



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

8th May 2026

We hope you all enjoyed the long bank holiday weekend! Despite the shorter four-day week, it has been wonderful to see how quickly the children settled back into their routines. It has been an incredibly positive and productive week across all classrooms, with a calm atmosphere and a fantastic focus on learning. It was also lovely to see the children making the most of the snippets of sunshine during break and lunchtimes, enjoying the brighter weather on the playground with their friends. Let's hope it sticks around.

As we head into next week, our school community shifts its focus to our Year 6 pupils as they begin their SATs week. Our children have been working incredibly hard over the past few months, showing resilience, focus, and a fantastic attitude toward their learning. We could not be more impressed with the progress they have made and the maturity they have shown.



We are all behind you, Year 6. Take a deep breath, do your best, and remember that you are more than a score. Good luck - you're going to be brilliant!

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

Special well done to RR Year 1 Maple Class with 100% attendance this week!

RR Year 2 Spruce Class

RR Year 3 Larch Class

RR Year 3 Cedar Class

RR Year 4 Acacia Class

RR Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR Year 5 Cypress Class

CR - Year 3 Cherry Class



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RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

RR Year 6 Juniper Class

Every Day Counts: Attendance & Punctuality

As we move further into the term, we want to take a moment to celebrate the vibrant energy our students bring to the classroom. To make sure every child gets the most out of their school experience, we'd like to kindly remind everyone about the importance of **punctuality and consistent attendance**.

Our Daily Schedule

- **8:30am: School gates open.** We encourage all children to arrive at this time to settle in. **Fresh breakfast toast is available** for students arriving at 8:30am to help them start the day fueled and ready!
- **8:40am:** School gates close. Lessons begin promptly.
- **8:45am onwards:** Students arriving after this time are marked as late and **must be signed in by an adult at the school office**.
- **3:15pm:** End of the school day and student collection promptly.

Why the Morning Window Matters

Arriving for "Toast and Transition" at 8:30am allows children to catch up with friends and start their morning with a **calm, focused mind**. Arriving after the gates have closed can feel rushed for a child and disrupts the vital learning that begins the moment the register is taken.

Every morning counts, and every day is a new opportunity for discovery! Thank you for your continued support in helping our students arrive ready to learn and for your punctuality at pick-up time.





Curriculum Focus

Reception

In Reception, the children have continued exploring different habitats, with a special focus on the ocean and the animals that live there. We introduced the story *Where's the Starfish?* by Barroux and used the illustrations to encourage the children to talk about and describe what they could see. This led to thoughtful discussions about water pollution and littering and the impact this can have on ocean animals and their habitats. The children shared some wonderful ideas about how we can help to keep our oceans clean and protect marine life.



In writing, the children are continuing to use their writer's toolkit when composing sentences, remembering to include capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. This week, the focus has been on writing longer words containing double letters and remembering to "chunk" words before writing them. We are so pleased with the growing confidence and independence the children are showing in their writing.

In maths, the children revisited the composition of the numbers 6–10 using the idea of "5 and a bit." They used this knowledge to solve problems involving the composition of 10 and are becoming increasingly confident in understanding how numbers 6–10 are made up.

Year One

It has been an incredibly productive time in Year 1, and the children have shown great enthusiasm across all their subjects. In English, the class delved into the world of instructions, exploring why clarity is so vital when explaining a task. They practiced giving verbal instructions on how to make a jam sandwich and carefully followed a written sequence to create their own claydough animals. To sharpen their writing skills, they identified the key features of instructional texts and practiced using imperative verbs to give clear commands in their sentences.





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This week the children have been learning about position and direction, with the children solving various challenges using vocabulary such as forward, backward, left, right, above, and below. Alongside this spatial awareness work, they have also been introduced to ordinal numbers, learning how to correctly sequence items and describe their order.

In science, the children have been investigating the natural world, specifically focusing on the fact that trees are a type of plant. They have been learning to distinguish between deciduous and evergreen trees, observing how different species change or remain the same throughout the seasons. This interest in the world around them extended into their history lessons, where the children have been looking at how the local area has changed over time. They have enjoyed discovering how their community has evolved and identifying what has remained the same.

Creativity and culture have also played a large role in the recent curriculum. In religious education, the children explored the festivals of Purim and Hanukkah, learning about the traditions and stories that make these occasions so important to Jewish people. Meanwhile, in design and technology, the children have been busy drafting creative ideas and patterns for a woven blanket, showing great imagination in their designs. It is wonderful to see the children making so many connections in their learning and growing in confidence every day.

Year Two

This week, our Year 2 writers transitioned from writing a letter to procedural writing. We focused heavily on the importance of time adverbials, our "signpost" words. The children learned that without words like First, Next, Then, After that, and Finally, a reader might get lost or perform steps in the wrong order! We practiced using these at the start of our sentences to create a clear, logical flow. To make our instructions effective, we introduced imperative verbs. The children learned how to give direct commands by using strong action words, such as: draw, cut, stick, glue and attach.

In Maths this week, the children continued to build on their foundational knowledge of fractions. Our primary focus was on recognising and finding one third ($\frac{1}{3}$). Through hands-on activities and the use of visual aids, the children gained a practical understanding of how a whole can be divided into three equal parts. They explored the concept that for a fraction to be a third, every portion must be exactly the same size. The children successfully demonstrated their ability to calculate these fractional amounts in two ways; Fractional Shapes: Identifying and shading $\frac{1}{3}$ of various geometric shapes. Fractional Quantities: Applying their sharing skills to find $\frac{1}{3}$ of a set of objects (for example, finding that one third of 12 cubes is 4).

In RE this week the children learned about how Muslims worship through the Five Pillars of Islam. We discussed how these five pillars act as a framework for a Muslim's life, guiding how they



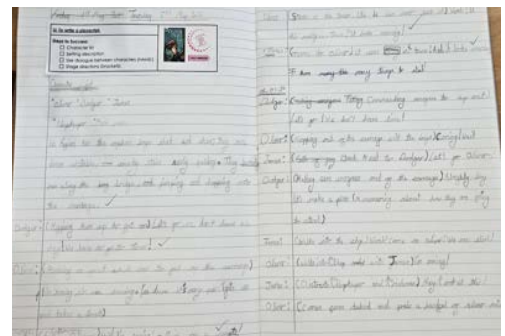
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worship and show their commitment to Allah. The children learned about each pillar and its unique significance.

Year Three

Year 3 have truly shone this week with their incredible effort across all subjects! In English, the children have been diving into the world of drama by selecting a scene from the play *Oliver Twist*. Taking on the roles of budding playwrights, they have thoughtfully adapted their chosen excerpt, adding their own creative twists. They've then expertly transformed these ideas into playscripts, carefully considering setting descriptions to bring the scene to life, listing their characters, adding helpful stage directions to guide the action, and crafting engaging dialogue for their characters to speak.



Maths this week has been all about Time. The children have been diligently learning to tell the time, focusing on minutes past the hour and how many minutes are left until the next hour. They still need lots of practice so please do encourage this at home, especially on analogue clocks!

Meanwhile, in Design and Technology, the creativity has been flowing as the children have continued their project on money pouches. Putting on their imaginative hats, they have designed some truly fantastic pouches, showcasing a wide range of innovative ideas. We have been so impressed with their thoughtful designs and are eagerly anticipating seeing their creations come to life next week during the making process.

Finally, stepping back in time in History, Year 3 have been fascinated to learn about the intricacies of trade during the Bronze Age. From discovering ancient trade routes to identifying the valuable items that were exchanged, the children have developed a deeper understanding of this significant period in history.

Year Four

In Year 4, we have had a busy and exciting four-day week following the Bank Holiday! In English, we kicked off our new "Community Heroes" theme by exploring the life of Queen Elizabeth II, discussing her dedication to service and her roles ranging from a mechanic in WWII to her 70-year reign. This links to our global theme of "Social Justice and Equity," which we are also exploring through our new reading book, *I Am Not a Label* by Cerrie Burnell. This wonderful book introduces



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us to the biographical stories of diverse individuals like Helen Keller and Stephen Hawking, focusing on their unique experiences and the spectrum of disability.

In History, we have been diving into the fascinating world of Roman engineering and inventions. We began the week with a "hook" in the form of a fictional letter from a Briton named Brennos, written in 44 AD, who described his amazement at the way the Romans were "forcing the land to obey them" with straight roads and stone bridges. The children then became researchers at various stations, matching historical problems to ingenious Roman solutions. They learned how the Romans solved the issue of freezing British winters with hypocaust underfloor heating and how aqueducts were used to bring clean water to massive bathhouses. Finally, we explored the lasting impact of these inventions by comparing life in Britain "before and after" the Roman arrival.



Year Five

This week in Year 5 English, pupils have been developing their skills in creating voice-overs for both scripted and unscripted videos. They have explored how tense and vocabulary choices can vary depending on the purpose and style of the piece. Alongside writing, the children have practised reading their work aloud, focusing on using a confident, clear, and expressive tone to engage their audience.

In maths, the class has been learning about the translation of coordinates and identifying lines of symmetry. Pupils have practised moving shapes accurately across a grid using specific instructions, as well as recognising and drawing lines of symmetry in a variety of shapes. They have been building their confidence in explaining their reasoning and applying these concepts to problem-solving tasks.



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In design and technology, the children have been working on designing and labelling their own wind turbines. They have explored different ways to present their ideas, including detailed sketches and exploded diagrams to show how parts fit together. Pupils have also been introduced to simple circuit diagrams, learning how to represent electrical components clearly and accurately as part of their designs.

Year Six

We can hardly believe it - SATs week is nearly here! We are so proud of how hard the children have worked this year, and we want to keep you informed about the week ahead and how you can support your child at home.

Please ensure your child arrives on time each day — we will provide a calm, relaxed start with breakfast or a snack to settle everyone in.

Top Tips for the Weekend Before

- ✓ Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and sleep.
- ✓ Keep revision light — short bursts or fun practice games can help.
- ✓ Encourage relaxation and fun to help ease nerves.
- ✓ Double-check that your child has a water bottle and any equipment they may need.
- ✓ Remind them how proud you are of their effort - SATs are just one part of their amazing journey!

A Final Message to Our Year 6s

We want every child to know that they are so much more than a test result. These tests help show what they've learned, but they don't measure their kindness, creativity, sense of humour, or all the wonderful things that make them unique. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

Phrases of the Week



¿Cómo te llamas? - What's your name?

Me llamo señora Fonseca. - My name is Mrs Fonseca.



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Sochikaima	Jashvini	Aliyah	Sochikamso	
Arham	Ziva	Kairon	Aleks	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Viron	Kayla	Amna	Reneil	
Nadia	Lemario	Arayah	Isaac	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Zohal	Alula	Mehrab	Khemyra	
Aaiza	Aysha	Musa	Erick	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Taraji	Tracey	Aryan	Jaxon	
Jansi	Tesla	Lizzia	Zina	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
AJ	Trevor	Praise	Whole class	Talha
Adriel	Isabella	Kirlore	Srishalini	
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Maitrey	Sophia	Daniel	Manal	Aminah
Subhan	Tamiah	Yashwanth	Virukshika	Lathixan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Taha	Swarnika	Kayan	Malaika	Whole class
Shravan	Arianna	Panth	Zayaan	



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Community

EMPOWERING MEN'S GROUP

Tired of navigating the journey alone? Join us at West Thornton for a dynamic collective of men dedicated to lifting each other up.



PEER MENTORSHIP

Learn from those who have walked the path before you.



NETWORKING

Connect with a diverse group of men from various backgrounds.



WORKSHOPS

Skill-building sessions for personal and professional growth.



ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

Support from another women to represent your rights, views, and interests especially through times of difficulty.

When: 29th April, 6th May, 13th May & 20th May

Where: Rosecourt Road site, main hall

Time: 2pm -3pm

WHEN WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER, INCREDIBLE THINGS HAPPEN



Empowering Men Sessions

We have recently launched 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 **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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