



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

20th March 2026

It's been wonderful to see the sunshine finally making an appearance this week, bringing a fresh energy to our break and lunchtimes. The brighter weather has certainly boosted the mood across the playground, with everyone enjoying the chance to get outside and soak up the warmth. Let's hope it sticks around.

Year 2 Zoo Trip



Our Year 2 children had a fantastic day out at the London Zoo this week, trading the classroom for the wonders of the animal kingdom! From the humid rainforests to the sunny African plains, the children observed firsthand how different species are perfectly suited to their environments. This trip was a brilliant way to bring their Science unit, 'Living Things and Their Habitats,' to life and also to get the children ready to write their non-chronological reports on an animal of their choice next week. Thank you to all parents and carers that support these trips - they wouldn't be able to happen without you!

Young Writers Competition



We have had exciting news in Year 5 this week; a little while ago, children at Rosecourt Road were given the chance to enter a piece of writing into a Young Writers Competition called 'I Have a Dream'. We are thrilled to share that 20 children across the year group have had their writing selected to appear in a published book! The book will be published on 18th May 2026 and we will receive a copy for the school shortly after. All children will also receive a certificate for their entries! Well done to all involved - we can't wait to see the book!

Eid Mubarak

As we approach the end of the week, we would like to send our warmest wishes to all our families and members of the community who will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr this Thursday and Friday. We hope those of you marking the end of Ramadan have a wonderful time celebrating with your loved ones, sharing food, and enjoying the festivities. Eid Mubarak to you all!





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Henna Party

A massive thank you to our talented staff and parents who volunteered their time on Wednesday afternoon to help families prepare for Eid. Our volunteers created stunning designs for adults and children and were able to take away delicious treats provided by Chartwells.



Inspire Partnership Impact Report

Our school is proud to be part of Inspire Partnership - a group of ten primary schools that believe in the power of partnership and collaboration to transform children's lives. Together with a central team at Inspire Partnership, we've published our first Impact Report. It describes what our schools and the group as a whole have achieved over the last few years. As parents and carers of the pupils we work for, we're keen to share this report with you. You can read it [here](#).

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Year 4 Olive Class

CR - Year 1 Lime Class

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class

CR - Year R Ash Class

CR - Year 2 Aspen Class

RR - Year 2 Rowan Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 3 Larch Class

RR - Year 4 Beech Class

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class



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Curriculum Focus

Reception



It has been another whirlwind week of discovery in Reception! Our young adventurers have been exploring Planet Earth, focusing on the fascinating balance between land and sea. By using Google Earth, the children were able to virtually travel the world, comparing different environments and identifying the incredible animals that live there. We've had some brilliant discussions about animal features and

how they adapt to their homes. Moving from our global travels to our own community, we've also been celebrating Eid! We had a truly wonderful experience in class thanks to some very talented parent volunteers who visited us to do henna. We were all completely blown away by their artistry, and we are so grateful for their time and for making this celebration feel so special for the children.



Our maths journey continued this week as we explored the composition of numbers within 10. The children have become experts at identifying doubles, discovering that a double is simply two equal parts making a whole! Using their subitising skills, the children had a great time comparing different groups of objects to decide if they were equal or not. Once they spotted two equal groups, they worked hard to combine them and find the total. It's been fantastic to see their confidence with numbers growing every day!

Our Literacy lessons have been full of 'wow' moments this week as the children wrote extended captions. They've been working like little professionals to include Phase 3 digraphs—'ow' and 'oi'—into their work. The children are becoming so much more independent, carefully counting their words, checking for finger spaces, and ensuring every caption ends with a full stop. It is a joy to see them transition into such confident writers; their progress is truly something to celebrate!



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Year One

This week in year one we have been reading 'Grandad's Island,' in our English lessons. We have been looking at how to write from Grandad's perspective about some of the things he saw and did whilst on the Island with his grandson, Syd. This has been done in the format of a diary entry.

In maths this week, we have been looking at how to count in our 2's 5's and 10s. We have used manipulatives such as cubes, counters and number squares to help us do this successfully.

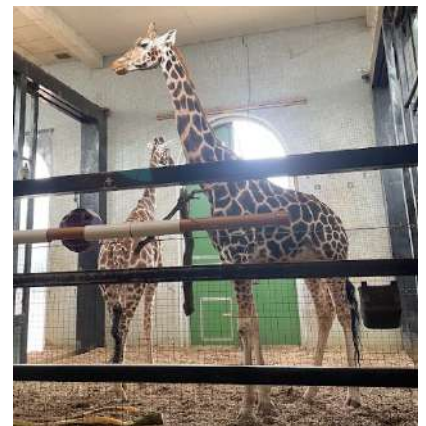
In geography this week we have learnt how to locate Northern Ireland! We already have superb knowledge about the culture, language and buildings found in Scotland, England and Wales, so this week we explored Northern Ireland. We learnt that this country celebrates St Patrick's day on the 17th March to mark the death of the patron saint Patrick. We also learnt that the official language of Northern Ireland is Gaelic as of 2022!

In Science this week, we have learnt about how to dress according to the different seasons. We are in the spring season currently. Therefore, we have been looking at what clothes to wear this spring to avoid becoming too cold or too hot.



Year Two

In English, after a wow start to the start of the week when we visited London Zoo the children have been busy learning all the skills they need to be able to write a non-chronological report on an animal they saw and are interested in. They have been practising writing in present tense and learnt what a rhetorical question is. They composed different rhetorical questions using sentence starters such as 'Have you ever wondered why...' or 'Did you know that...'. They have also planned what facts they will include in their writing on the appearance of their animal, what habitat they live in and what they eat.



In Maths, the children have enjoyed exploring mass and comparing the weight of different objects. They confidently used the mathematical language of 'heavier, lighter, heaviest and lightest' when comparing objects. At the end of the week, they were practically measuring



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everyday objects in grams and kilograms using scales, applying their knowledge to reading scales in their books.

In History this week the children were developing their knowledge on how laws to protect children have changed over time. They recalled their knowledge on how Lord Shaftesbury brought in laws to stop children working long hours and looked at how schools for all children were developed over time. They created a 'From work to school' timeline.

Year Three



The week began with an immersive lesson in the Stone Age as we began our new core text, Stone Age Boy. The children enjoyed taking part in a range of activities including paleolithic writing, cave painting and weaving. They explored previously taught skills such as fronted adverbials, commas in lists and the use of repetition in their writing.



This week, to begin our new maths topic of measurement, they learned to read scales accurately using weighing scales and jugs to support their understanding of mass and volume. . The children then went on to read scales which had different intervals, using their knowledge of division to help them work out the value of each interval. Then they went on to use this skill in science where they were able to measure how much water was absorbed by different types of soil.

In art, the children made natural vegetable dyes using beetroot, red cabbage and turmeric. They used the 'line and resist' technique of drawing their design onto fabric using wax then brushing the dyes they had created onto the fabric to create their own Bologan cloths.

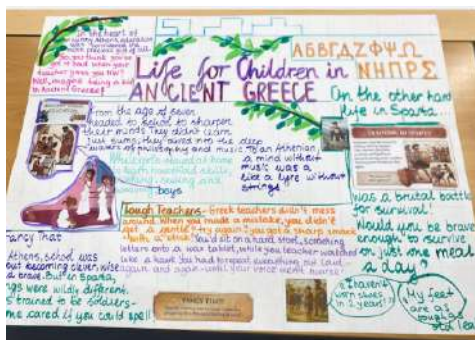




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Year Four

It's been another action-packed week in Year 4 as we traveled back in time to Ancient Greece and explored the science of sound! Our writing has taken a humorous and informative turn as we delve deeper into the world of Ancient Greece. The children are currently preparing to create a double-page spread that truly brings history to life. This week, we have been masterfully using figurative language to express humor. From rhetorical questions like "Who wouldn't want to be a Spartan warrior?" to exaggerated similes and hyperbole such as "mountains of learning to do at school," our readers are sure to be entertained! We have been researching the differences between Athenian and Spartan education, the healing powers of the god Asclepius, and ancient pastimes like knucklebones and hoop rolling.



In Maths, we have continued our journey through the world of fractions, with a specific focus on subtraction. The children have discovered the core concept that when denominators are the same, they only need to subtract the numerators! To support our understanding, we have been using bar models and part-whole models to solve complex calculations and worded problems.

Our Science investigations this week have been all about the Science of Sound. We've been exploring how to change sounds by altering pitch and volume. The children have become sound detectives, finding patterns between the pitch of a sound and the features of the object that produced it.

In Geography, we have been comparing the physical and human features of the UK and Greece. We've introduced some fantastic new vocabulary, including archipelago (a group of islands like the UK) and peninsula (land surrounded by water on three sides like Greece). The children have also been debating which rugged geographical features they would most like to visit and why!



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Year Five

In English, Year 5 pupils have been exploring the features of monologues, focusing on how Addie is affected by her environment. By incorporating rhetorical questions, contractions, and repetition, the children successfully developed an impactful narrative voice to convey the character's internal thoughts and emotions. This week, they also spent time analysing how specific word choices can change the tone of a performance piece from vulnerable to defiant.

Our focus in Maths has been on calculating and estimating the area of rectilinear shapes. The children have progressed from counting squares to applying formal methods to find the area of composite shapes made of rectangles. They have worked hard on breaking these shapes into smaller parts to solve complex reasoning problems and have practiced estimating area in real-world contexts.

In History, the children investigated the significant impact of the Windrush generation on British culture and society. We explored how these immigrants helped rebuild post-war Britain and their lasting influence on the NHS, public transport, music, and civil rights. The class engaged in thoughtful discussions on how the Windrush pioneers have shaped the vibrant, multicultural identity of modern Britain.





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Year Six

Year 6 have been busy preparing and revising for their SATs this week. We have been incredibly impressed with the determination and tenacity they have shown towards their studies.

In Writing, the children have been editing, redrafting, and upleveling their suspense narratives. Working in pairs to identify areas for improvement, they have taken an active role in assessing their language choices—specifically focusing on vocabulary that creates suspense—while ensuring their work is accurately punctuated. Their writing is absolutely fantastic and they have carefully applied the skills we have learnt over year 6 to produce the best piece of writing possible.

In Maths, the children have been investigating the properties of 3D shapes and their nets, as well as the specific components of a circle, such as the radius, diameter, and circumference. We have been particularly impressed during our afternoon revision sessions, where the children have shown outstanding focus while tackling complex multi-step problems and refining their mental arithmetic. Their ability to remain concentrated and supportive of one another during these intensive afternoon blocks has been fantastic!

Phrases of the Week



¡Feliz Eid Mubarak! - Happy Eid Mubarak!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Laura	Hareshan	Essa	Karen	
Amelia	Tihami	Sahaja	Adriel	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Caterina	Chengetai	Lua	Areena	
Sulueiman	Dhanush	Yoel	Blake	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Victoria	Trey	Whole class	Whole class	
Abilene	Joseph			
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Eugithan	Loreran	Maya	Chris	
Ryan	Ava. O	Norah	Daisy	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Adriel	Whole	Emily	Whole class	Srishalini
Shylah	Class	Akosua		Rachel
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Subhan	Kateryna	Hasan	Chimay	Nathan
Neiniha	Amelia	Emily	Allwin	Sebastian
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Harun	Rianna	Romarie	Aamir	Cheri
Kaydon	Miliani	Aneeqa	Anaya	Hasveka



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Community

Adult English language classes:

Following the huge success of our previous adult English language classes, we are delighted to announce that we have secured a further ten weeks of sessions in partnership with CALAT. These classes will once again be held in the main hall at our Rosecourt Road site.

The sessions are open to any parent or carer wishing to improve their English skills. Please note the following details:

Dates: Tuesday and Friday each week, starting April 14th and ending June 26th.

Times: 9am - 12pm

Registration: Registration will take place on-site on April 14th and April 17th.

Childcare: Please note that there are no childcare facilities available; please ensure you have made your own arrangements for your children during class time.

To register your interest, please email Linda.Gray@croydon.gov.uk directly.

We look forward to seeing many of you there as we continue this successful programme!



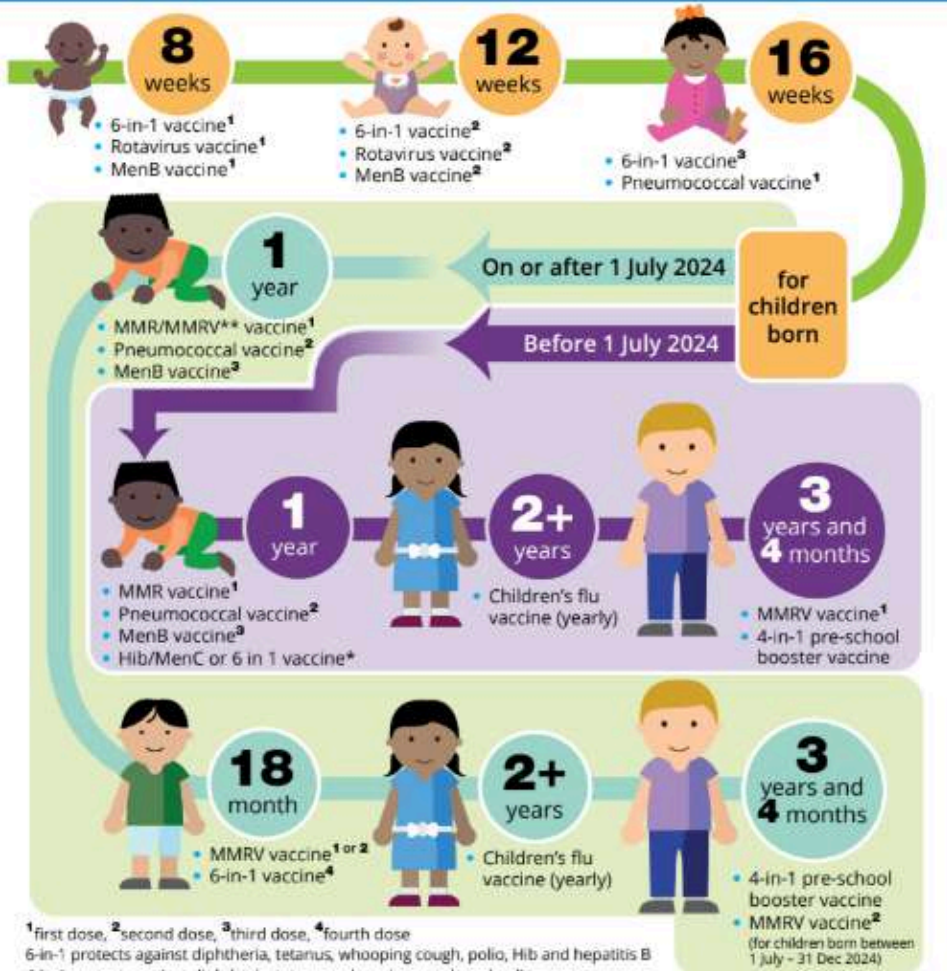
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UK Health Security Agency



Your child's vaccine schedule



¹ first dose, ² second dose, ³ third dose, ⁴ fourth dose
6-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib and hepatitis B
4-in-1 protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio
First dose of rotavirus vaccine must be given before 15 weeks of age and second dose must be given before 24 weeks of age
*Vaccine given will depend on vaccine availability. ** Vaccine given will depend on child's date of birth.

Follow your child's vaccine schedule to protect them against illnesses

Stick this timeline up as a useful reminder

Following your child's vaccination schedule is vital as the timing is specifically engineered to protect their developing immune system when it is most vulnerable.

By following the recommended timeline, you ensure your child doesn't face a "vulnerability gap" where they are left unprotected against serious, preventable diseases.

For more information please visit the following website: [NHS vaccinations and when to have them](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them)