



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

13th March 2026

Leading the Way: Peer Mediation Training Begins! 🙌



We are incredibly proud of our newly appointed Year 5 Peer Mediators, who completed their first two sessions of intensive training this week. On Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March, our chosen group of student leaders came together to begin their journey in conflict resolution. We were immensely impressed by the children's maturity, their capacity for active listening, and the genuine empathy they showed when practicing how to support their peers on the playground.

A particular highlight of the sessions was seeing the fantastic collaboration between our

Rosecourt Road and Canterbury Road sites. It was wonderful to see pupils from across both settings working side-by-side, sharing ideas, and building new friendships. This joined-up approach has already created a strong, unified team of mediators who are ready to make a real difference to our school community.

We look forward to our final training sessions over the next two weeks and the official 'Graduation' of our mediators. Well done, Year 5 - you are true ambassadors for the values of West Thornton!



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 🌸

Our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at Rosecourt Road was a beautiful celebration of the amazing mums and care givers in our school community. Mums and children shared delicious treats and made many precious memories. Thank you to everyone who joined us!





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Assessment Superstars 🌟

Over the past two weeks, children across the school have undertaken their termly assessments. While we know that testing can sometimes feel a little daunting, we have been absolutely blown away by the incredible resilience and positive attitude shown by the children.

From our youngest learners to Year 6, the atmosphere has been one of calm determination. We have seen children tackling tricky problems and checking their work with precision.

Well done, West Thornton - we are so proud of you!

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

Extra well done to RR Year 2 Rowan Class and RR Year 4 Beech Class with 100% this week!

RR - Year 1 Maple Class

CR - Year 3 Chestnut Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

CR - Year 4 Olive Class

RR - Year 3 Larch Class

CR - Year 5 Hawthorn Class

RR - Year 3 Cedar Class

RR - Year 4 Acacia Class

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class

Attendance & Punctuality: Every Day Counts



Morning Timings

Starting the day on time helps children feel settled and ready to learn. Please note the following schedule:

- **8:30 am:** School gates open.
- **8:40 am:** The school bell rings (Lessons begin).
- **8:45 am:** Gates close promptly.
- **8:50 am:** Please sign your child in at the school office as they are **late**.



Health & Wellbeing

We understand it can be tricky to decide whether to send your child in when they are feeling under the weather.

- **Coughs and Colds:** If your child has a minor cough or cold, please send them to school. Often, they perk up once they are with their friends! If they struggle during the day, we will always call you to collect them.



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- **Temperatures:** If your child has a slight temperature, we keep **Calpol** in the school office. We are happy to administer this with your permission to help them feel more comfortable.



The Impact of Absence

There are only **190 days** in a school year. This leaves 175 days for holidays, appointments, and shopping. Please see the table below to see how absences affect your child's overall attendance percentage:

Absence Amount	Attendance %	Category
0 Days	100%	Perfect!
5 Days	97%	Good
10 Days	95%	Worrying
29 Days	85%	Worrying
38 Days	80%	Serious Concern
47 Days	75%	Critical Concern

Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been another stellar week in Reception! The children have truly blasted off with their learning as we continue our journey through the cosmos, inspired by our focus text, 'Look Up!' Our classroom has been full of budding astronomers this week. To help with our celestial observations, the children have been busy crafting their very own telescopes. They put them to good use while watching real-world footage of outer space, spotting everything from distant planets to swirling nebulae. We also took a deep dive into the world of meteors, learning all about these "shooting stars" and the streaks of light they leave across our sky.



In literacy the children are becoming increasingly confident writers! We have been moving into Phase 3 digraphs, focusing on spotting and using sounds like 'ur', 'er', and 'or' in our independent writing. In our handwriting sessions, we've been perfecting our capital letters. This week's focus was on the "curly" family: C, O, G, and Q. You might want to see if they can "sky-write" these for you at home!



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We've entered a new dimension in Maths this week—the third dimension! The children have been introduced to 3D shapes, learning to identify and name objects like spheres, cubes, and cylinders. We also continued our work on the composition of numbers. We've been "part-whole" detectives, investigating all the different ways we can build the number 7 (for example, $4 + 3$ or $5 + 2$).

Year One

It has been an incredible writing week for Year 1. The children have written their final outcomes of their own versions of the story Beegu. They have used a variety of descriptive language including superlative and comparative adjectives and conjunctions. They have done an amazing job and we are very proud of them all.



In maths this week, the children have been learning about how to measure the capacity and volume of a container. They have been using vocabulary such as full, empty, nearly empty, early full and half full to describe containers. They then used this information to answer questions to show their reasoning and understanding.



In Science this week, the children explored their senses further by tasting a variety of different foods. They used their taste buds to determine if a food was sweet, salty or sour. In DT the children researched the wheel mechanism to make a moving picture.

Year Two

This week in English, the children have been introduced to a new fact file about animals as we begin preparing for our exciting upcoming trip to the zoo. They explored how fact files are organised and looked at key features such as headings, subheadings and interesting animal facts. The class enjoyed learning new information and are getting ready to use this knowledge to create their own fact files in the coming weeks.



In maths, the children continued their learning on measurement. They built on last week's lessons by practising measuring different objects and solving simple problems involving length and height.



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The class remained very engaged with the practical activities and enjoyed applying their measuring skills in a range of different contexts.



In science this week, the children explored a variety of habitats from around the world. They discussed how different animals live in different environments and how these habitats provide what animals need to survive, such as food, water and shelter. The children were curious to learn about habitats

such as rainforests, deserts and oceans.

Year Three

It has been a whirlwind of learning and exploration in Year 3 recently. The children have been working incredibly hard, showing great curiosity and a real passion for making a difference in our world. In English, our young activists have been busy finalising and perfecting their **persuasive letters** to the Headteacher. After observing the recycling habits across the school, the children felt a strong urge to speak up. They wrote passionately about:

- The negative impact of waste on our local environment.
- How litter and poor recycling affect the beauty of our school grounds.
- The long-term consequences for the planet.

In maths we've dived even deeper into the world of **fractions!** The children have been building their confidence in: Placing and identifying fractions on a **number line** to understand the fractions value, we identified fractions as both **parts of a whole** and **parts of a set**. We also looked at finding **equivalent fractions** for example $\frac{1}{2}$ is the same as $\frac{3}{6}$.



In **Science**, we became soil detectives! We explored our school grounds to identify the different **properties of soil**, looking at texture, drainage, and what makes soil healthy for plants. In **History**, we traveled back thousands of years to the **Stone Age**. We explored the transition of how fire worked and how it was controlled between the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.

Within RE this week, we looked for the "golden rule" that connect us all. The children identified **common teachings** across the different religions we studied this term, such as the importance of kindness, looking after our world, and the value of community.





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Year Four

It's been a busy week in Year 4! The children had a great day immersing themselves in all things Ancient Greek! The children enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities during the day including

their very own Olympic games and a food tasting feast. It can be said that the voting system of Ancient Greece was a real eye opener for those children who were given the role of the higher classes; making decisions for their Ancient Greek counterparts was a responsibility both relished and refuted.



Meanwhile in Maths, the children were gaining an understanding of mixed fractions, improper fraction and equivalence. They learnt a few

tricks as to how to calculate improper fractions by using multiplication and also made links with division knowledge. They used a fraction wall to identify equivalent fractions giving them a visual understanding of the concept.



In the wider curriculum, children looked at the design features of a Parthenon - a huge building built to honour the Goddess, Athena. They looked at the component parts of the building and gained an understanding of why certain design features were included (such as the corrugation of the marble pillars). This will inform their own designs and the Parthenon they will build in the coming weeks - don't worry...it isn't life-sized!

Year Five

This week in Year 5 we have begun some exciting new topics across the curriculum.

In Maths, the children started our new unit on perimeter, where we are learning how to calculate the perimeter of different shapes. The class has been developing their understanding of how to add the lengths of sides and apply this knowledge to a range of problems.

In English, we launched our new topic on monologues with a very engaging hook lesson. The children took part in a *conscience alley* activity where they had to consider the right and wrong choices a character could make. They showed fantastic speaking and listening skills, offering thoughtful arguments and reasoning as they walked through the alley.





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In Science, we explored the force of gravity. The children really enjoyed investigating how gravity works and discussing real-life examples. They also demonstrated a strong understanding of how to set up a fair test, and were able to explain how to analyse the results of their investigations.

It has been a wonderful week of curiosity, discussion and enthusiasm for learning!

Year Six

This week in Year 6 the children have worked hard on developing different sentence structures and punctuation to develop a suspense narrative. We have continued with the story of Alma and tried to include elements of mystery and microexpressions to build tension for the reader.

The maths has focused around angles, shape and measuring with accuracy, in preparation for the SATs. They have also had assessments over these two weeks, where huge improvements and progress can be seen for many children aiming for the expected, or greater depth, standard. We are proud of all their achievements so far, and know it will continue all the way to the big test!

In history, we have explored the idea of propaganda and its impact on the people of Britain. Was it all positive? The pupils considered how to broadcast a notice to the general public about an incident which occurred, without causing panic!

Reading

Canterbury Road parent reading sessions. Year 1, 2, 3 will continue with Friday mornings and after the holiday Reception will start with inviting parents in on Monday afternoons from 2.55, for parents/carers to come into class and read with their children.

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué llevas? - Llevo un vestido rosa y unos zapatos blancos.

What are you wearing? - I am wearing a red dress and white shoes.



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Arham	Moksha	Meerab	Camil	
Rayhan	Victoria	Nithish	Prince	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Zainab	Emaan	Dillon	Ezekiel	
Bethel	Zahid	O'Brian	Amelia	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Aaira	Kehlani	Kyrie	Elikem	
Noah	Umair	Esther	Havishh	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Jahnai	Gracella	Whole	Ali	
Jansi	Ava.M	Class	Kyarrah	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Haris	Harish	Whole	Romero	Whole
Shaina	Sia	Class	Hela	Class
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Reily	Idrees	Ruusa	Hazel	Johan
Aiden	Amelia	Arleen	Neveah	Nandini
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Zaim	Kaira-Leigh	Whole	Alicia	Agyeiwaa
Sajoori				
Amir	Yaroslav	Class		Loredana



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Community

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



Childcare Vouchers*



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



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