



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

15th May 2026

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for the exceptional way they approached their SATs this week. Every student demonstrated remarkable focus, determination, and confidence, meeting each challenge with a positive and resilient attitude.

Beyond their hard work, it was a joy to see the support they offered one another during the week. This was truly heartwarming and a testament to their fantastic characters. Well done Year 6, you have been a credit to yourselves and our school!

As we look ahead, we have just one more week of school to go before we break for the May half-term holiday.

Break the Rules Day at Rosecourt Road

What a fantastic, rebellious, and high-energy day we have had at Rosecourt Road today! Our Break the Rules Day was a roaring success, and the school was buzzing with excitement from the moment the gates opened.

It isn't every day that we get to see our corridors filled with such vibrant, crazy hairstyles, and it was wonderful to see so many children expressing their personalities with colourful nail varnish and temporary tattoos.

The rule-breaking continued into the classrooms and the lunch hall, where the usual routines were turned upside down! Many children enjoyed a one-off unhealthy snack at break time and swapped their usual water for a bottle of squash! Perhaps the most popular rule to break was the chance to eat pudding before lunch. There were plenty of smiles (and sticky faces) as the usual order of things was reversed! In class, children were given the freedom to sit wherever they liked, leading to some brilliant collaborative work and a very different classroom dynamic.

Most importantly, while we were busy having fun and breaking the silly rules, we were doing it for a brilliant cause. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we raised over £1000! Once we have spoken to the children, we will decide how the money will be spent making our school even better. A massive thank you to our parents and carers for your support and donations, and to the children for showing that even when we are breaking the rules, our spirit of kindness and fun remains as strong as ever!



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Our pupils are given a powerful voice in what they read

We are giving our pupils the chance to choose the reading books that we will use in our curriculum.

As part of the National Year of Reading - a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people discover the joy of reading - this initiative will strengthen our children's love of reading.

On 5 May, we introduced the project to our pupils in assembly and each year group has now received copies of twelve carefully chosen, year-group appropriate books (you can see the full list [here](#)).

On 22 June, pupils will be asked to vote for their favourites. The vote count across all of Inspire Partnership's ten schools will result in the top six books for each year group being placed in our reading curriculum (we also call this our 'reading canon').

As Melissa Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive of Inspire Partnership, said, "The impact of discovering a book you love at an early age is huge. By giving pupils the opportunity to choose what they read, we are putting them at the heart of their learning. This sense of ownership drives engagement, builds confidence and helps children develop a lifelong love of reading."

Please do talk about this with your child to help them articulate what they like or don't like about any of the books on their year group's long list.

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

A special well done to RR Year 6 Blackthorn with 100% attendance

RR Reception Pine Class

RR Reception Oak Class

RR Year 1 Maple Class

CR Year 3 Cherry Class

CR Year 4 Olive Class

CR Year 5 Sycamore Class



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RR Year 2 Spruce Class

RR Year 3 Cedar Class

RR Year 4 Beech Class

RR Year 4 Acacia Class

RR Year 4 Yew Class

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

RR Year 6 Juniper Class

CR Year 6 Holly Class

CR Year 6 Acer Class

Making the Most of Our Final 10 Weeks

With only ten weeks remaining in the school year, we want to ensure every student finishes strong. We are making a collective "final push" to prioritise perfect attendance and punctuality.

Every day in the classroom counts toward your child's progress.

Not sure if they should come in? If your child has a **cold, cough, or sore throat**, please send them in. We can administer medication at school to help them through the day. If they have a high temperature or are truly too unwell to be in class, we will call you.

Thank you for your continued support in helping them arrive on time and ready to learn!

Curriculum Focus

Reception

In writing this week, the children have been extending captions into sentences using Phase 3 sounds and practising capital letters. They have written sentences linked to different topics before creating their own independently. In handwriting, the focus has been on letter size and placement, including practising descending letters such as g, j, p, q, and y.

This week in Reception, the children have been learning about the Arctic, recalling what it is like and why certain animals live there. We also introduced the text *Welcome* by Barroux. Using the pictures from the book, the children discussed what they could see and were introduced to the concept of climate change and its impact on Arctic animals. They explored images of animals affected by melting ice and used the sentence stems, "The Arctic has ..." and "It has ..."





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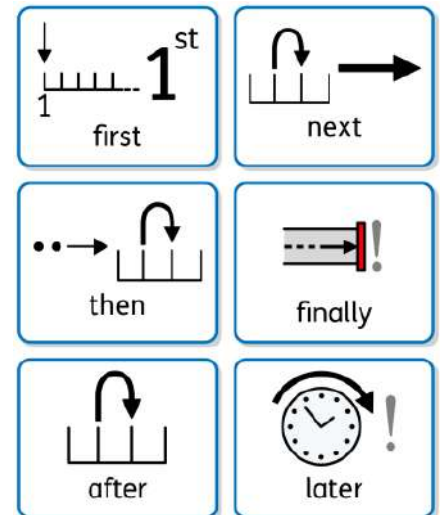
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This week in maths, the children have been learning about the position of numbers to 10 and how they relate to one another on a number track. They have been practising joining in with backward counting from 5 to 1, using mathematical language to describe positions on a number track and reasoning about where numbers belong. The children have also been exploring simple linear track games, learning how to describe and follow the rules while taking turns. In addition, they have been exploring shapes by composing and decomposing different 2D shapes and copying shape pictures using a variety of resources.

This week in curriculum, the children have been learning about butterflies and exploring the different stages of a butterfly's life cycle. They have been observing the caterpillars closely and identifying which stage they are currently at, as well as discussing what the next stage will be. The children are excited to watch the caterpillars build their cocoons and we are patiently waiting for the butterflies to emerge. They have also been learning how to care for the butterflies throughout this process.

Year One

It has been an incredibly busy and productive week for the Year 1 students as they delved into a variety of exciting subjects and hands-on projects. In English, the children have been diligently preparing to write their own formal set of instructions on how to plant a seed. To sharpen their skills, they practiced the art of instructional writing by documenting the steps needed to make a refreshing glass of squash. During this process, the pupils focused on incorporating specific linguistic features such as time adverbials to show sequence, authoritative imperative verbs, and descriptive adverbs to add detail to their work.



The focus in Mathematics shifted to place value up to 100. The children spent the week building their confidence with larger numbers by counting both forwards and backwards. They also explored the composition of numbers through partitioning and practiced identifying specific values by placing them accurately on a number line.





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Creativity was on full display in DT. Following their initial design plans, the students worked collaboratively in groups to master the skill of weaving. They experimented with a diverse range of materials, learning how different textures and strengths can be combined to create a cohesive woven piece.



In Science, the budding botanists turned their attention to the natural world. The class spent time investigating the differences between flowering and non-flowering plants. They developed their scientific inquiry skills by learning exactly how to classify various species based on their physical characteristics.



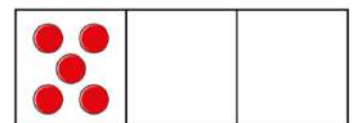
History lessons took a local turn this week as the children explored their own community. They spent time identifying and comparing famous Croydon landmarks, looking at how these significant sites appeared in the past versus how they look in the present day.

Finally, in RE, the children expanded their cultural and religious understanding by exploring Jewish celebrations. They learned about the traditions and stories behind festivals such as Hanukkah and Purim, discussing the significance of these events within the Jewish faith.

Year Two

This week has been an exciting one for the children as they made their headdresses in DT. The children had previously planned what they wanted their headdress to look like using our criteria of colourful, eye-catching and lightweight. They were so engaged and enthusiastic when applying their joining and strengthening techniques to create their headdress using feathers, sequins, glitter and other materials.

In maths the children have continued their fractions journey and have been using their knowledge to find a whole using images to help them. They were great at finding links to their timetables to help them solve these problems. Once they had mastered this, they moved onto recognising unit and non-unit fractions.





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In English, the children have been using their understanding of the main features of instructions to write instructions for how to make a puppet (using their knowledge from DT last half term). They ensured that they included time adverbials, imperative verbs and precise nouns.

Year Three

Our classrooms turned into boardrooms this week as the children kicked off our new English unit with a "Dragons' Den" style hook lesson. The children were challenged to take random, everyday items and pitch them to us with the goal of making a "sale." This high-energy start led perfectly into our new focus on **Adverts**. We have begun exploring the persuasive skills needed to grab a reader's attention, looking closely at how slogans, rhetorical questions, and "bossy" imperative verbs can be used to convince an audience. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they learn the secrets behind successful advertising!

In Maths, we have continued our journey through the concept of **Time**. This week, we moved beyond the clock face to look at the bigger picture: days, months, and years. The children have been learning the specific lengths of each month—using the "knuckle trick" to remember which have 31 days—and investigating the mystery of why February is the shortest month of the year. We have also explored leap years and practiced calculating durations of time across several weeks. Understanding how our calendar fits together is a tricky skill, but the children are becoming much more "time-savvy" every day.



Our DT lessons have been full of focus and fine motor skills as the children began sewing their own **money pouches**. After several weeks of planning and designing, it was time to bring their visions to life. We have been incredibly impressed by their creativity and the unique decorative features they have added to their



pouches. From bold color choices to intricate patterns, the designs are truly one-of-a-kind. While threading needles can be a challenge, the children showed great patience and resilience as they practiced their

running stitches and overstitching.



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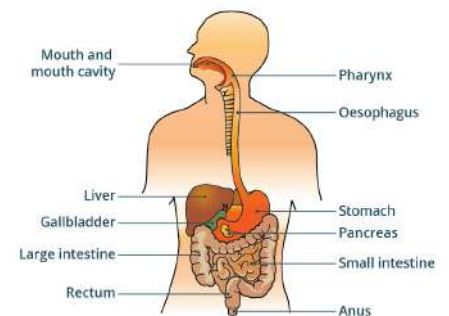
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Year Four

Year four children have persevered a lot with their biography writing on Queen Elizabeth II. They have used relative clauses and fronted adverbials really confidently. Also they used their prior knowledge on complex sentences. Next week the children will write their own innovative biography on a famous person. They really need to show off their skills on how to use relative clauses, fronted adverbials and rhetorical questions.

In maths, the children have started learning about time. They started this unit by looking at activities that took them a second (like clapping your hands once), a minute and an hour. They learnt the 12 hour clock and how to write the time from an analogue clock to a digital time. They then moved onto learning about the 24 hour clock. Please encourage your child to tell the time.

This week, our young scientists put their knowledge of the human body to the test. After learning the functions of the digestive organs, the children conducted a fascinating investigation: What would happen if an organ was removed? They debated the impact of losing the stomach and discussed how the rest of the body would struggle to cope. It was a brilliant way to see their understanding of biology in action!



In DT, the lollysticks, glue and rubber bands were out as we began constructing our own catapults. The children used their previous knowledge of forces and structures to ensure their designs were sturdy and functional. We are excited to see which ones will have the most power!

The children have been looking at the world around us through a Roman lens. The children explored how the Roman legacy still influences our lives today. They focused on several key areas: Agriculture and Architecture: from farming techniques to the design of our buildings. Numerals and Time: how we still see Roman numbers on clocks and in books. Latin and Law: understanding how their language and rules formed the basis of our modern society.

Year Five

This week in Year 5 English we have been working on writing our own voice overs videos and understanding the difference in tense and vocabulary choices. Students have been ensuring they use expanded noun phrases, personification, short sentences, prepositional language and different punctuation to set the mood.



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In maths this week we have been adding and subtracting numbers smaller than 1. Students have been able to use the part-part whole method to do this and are reading the information off a 100's grid. They are able to clearly identify the difference between the place value of tenths, hundredths and thousandths.



In Geography, we have learnt about the difference between reusable and non-reuseable natural resources and how these vary in different countries around the world. We learnt about the natural resources that different countries import and export and how this can influence international trade and geopolitics.

geopolitics.

In DT, the children have been busy designing and building their own working wind turbines using card, paper, and simple electric circuits. They learned about the importance of renewable energy and how wind power can be harnessed to produce electricity. The project involved careful measuring, cutting, and assembling of materials, as well as connecting basic electrical components to generate movement. Throughout the process, the children tested their turbines, identified problems, and made improvements to increase efficiency. This hands-on work not only brought their learning about energy sources to life but also encouraged teamwork, perseverance, and critical thinking.





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Year Six

Well, what can we say...IT'S OVEEEEEEEER! What a long and tiring term building up to this momentous occasion. All the children showed composure and a willingness to succeed in every test they faced. The progress for all the Year 6 children has been admirable over the year and this was their chance to show it off in action. They approached the tests responsibly and maturely, focussing on the task at hand. Well done everyone!

Whilst we have completed the SATs, we still have a determined attitude in Year 6 and now the learning continues in wider curriculum subjects and with the children's writing.

We are currently working on completing our leaflets on a unique hotel experience, from ice igloo palaces to serene jungle retreats! In addition to this, the children have been exposed to a range of new books for the classroom which are language-rich texts appealing to Year 6 pupils. They have 'tasted' the books and decided whether they should continue to 'indulge' or save it for later.

We will now be tackling areas of Light in science, looking forward to our exhilarating trip to Chessington and also introducing the children to their end-of-year production.

Congratulations Year 6!

Phrases of the Week



¡Enhorabuena a los alumnos de sexto año por haber completado vuestros exámenes! - Well done year 6 for completing your SATS!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Thackshan	Rhea	Basra	Beatrice	
Cairo	Moksha	Lennon	Karen	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Victoria	Dhanush	O'Brian	Ariana	
Zainab	Keonie	Thiyana	Daneya	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Haris	Reece	Mohammed	Jayce	
Eloise	Athalia	Asher	Harriet	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Harley	Thanusik	Nisha	Kiyara	
Sufiyaan	Ishaan	Aiden	Mustafa	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Anmol	Anamika	Aarayan	Evan	Mariya
Shaina	Riian	Rebecca	Mateo	Nitya
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Joanna	Aiden	Safa	Oksanaa	Eagan
Aiden	Anthony	Sharick	Yathusha	Adon
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Whole	Whole	Whole	Whole	Whole Class
Class	Class	Class	Class	



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Weekend & Weekly Activities



The Kids' Table (BOXPARK Croydon)

Free arts and crafts for kids on Sundays, starting 15 November 2026.



Saturday Storytime (Waterstones)

Weekly stories for under-5s, every Saturday.



Music Time (The Oval Tavern)

Sensory music sessions for ages 0-3 on Saturdays.



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Comic Club (Waterstones)

Weekly Saturday sessions for 6-12 year olds to create comics.



Capoeira Class (CYTO)

Brazilian martial arts for kids 5-12, Fridays.

Upcoming Events & Special Workshops



Little Lions 'Mini-Movers' (Royal Russell School)

Active, play-based session for 2-4 year olds on 15 May 2026.



Rhyme Time (The Story Sanctuary)

Weekly sing-along for babies/toddlers, Thursdays.



Windrush Community Family Day (Lloyd Park)

Cultural performances, crafts, and cricket, 20 June 2026.



Family Art Fun Day (Turf Projects)

Create sensory 'touch tiles' on 28 May 2026.



Sweet Adventures Workshop (Peppermint Children's Centre)

Baking/decorating for 5-16 year olds, 28 May 2026.



Peppa Pig's Big Family Show (Fairfield Halls)

Live performance, 21-22 August 2026.





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'CROYDON'S FAITH & CULTURE: A COMMUNITY GATHERING'

UNITY IN DIVERSITY: CROYDON COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

1

ISLAMIC EVENTS & COMMUNITY

Hyderi Islamic Centre
(Pioneer Place)

- Wiladat Imam Ali Naqi (as)
June 1, 8:15 PM – Majlis & Qasida
- Eid Ghadeer
June 4
- Shahadat Tiflan Hazrat Muslim (as)
June 9, 8:15 PM – Majlis by Sheikh Shabbar Mehdi
- Eid Mubahila
June 10, 8:15 PM – Majlis & Qasida

Croydon Mosque & Islamic Centre
(Whitehorse Rd)

Regular prayer services, Jummah, & community activities

Croydon Islamic Community Trust (ICT)
Community activities & Zakat Al-Fitr initiatives.
www.croydonmosque.com

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HINDU TEMPLE & CULTURAL EVENTS

ISKCON South London
(South Norwood)

- Weekly Programmes
Sunday Feast, Mangal Aarti, Kirtan, & Prasadam
- Children's Kirtan Festival
May 2, 2026

London Sri Mahalakshmi Temple
(near Croydon)

- Pournami Sri Satyanarayana Pooja
Regular monthly group poojas
- Sri Rudra Homam & Abhisegam
June 1, 2026
- Croydon Durga Mandir
Regular Satyanarayan puja & community gatherings
- Nandagovindam at Fairfield Halls
Indian classical dance, Nov 22, 2026
www.iskconsouthlondon.co.uk

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SIKH GURDWARA & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara
(Croydon)

- Weekly Services
Sukhmani Sahib (Wed/Sat),
Asa Di Vaar Kirtan (Sun)
- Walking Tour
Sikh History in Croydon:
East India Conservation Area
& Sikh history on Clyde Road.
www.culturecroydon.com

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CHRISTIAN & CHURCH EVENTS

Croydon Minster

- The Sixteen Choir
Sacred music, Spanish
Renaissance & contemporary
June 15, 2026
- Regular Worship
Weekly Sunday services at
local churches across
Croydon.

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GENERAL CULTURAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Croydon Carnival of Cultures
Annual event showcasing food,
religion, & culture in West Croydon.
TBC
- Croydon Art Collection Exhibition
May 16-17, 2026 at the
Whitgift Centre.
- Croydon Pride Presents
Tales of the Suburbs at
Braithwaite Halls
June 18, 2026
- London Mozart Players
Colors of Harmony at
Fairfield Halls
June 13, 2026





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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 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



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