



## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

27th March 2026

This week has been a vibrant whirlwind of Easter fun and community spirit across the school! A huge well done to all our pupils for the incredible effort put into their Easter Bonnets; the creativity on display was truly spectacular, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces showcasing their handiwork.



### **An Egg-citing Easter Movie Night!** 🐰🍿

The halls at Rosecourt Road were transformed into magical pop-up cinemas last night for our first Easter Movie Night! There was great excitement as the children gathered together, snuggled up with blankets and cushions to enjoy a special screening of the hilarious Easter classic, Hop. It was the perfect way to celebrate the upcoming spring break and the end of a busy term. Events like these are a fantastic reminder of the strong sense of belonging and community at West Thornton. A huge thank you to our amazing staff for organising such fantastic events for the children. The event raised over £400. We will work with our JLT and Eco Ambassadors to put this to good use!

Beyond the Easter celebrations, we are incredibly proud of the academic dedication shown by our pupils. We are so pleased with how hard all the children have worked throughout this half term. This commitment has resulted in some brilliant final outcomes for their topics, with many classes producing high-quality work that demonstrates deep learning and real progress.



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As we close the doors for the break, we want to wish our entire school community a sunny and restful half-term break. After such a busy and productive few weeks, we hope you all find the time to relax, enjoy the (hopefully!) warmer weather, and recharge. Whether you are staying local or traveling further afield, we hope your break is filled with joy and relaxation.

We are already excited for what the next term has in store! We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on **Monday, April 13th**. Please ensure that children return refreshed and ready for another term of discovery and achievement.

### Attendance

Well done to all these classes with attendance over 97%

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

In the writing area the children have been enthusiastically writing Easter cards for their friends and families. They have been applying their phonics knowledge to sound out words and write their messages independently. While creating their cards, they have also been practicing important writing skills, such as using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops to complete their sentences. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and growing confidence in their independent writing!



This week in Maths, the children have been busy revisiting their learning on 3D shapes, identifying them in everyday objects and exploring their properties. They also developed their sorting skills by grouping objects based on different attributes such as colour, size, and shape. Towards the end of the week, the children explored odd and even numbers, linking their understanding to doubles and recognising patterns.

The children explored day and night, learning about the Sun, the Moon and how the Earth spins. They listened to a story about nighttime, discussed feelings and identified animals that come out at night. The children also





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explored sounds heard during the day and night and were introduced to the word “nocturnal,” learning about animals that are active at night.

In curriculum, the reception children continued exploring different religions and their celebrations. This week, they learned about Easter and its significance. They had the exciting opportunity to have an egg hunt, taste hot cross buns and even make their own rice crispy cakes!



### Year One

In English, our young authors stepped into the shoes of Syd from our class book, Grandad's Island. The children worked hard to independently write diary entries that captured Syd's feelings about his big adventure. We were so impressed by their use of first-person perspective and the descriptive vocabulary they used to explain the sights and sounds of the jungle.

Our mathematical focus has been on building number sense by mastering counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s. The children have been putting these skills to the test by creating arrays using neat rows and columns to help them understand the foundations of multiplication.

We have also become nature detectives in Science. The children explored the school grounds looking for signs of spring and discussed how the changing season affects both humans and animals. We talked about why we might start wearing lighter coats and looked for signs of life such as bird nests and insects waking up.

Design Technology lessons were full of excitement as the children created their own moving pictures. They experimented with a variety of mechanisms, including sliders and levers, to make their characters pop up and move across the page.



Finally, to deepen our understanding of the Easter story in RE, we took a lovely trip to our local church. The children were very respectful and curious throughout the visit, asking brilliant questions about how Christians celebrate Easter and what the different symbols in the church represent.



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### Year Two



Learning was brought to life this week as the children transformed into wildlife reporters! Using their firsthand experiences from London Zoo, they have been crafting engaging non-chronological reports. The classroom has been buzzing with facts as the students described where their animals live, what they eat, and what they look like, all while focusing on making their writing "pop" for the reader. These impressive outcomes have now been brought together to create a beautiful corridor display.

In Maths, the focus has shifted to the concepts of volume and capacity. The children have been exploring how much a container can hold and developing their skills in measuring accurately using standard units.



In Design and Technology, the children have been adding the final touches to their handmade puppets. To wrap up the project, they spent time, reflecting on what worked well and how they might improve their designs in the future.

In Science, we have been shrinking our perspective to explore the fascinating world of microhabitats. The children have been discovering how tiny ecosystems, like the space under a damp log or a cluster of fallen leaves, provide the perfect conditions for specific minibeasts to thrive.

### Year Three

As this term comes to an end it has been another busy week in year 3! In English, the children have completed their innovative narrative of our core text 'The Stone Age Boy' and worked really hard to include lots of the language devices they have been taught to use over the course of the term, including adverbs, repetition, conjunctions and adverbials.

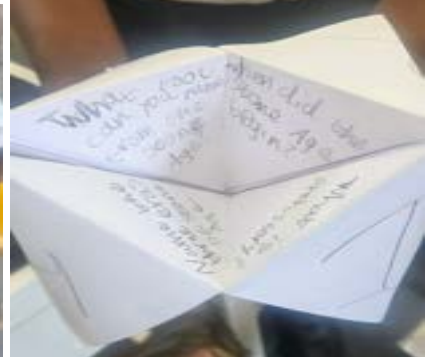
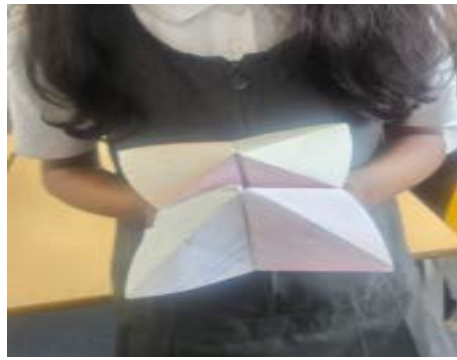
In Maths this week, we continued our exploration of measurement. We started the week by revisiting mass, focusing on comparing different masses and learning how to add and subtract them. Building on this, we then moved on to explore volume and capacity. We discussed how we use these units in our everyday lives, from measuring liquids for cooking and baking to understanding the capacity of containers. The children engaged in practical activities, measuring liquids and estimating capacities, which helped them to develop a real-world understanding of these important mathematical concepts.



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In history, the children showed how much information they have absorbed about The Stone Age by creating a 'chatterbox' to use with their friends at home. The children thought of their own questions and used these to test each other on their knowledge!



### Year Four

It has been an incredibly productive week for Year 4. In English as they finalised their innovative explanation texts on Ancient Greek life. Exploring the fascinating worlds of dietary habits and medical practices, the children skillfully integrated figurative language—including similes and hyperboles—alongside thought-provoking rhetorical questions. Their writing demonstrated a sophisticated grasp of grammar through the use of fronted adverbials and complex sentences. Furthermore, each piece was professionally presented with authentic explanation features such as clear sub-headings, detailed illustrations, and informative captions.

In maths, the children continued their learning on decimals. They learnt what a tenth was and how to count in tenths. They used a numberline and place value chart to support them with their learning. Later on in the week, they learnt how to divide a 1 digit number by 10 and also how to divide a two digit number by 10. Children applied their knowledge of these skills to solving reasoning questions and answering true or false statements.

To conclude a busy term, Year 4 have been enthusiastically completing their architectural models of the Parthenon. Beginning with a sturdy cardboard foundation, the children progressed to the intricate task of designing and attaching the frieze. This project required exceptional collaboration and technical skill to ensure structural stability. In RE, the children reflected on their 'Learning Journey,' comparing how various religions mark significant celebrations. Finally, in Geography, pupils applied their term-long knowledge to a detailed double-page spread, expertly answering the big question: 'How does Greece differ from the UK?'

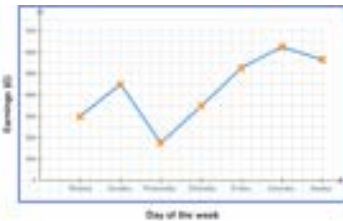




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### Year Five



What an incredible week it has been in Year 5! From diving deep into data to exploring powerful personal narratives and enjoying live performance, the children have shown immense focus and empathy.

In Reading, we have journeyed further into the snowy wilderness of 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. The children have fully embraced our new close-reading symbols to annotate the text and have been using Kagan structures to share their insights collaboratively.

In our writing, the classroom has been filled with thoughtful reflection. Using their detailed plans, the children have been writing monologues from the perspective of an autistic child navigating a crowded, overwhelming environment where they feel misunderstood. To make their writing truly resonate, they have been weaving in sophisticated literary devices: Relative clauses (using *who*, *which*, *where*) to add essential detail. Similes to paint a vivid picture of sensory struggles and emotions. Rhetorical questions, repetition, and the "Power of Three" to ensure their message lands with maximum impact.



In History, we explored the incredible legacy of the Windrush generation. We examined their migration journeys and discussed the profound impact their culture and cuisine have had on the UK. It was a moving look at how these pioneers helped shape the vibrant, multicultural society we live in today.

A huge highlight of our week was a visit to The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy to watch their production of *Othello*. The children were a fantastic audience and were blown away by the talent of the older students. While Shakespeare can be serious, the performers included plenty of comedy that had Year 5 in stitches! The children were particularly impressed by the confidence of the actors—and, of course, the snacks provided were an extra bonus that made the trip even more memorable.



- Ask your child which character was their favorite and why they found the comedic scenes so funny!



### Year Six

Year 6 are once again very busy with learning of all shapes and sizes across both sites. In writing, they have enjoyed putting their finishing touches to their writing on the animation 'Alma'. Children wrote their own endings and we were extremely impressed with their creativity and how they have developed their own authors' voices. Their writing was filled with suspense and mystery and children used a range of skills such as punctuation, show not tell and varied sentence structures alongside other skills which they have practised throughout year 6.



In maths, year 6 have been very busy indeed! Daily arithmetic has really supported children to develop their confidence when answering a range of questions on different topics; it has been impressive seeing children's focus and determination to practise every single day. In maths lessons, a range of topics have been covered and children have been able to apply previous learning to support them with topics such as coordinates, bar and line graphs, timetables and algebra.

In reading lessons, we have been working hard to practise more reading skills such as inference and retrieval using a range of texts. It has been great seeing the children apply their reading strategies with consistency and accuracy.

### Phrases of the Week



**¡Felices Pascuas a todos!** - Happy Easter everyone!

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Emmanuel	Jashvini	Irene	Solomon
Roman	Rhea	Amolpreet	Muhammed Taha



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Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Kulture	Whole class	Whole Class	Meena	
Zeyne			Hiyan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole	Liam	Musa	Athwin	
Class	Aysha	Patricia	Maya	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
whole	Whole	David	Skyler	
class	class	Serwaa	Manvay	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Musa	Ishani	Whole	Joshua	whole
Adil	Kylie-shae	Class	Serena	class
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Ava	Micah	Safa	Yathusha	Thakshan
Aiden	Samuela	Hasan	Chinmay	Savio
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nirbhik	Arianna	Caitlin	Denephia	Diaa
Isabella	Levi	Karvinie	Parthan	Pirateesh



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### Community



The newly refurbished, dinosaur-themed destination playground at Crystal Palace Park is officially open. If you are looking for a fantastic way to keep the children entertained and burn off some energy, this is an incredible new addition to our local area.



How to Get There

Crystal Palace Park is highly

accessible, whether you prefer to drive or use public transport.

#### **Rosecourt Road Site MHST**

In Summer term we have a Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Education Mental Health Practitioner starting work at our Rosecourt Road site.

Our Practitioner - Ameen - will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 16th April 8:45am to launch the service and tell you more about the kind of support that can be offered to families. Please come along!

#### **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\*\*](mailto:Linda.Gray@croydon.gov.uk)

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



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# KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

## BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club



WEST THORNTON  
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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



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