully, writing in stanzas and introducing a new idea in each one.



In maths, the children have continued their learning on fractions.

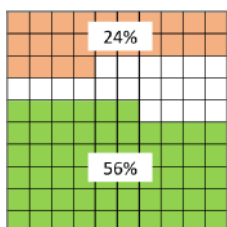
This week they explored improper fractions and practised placing them on a number line. The children worked carefully to understand how fractions can be greater than one and how to represent them accurately.

In science, the children have been learning about sound. They particularly enjoyed the practical investigation where they explored how sound travels through solids, liquids and gases. The lesson sparked lots of curiosity and discussion as the children observed how sound moves through different materials.

It has been a fantastic week of learning in Year 4, and we encourage the children to continue working really hard.

Year Five

It has been an incredibly vibrant week in Year 5, filled with creative writing, structural engineering, and a very suspicious number of red-and-white striped shirts. In English, the children have been busy developing their understanding of direct speech, specifically focusing on how to weave action into dialogue to bring their writing to life. We have also been exploring the world through the eyes of our main character, Addie, who has autism. The children used powerful metaphors and personification to describe the classroom from her perspective, capturing her hypersensitivity to noise by transforming everyday sounds into vivid, sensory experiences.



In maths lessons, the children have been working hard to find the connections between related decimals, percentages, and fractions. They have also begun completing their maths assessments, providing an opportunity for them to showcase their growing confidence and mathematical fluency. It has been great to see them applying their knowledge to solve complex conversion problems and show off their hard work from the past few terms.



Our design and technology sessions have turned the classroom into an engineering hub as we began learning about stable structures. The children are discovering how to make bridges secure by





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studying beams—horizontal bars that rest on vertical supports. They particularly enjoyed the hands-on research phase where they experimented with paper to find out how to make it stronger. By folding paper into zig-zags and rolling it into cylinders, among other shapes, they discovered how simple changes in shape can create immense strength, all in preparation for building their own bridges later this half term.

The week ended on a high note with a spectacular World Book Day celebration on Thursday. It was wonderful to see everyone dressed as their favorite book characters, and the children fully immersed themselves in a carousel of creative activities including mask making, comic design, and book making. The atmosphere was electric as the children turned into detectives to hunt for twenty different teachers dressed as Where's Wally hidden around the school. It was a fantastic treasure hunt and a truly successful way to celebrate our shared love of reading.

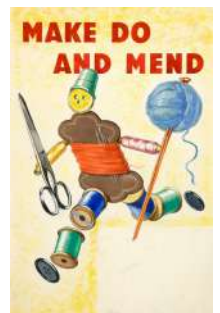
Year Six

Year 6 have impressed us all this week with their focus and determination during their Mock SATs. It was great to see the children applying a range of test strategies, and the progress they are making is a testament to their hard work. We are very proud of the maturity they have shown.



In writing, the children have been experimenting with punctuation to create suspense. They used ellipses to slow the pace and build tension, alongside dashes to highlight sudden or shocking moments. They also practiced using a variety of sentence structures to add more impact to their work and keep the reader engaged.

Our History lessons this week focused on how propaganda was used by governments during the Second World War. By exploring a range of primary sources, the children identified the specific messages being delivered and the impact these had on society at the time. They also reflected on how this propaganda has shaped modern-day perspectives of the war.



Reading

Thank you for all the support with the Book Fairs this week. Across both sites, we sold £1781 of books which means we have over £800 to spend on Scholastic books for the school. This is amazing—thank you so much to all those who supported us by attending the fair.



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Phrases of the Week



¡Feliz Día Mundial del Libro! - Happy World Book Day!

Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Jaaziha	Zimal	Basra	Hoorah	
Thackshan	Riya	Eqra	Thiya	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Aaron	Whole Class	Amna	Taqi	
Lorena		Mason	Anne-Marie	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Zohal	Minette	Eshal	Taliyah	
Javarie	Hassan	Haad	Rizwan	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Vinojan	Paari	Bilal	Mustafa	
Halla	Thanusik	Ayra	Sarvika	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Krish	Cherish	Emily	Florjan	Afrah
Aadheesh	Anamika	Meryam	Kavinu	Marianna
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore



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Jessinton	Rely	Cairo	Aatheesh	Eagan
Joanna	Evan	Arleen	Ali	Yaqub
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Whole	Kavya	Massita	Samuel	Whole
Class	Noah	Josiyah	Esha	Class

Community

Local Events & Services for Ramadan

- Croydon Mosque & Islamic Centre (CMIC): As one of the largest hubs (serving up to 30,000 during the month), the mosque offers daily prayers, Taraweeh, and special lectures.
 - Weekly Dars: "Gardens of the Righteous" by Mufti Inaam-ul-haq Malik, every Saturday after Maghrib.
 - Youth Activities: Separate Girls (ages 10-19) and Boys (ages 12-16) Youth Clubs are held, featuring spiritual reminders, games, and snacks.
 - Sisters Majlis: Arabic and Quran classes for women, Monday-Thursday.
- Al-Hidaya Croydon: Known for hosting "Eid in the Park" (at Croydon Rugby field), the center provides extensive Ramadan services, including, potentially, specialized Hifz (Quran memorization) programs and community, social, and religious support.
- Hyderi Islamic Centre (South London): Located in nearby Forestdale, this center is hosting a series of events, including the "Annual Ramadan Interfaith Iftar" on March 1 and various daily/special prayers for the holy month, including Laylatul Qadr on March 12.
- Asian Resource Centre of Croydon (ARCC): Hosting a "Ramadan Friends Coffee Morning" on February 25, focusing on community connection, digital inclusion for elders, and arts & crafts.
- Dialogue Society Iftar: A special community Iftar aimed at building community trust is held on February 27.



Iftar and Dining in Croydon

Several restaurants and venues in Croydon are offering special Iftar menus for breaking the fast:

- Tindli Croydon: Offering a special Ramadan and Eid menu from February 20 to March 20, featuring South Indian and Kerala cuisine, including special biryanis and Faluda.
- Thillai Pandia's (South Indian): Providing 15% off for fasting brothers and sisters for dine-in throughout the month.
- Grand Sapphire Banqueting: Offering bespoke Iftar parties, catering, and prayer facilities.



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Wider London/South London Events

- Ramadan Lights (West End): Running until March 24, with 30,000 lights in Coventry Street.
- CAGE South London Iftar: A community Iftar event with speakers is scheduled for March 8.
- Revert Retreat (Dulwich): A special Iftar and Taraweeh event for female converts on March 15. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/revert-retreat-tickets-1983193945477>



Holi 2026 celebrations near Croydon feature major events like "[UDE RE GULAL LONDON 2026](#)" in Queensbury (Mar 14), "[Holi-The Festival of Colours](#)" in Barking (Mar 15), and the "[Magic of India Holi Colour Party](#)" in Highgate (Mar 16). Expect large-scale, open-air color throwing, Bollywood music, and dancing across London.

Top Holi 2026 Events in and Around London (March 14-22)

- UDE RE GULAL LONDON 2026 (Mar 14): Major open-air festival in Queensbury (Roe Green Park) featuring music and color.
- [Holi-The Festival of Colours 2026](#) (Mar 15): Located at Abbey Green, Barking.
- [London Ki Holi](#) 2026 (Mar 14): Held at Hainault Skatepark.
- [Magic of India Holi Colour Party](#) (Mar 16): Located at Rose Gardens, Waterlow Park, featuring drummers, dancers, and food.
- [Holi Fest 2026](#) (Mar 7): Early celebration at The Cause.
- [Colours of Connection](#) (Mar 20): A Holi Experience in Walthamstow.

Key Details for 2026

- Activity: Most events feature, or allow, the traditional throwing of dry color powder.
- Food & Drink: Many events, such as the Magic of India party and those at The Cinnamon Kitchen, include Indian street food and festive drinks.
- Attire: It is highly recommended to wear inexpensive, comfortable clothes as powder can stain, even if it is washable.
- Booking: Many events are already 50%-90% sold out, so early booking is recommended.
- Check platforms like Eventbrite for the latest ticket availability and precise, updated times.



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KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club



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Childcare Vouchers*

Childcare
Choices

CGPS VISA MasterCard

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