



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

# West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

**24th April 2026**

It has been another fun-filled week at West Thornton. Our Year 3 students took a step back in time for their fantastic Stone Age SPLATT workshop. These sessions were designed specifically for the children to immerse themselves in prehistoric life through drama. It was wonderful to see the pupils so engaged in their learning as they discovered the daily routines and survival skills of early humans. The hall was filled with a fantastic buzz of curiosity as the children enjoyed the immersive experience to deepen their understanding of this historical period.

We are proud to officially introduce our new team of Peer Mediators! These pupils have been selected for their calm and purposeful presence on the playground and are trained to help their peers resolve minor conflicts in a fair and positive way. The role of a Peer Mediator is essential in fostering a supportive school community, as they guide others to find their own solutions through listening and empathy. By empowering our pupils to take on this responsibility, we are ensuring that break times remain a happy and inclusive space for everyone.

## Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

Extra Well done to RR Year 1 Maple Class with 100% attendance

RR Reception Pine Class

RR Reception Oak Class

RR Year 2 Rowan Class

RR Year 2 Spruce Class

RR Year 3 Larch Class

RR Year 4 Beech Class

RR Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR Year 5 Cypress Class

RR Year 6 Blackthorn Class

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

RR Year 6 Juniper Class

CR Year 1 Elm Class

CR Year 2 Aspen Class

CR Year 3 Cherry Class

CR Year 3 Chestnut Class

CR Year 4 Olive Class

CR Year 5 Class

CR Year 6 Class



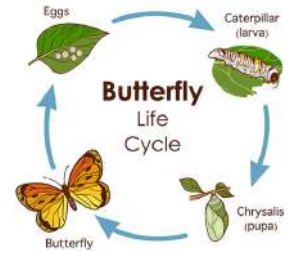
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### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

It has been a busy and "buzzing" week in Reception! Our classroom is currently full of excitement as we bring our curriculum learning to life with some very special guests. The children's imaginations have been captured by the wonderful world of pollinators. We have been learning all about how bees and butterflies play a vital role in our environment through pollination. To make this even more magical, we have welcomed real-life caterpillars into our classroom! The children have been fascinated watching them grow and change each day, which has sparked wonderful discussions about the different stages of the butterfly life cycle.



In our writing sessions, the children are becoming real pros at sentence construction. We have been focusing on consolidating our use of capital letters to start each sentence, ensuring our ideas are clear and structured. During handwriting, we have taken a "recap and refine" approach by practicing those tricky letters that sometimes trip us up. The children have been paying very close attention to letter size and making sure their writing sits neatly on the lines rather than floating away.

This week in Maths, we have been using our "fast eyes" to build our number fluency. We are moving beyond small groups to subitise larger numbers by noticing the patterns hidden within them. For example, the children are learning to recognize the number 6 instantly because they can see two groups of 3, and they know that 6 is made of 3 and 3. This is a fantastic way to develop a deeper understanding of how numbers are composed.

#### Year One

Year One has had a busy week in English. They have been applying their skills of writing letters to create their own letters to Greenpeace asking for advice to take care of a gorilla. They have included lots of features including conjunctions, adjectives and questions.

They have also enjoyed maths as they have been learning all about fractions. They began by recognising and making half of objects and shapes, then moved onto finding half of a quantity. At the end of the week they started to explore quarters.



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In History they reviewed our previous learning about past and present and they sorted objects and shared about how they knew when they were from. The children enjoyed learning about schools from the past including the kids of playground equipment that they played on and that the teachers used to write on chalkboard. In RE they learnt about the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr and made their own Eid cards.



## Year Two



It has been a great week for Year Two filled with loads of new learning! In English, the children have been practicing how to write a letter to their new found pen pal Floella who lives in Trinidad. The kids discussed and wrote about what interesting things they could include about themselves within the letter that they would love to tell Floella!

In Maths, they have been continuing to learn about money and developing their knowledge of pounds and pence. It's been tricky but the kids have been really resilient on working out how to calculate different amounts of money and the value of pounds and pence. By deepening their knowledge of using different coins and notes, they're noticing how they can use their addition and subtraction skills to total different amounts.

Science this week has been exciting! The children learnt about germination which is the growth of a seed to a seedling. They practically put together and started their own experiment of planting a new seed. Now that they have started this they will be using a diary to record and make observations about the seed growth throughout the next upcoming days. I'm sure they will be looking forward to seeing the different stages of growth and recording what they see!





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### Year Three

It has been a busy and exciting week in year 3! In English the children have immersed themselves in learning the skills they need to be able to write a playscript. They have had fun practising dialogue between two characters from our core text - *Oliver Twist*. The children took their learning further by adding stage directions to their scripts and acting them out in small groups. Later in the week, the children were excited by a visit from the Splatt Theatre team, who captured the imagination of the children as they 'experienced' time travel to bring Smudge the cave woman to our school! Afterwards, the children were excited to make links between the acting and the stage directions.



In maths the children have continued their learning of fractions by discovering the differences between unit and non-unit fractions. They explored these using equipment including the dienes and place value counters. It hasn't stopped there! The children have used their multiplication and division skills to crack some tricky reasoning problems involving these fractions.



In the wider curriculum, children were hands on in DT. The children experimented with a range of basic stitches to support them in future weeks with their money purse project. In science, children continued to investigate the different parts of plants and their functions. During the lesson, children explored the requirements for plants to grow: water, air, soil, space and sunlight.

### Year Four

The children in Year 4 have continued to show great enthusiasm in their learning this week. In English, they have been writing their own narratives based on *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. They have worked hard to include a range of writing features such as ellipses, dashes, dialogue, adverbials and conjunctions to make their writing more engaging. It has been lovely to see the children applying these skills independently and bringing their ideas to life.

In maths, the children have now come to the end of their decimals unit, where they focused on comparing and ordering decimals. They have really enjoyed this unit and have engaged well with

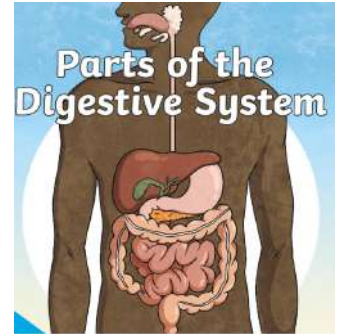


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their learning. It has been great to see their confidence grow, particularly when explaining their reasoning.

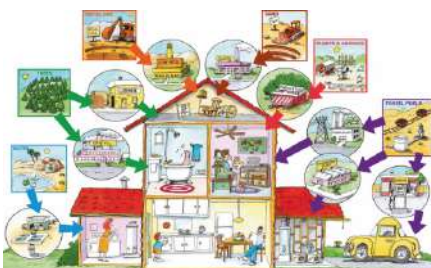
In DT, the children have begun a new topic on catapults, where they explored how levers are used to make things work. They learnt about how catapults were used in Roman times and investigated the forces involved, such as pushes and pulls. Working collaboratively, the children created simple catapult models using lolly sticks, which allowed them to explore how these mechanisms function.



In science, the children learnt about the process of digestion. They took part in a fun, hands-on experiment where they created a model of the digestive system using everyday materials. This helped them to understand how food moves through the body and how nutrients are absorbed. The children were able to identify and label key organs such as the mouth, oesophagus, stomach and intestines, and explain the stages of digestion with growing confidence.

### Year Five

This week, our Year 5 pupils have demonstrated impressive dedication to their studies, particularly within our English curriculum. The children have been busy refining their biographical writing by deconstructing and improving a model text. To elevate the quality of their prose, they have been experimenting with advanced grammatical structures, including fronted adverbials to improve sentence flow, and the use of parenthesis to embed additional detail. Furthermore, they have mastered the use of semicolons to connect closely related ideas, resulting in writing that is both sophisticated and professional in tone.



In Mathematics, the cohort has continued to develop their expertise in geometry with a deep dive into the properties of shapes and angles. The students have moved beyond basic measurements to learn the technical skills required to draw angles with high levels of precision. A significant portion of the week was dedicated to calculating unknown angles around a point (360 degrees) and along a straight line (180 degrees). To conclude the unit, the children successfully



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applied these geometric rules to complex reasoning problems, showing great tenacity in explaining their mathematical thinking.

Our Geography lessons have focused on the natural world, specifically the identification and importance of global resources. The children investigated how various materials are sourced and why they are essential for modern life. By exploring the distribution of these resources, the students gained a better understanding of the environmental and economic impact of how we use the Earth's treasures. It has been a pleasure to see the children engage so thoughtfully with these global issues, showing great maturity in their discussions.

### 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 descriptive pieces centered around a futuristic Space Hotel. Their writing was filled with descriptions of cosmic views and Space-age technology. Children used a range of skills—such as colons to introduce scrumptious menus and dashes for parenthesis to add divine detail—alongside the varied sentence structures they have practiced throughout Year 6.

In maths, Year 6 has 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 practice every single day in preparation for their SATs. In maths lessons, a range of reasoning topics have been covered and children have been able to apply previous learning to support them with complex challenges involving coordinates, volume, and multi-step money problems.



In our wider curriculum and wellbeing sessions, children spent time creating marvellous posters about how to relax and prepare for their SATs, focusing on rejuvenating sleep and refreshing breaks. It has been great seeing the children apply these self-care strategies with consistency and maturity, ensuring they feel capable and luxurious in their learning environment.





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### Phrases of the Week



**¿Cómo estás?** - Estoy muy bien, gracias.

**How are you?** - I'm very well, thank you.

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Isa	Aharan	Charlie-Rae	Adam	
Amelia	Victoria	Nivaan	Uzayr	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Lorena	Afsan	Noah	Veeya	
Yuri	Doresha	Tiana	Ziyaan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Ariana	Israa	Alesia	Ayra	
Aaira	Alesha	Ayaan	Havishh	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Thishaan	Whole	Leksha	Param	
Jayden	Class	Amelia	Fatima	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Neel	Vihaan	Fatima	Asafe	Safiullah
Chanelle	Harish	Campion	Gessica	Elizabeth
				Afrah
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore



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Helna	Kyla-Shae	Ian	Luena	Sebastian
Joshua	El Hadj	Emily	Hazel	Aasiyah
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Nirbhik	Azna	Aneeqa	Marley	Dzani
Rhonnald	Aarush	Tanuj	Hosna	Rithika

## 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

**Time:** 2:00pm - 3:00pm

**Venue:** Rosecourt Road

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



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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

Ofsted CRB



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