



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

17th April 2026

We are delighted to welcome the children back for the start of the summer term, which promises to be an exciting and productive time for our school community.

As we enjoy the appearance of warm weather, I would like to remind all parents to ensure that school uniform items are named. It's also essential for children to bring a water bottle and hat to stay hydrated and protected from the sun during outdoor activities. Please put a long-lasting sunscreen on your children in the morning before school.

As we embark on this term, we wish to highlight the significance of attendance and punctuality for both parents and pupils. Consistent attendance and timely arrival are fundamental for academic achievement and lay the groundwork for lifelong habits that serve pupils well.

This week, we introduce our new summer lunch menu. We would like to remind you that opting for a school lunch can be a helpful choice in managing living expenses.

We hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Half Term Value

Our value this half term is **COLLABORATION**

'the action of working with someone to produce something'

Collaboration is not just about working together, but also celebrating together. When we collaborate, every success is shared. Let's celebrate our collective achievements, big and small, and remember that every success is greater when it's achieved as a team.





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Road Safety Reminder

Our roads are incredibly busy during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. Please can we ask parents driving around the local area to be mindful of their driving speeds, particularly around streets neighbouring our school. Let's work together to keep our neighborhood a calm and safe environment for our pupils, parents and pedestrians.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class

CR - Year 6 Holly Class

RR - Reception Oak Class

RR - Year 1 Maple Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 6 Blackthorn Class

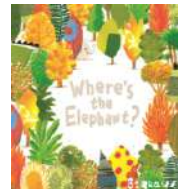
RR - Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

RR - Year 6 Juniper Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been a wonderful start to the Summer term! The children have returned to school full of energy and enthusiasm, ready to begin our exciting new topic all about animals and their habitats. Our focus book this week is *Where's the Elephant?*, which is helping the children explore a range of animals and learn about the environments they live in.



As part of our learning, the children are exploring what humans, animals and plants need to survive. This includes looking at healthy eating, ways to keep our bodies healthy, the different parts of a plant, what plants need to grow, and understanding the plant life cycle.

In Literacy, we are practising the final set of capital letters (W, X, Y, Z) and revisiting the full alphabet. The children are also beginning to write simple sentences using Phase 3 sounds (ai, ee, igh, oa). We are encouraging them to remember capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in their writing.



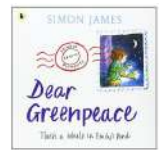
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This week, the children will continue developing their counting skills, focusing on finding “how many” and understanding that the last number counted represents the total. They will practise counting sequences, including missing numbers and counting beyond 20. The children will also build confidence using different strategies, including counting on and counting larger groups through practical activities.

Year One

This week the children came back excited and ready to immerse in our new core text 'Dear Greenpeace.' The children have been learning about who Greenpeace is and what work they do for our planet to support our new global theme 'Sustainable development'. The children have also been identifying the features of a letter and about proper nouns.



In maths this week, the children have been learning about sharing and making equal groups. They began their learning journey by practically sharing cubes to see how numbers can be shared equally. They then continued to make equal groups. They ended the week by finding half of an object or a shape.

In Science, the children have started learning all about plants. This week they labelled the different features of a plant and then wrote about their functions. In RE the children have been learning about celebrations and what they celebrate with their families.

Year Two



This week the children have enjoyed being immersed into our new core text 'Coming to England'. They really enjoyed finding out what was in a mysterious suitcase, predicting where the owner came from in the world based on the objects inside. They found some letters inside from some children from Trinidad and Tobago which link to our book because that's where our main characters are also from. At the end of the week they looked at a variety of letters to identify the important features.

In maths the children have been looking at money and have been using their knowledge on the value of notes and coins to make a given amount. They have also been exploring different ways to make the same amount.

In Geography this week the children have been revising the seven continents of the world and the 5 oceans. They were great at labelling these on a world map before moving on to new learning where they found out about the equator and the two poles. Over the next few weeks they will be



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finding out more about the equator and how it affects weather depending on how close the place is to the equator.

Year Three

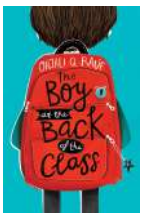


It has been a wonderful first week back after the half-term break. The children returned to school with fantastic energy and a real readiness to learn, which has made for a very productive few days. We dived straight into our new English unit, where we are exploring the world of **Playscripts**. To kick things off, the children were treated to a live performance of a mini-play (by their teachers), which served as a brilliant spark for their own creativity. The children had a chance to work in groups to rehearse and perform their own scenes, focusing on how to bring characters to life. We have also spent time meeting the different characters in our new core text, discussing their traits and characteristics.

In **Maths**, we have returned to our work on **Fractions**. The children have been incredibly focused as we tackled the challenge of adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. We spent time visualizing these problems using bar models to understand that while the "parts" (the numerator) change, the "whole" (the denominator) stays the same.

Our **History** lessons have taken us back thousands of years as we began our exciting new topic on the **Bronze Age**. We started by investigating exactly what bronze is—an alloy of copper and tin—and why its discovery was such a turning point for early civilizations. The children enjoyed exploring why bronze was so much more effective than the stone tools used previously and how it changed everything from farming and cooking to how people protected themselves.

Year Four



The children in Year 4 came back all refreshed after two weeks! With a lot of enthusiasm, they dived straight into their learning in English, which is based on 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. They have been reading about it, to understand what happens so that they can write a narrative in third person. They have already revisited their learning on how to form complex sentences and adverbials.

In maths, the children continued to learn about decimals and what happens to the value of the numbers when we divide a number by 100. They have used part-whole models and place value charts to help them aid with their learning. Generally the children in Year 4, need support in answering reasoning questions, so please support the children with this at home.



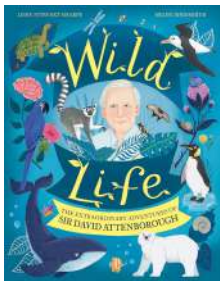


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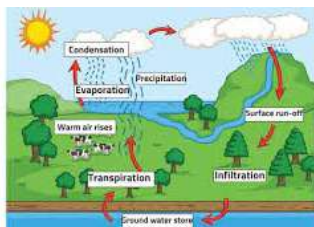
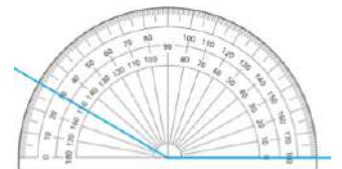
In the wider curriculum subjects, the children have revisited the topic of places of worship in RE. They explored why it was important for some people to go to their place of worship. They discussed how different places of worship welcomed people from all faiths. In science, the children learnt about the different types of teeth and their functions. They physically ate either a carrot or an apple and found out which teeth were used to bite and which ones were used to chew from.

Year Five



Year 5 has had a very productive first week for the children as they dived straight into their new learning with enthusiasm. In writing, the children have started exploring their new core text, a fascinating biography of Sir David Attenborough. Throughout the week, they have identified the key features of biographical writing and experimented with different ways to organise and structure their work clearly on the page. To ensure their writing flows smoothly, the children have been practicing writing consistently in the past tense and using a variety of fronted adverbials to show the passage of time and maintain a clear chronological order.

The excitement continued in our other subjects, where the children have shown great focus and curiosity. In maths, they have begun a new unit on geometry, learning how to identify and classify various types of angles, including acute, right, obtuse, and reflex angles. They have been sharpening their practical skills by using protractors to measure unknown angles accurately and applying their knowledge to solve tricky reasoning questions.



Meanwhile, in geography, the children have been exploring the water cycle and its significant impact on human geography. They have discussed how the movement of water across our planet can lead to life-altering events such as floods when there is too much rain, or famines when there is too little. It has been a wonderful first week back, and we are all looking forward to a fantastic term ahead.



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Year Six

Year 6 are back from their break and fully immersed in their SATs preparation! They have worked tirelessly this week on a busy (hopefully rewarding!) timetable. In English, the children have had a lot of fun designing their own 'space hotel' and have built up a bank of persuasive techniques to get you to travel there. We have used alliteration, assonance, hyperbole, modal and imperative verbs to convince the reader that eating freeze-dried ice cream is the best thing on Earth! Er, I mean...SPACE!

In maths, including extra sessions, we have covered the last elements of measures. The children have been unpicking the tricky parts of 'time', like reading analogue clocks or interpreting train timetables. We have also recapped on understanding mass and capacity in a problem-solving context.

Our time is heavily geared towards covering the final spelling strategies, tricky grammar elements, and answering reading comprehension questions with precision. It may not be the most exciting term, but it is the most important!

At home, please keep supporting the children with SATs revision and preparation for Week 5. Thank you!

Phrases of the Week



¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Laura	Zaviyar	Bennett	Saad	
Emmanuel	Riya	Bawanika	Yahya	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Malik	Akshara	Aiza	Lois	
Zainab	Abdullah	Dillon	Yuvaan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Ahana	Shiylo	Kyrie	Hitarth	
Lilith	Alicia	Patrica	Aaliyah	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Safiyah	Tesla	Aaron	Luna	
Szymon	Noah	Seth	Jayden	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Ikrah	Adonia	Emily	Melissa	Marianna
Hillel	Kiran	Aadia	Evan	Lucas
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Jarren	Hilmi	Laanika	Chinmay	Ella
Reily	Grace	Amelia	Oksanaa	Nathan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sujibha	Gabrielly	Meeran	Karshmi	Whole
Christopher	Nusaibah	Richard	Aayan	Class



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Community

Empowering Men Sessions

Starting next week, we are launching a dedicated space for fathers and male figures in our community to connect, share and grow. During this session, there is a chance to discuss unique challenges and rewards of fatherhood in an open and supportive environment. Also share insights and gain new perspectives on leading and supporting families and build a network with other local men within the school community.

Join us

When: Every Wednesday (starting next week)

Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Venue: Rosecourt Road

Who: All male parents and community members from Canterbury Road and Rosecourt Road are welcome.

Leading Parent Partnership Award

So far this year, joining the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) has helped to develop our links with the community. We will continue to strengthen the bridge between home and school. Our commitment to the LPPA has helped us to create groups and sessions to support our diverse community. CALAT's ESOL classes have been vital in breaking down language barriers. They have helped some of our parents to communicate more easily with other parents and staff as well as support their children's learning at home. Our Empowering Men and Women sessions have and will be a safe space for adults in the community to build their self-esteem, share experiences with others and create opportunities for us to support one another.

We look forward to working with the LPPA and other members of the community this term.

PTA

Thank you to parents who have expressed an interest in being more involved in our community events and activities to support children in our school. We have a couple of sessions this term for parents to come together with staff and create plans for the Summer Fair and other activities. More information about these sessions will be shared soon.



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CREATIVE WELLBEING PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN WITH EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

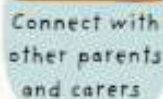
A 10-week after-school programme supporting children to improve wellbeing, emotional literacy and understanding of healthy relationships through fun, group-based, creative activities.

Dates: Tuesdays, 5 May-14 July 2026

Time: 4-5:15pm (5-7 year olds)

5:30-6:45pm (8-11 year olds)

Location: near South Croydon station



Connect with
other parents
and carers



Travel
support and
food
provided

This programme is for families that have been free from abuse for at least 1 month.



Scan the QR code or get in touch for more information

CreativeHealth@croydon.gov.uk

07356194605



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



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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 

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

 www.kgdoodles.co.uk
0117-3322-811