



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

1st May 2026

The sun is shining and we are sure you are looking forward to Bank Holiday Monday on 4th May! School again as usual on Tuesday 5th May. Rosecourt Road is a polling station on Thursday 7th May and will be closed to the majority of students. Year 6's will be coming in - please refer to information already sent about this.

This week our Reception Team had successful meetings with our local Nursery management teams. We are building closer relationships with our Nursery colleagues to improve transition for the children who join us.

Empowering Men sessions - a reminder that these are every Wednesday at 2pm at Rosecourt Road, led by Michael Hutton-Wood. Refreshments are provided. Please do come along!

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

RR Reception Pine Class

RR Year 1 Fir Class

RR Year 1 Maple Class

RR Year 2 Rowan Class

RR Year 2 Spruce Class

RR Year 3 Larch Class

RR Year 4 Acacia 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 3 Chestnut

CR Year 4 Hornbeam

CR Year 6 Acer

CR Year 6 Holly



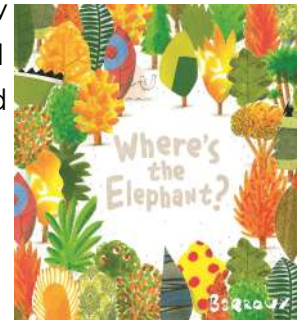
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Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been a thought-provoking week in Reception as we launched our new core text, 'Where's the Elephant?'. This beautiful book has allowed us to build on our prior knowledge of habitats while turning our focus specifically toward the wonders of the rainforest. To immerse ourselves in this new environment, the children have been listening closely to the immersive sounds of the rainforest and examining vibrant photographs to build their descriptive vocabulary. This led to some very important discussions about deforestation. We have been thinking deeply about the impact humans can have on the world and what happens to the animals when their forest homes begin to disappear. The children showed wonderful empathy as they discussed how we can look after our planet.



In Literacy, the children are working hard to become independent writers. We have been practicing our sentence writing by applying our phonic knowledge to segment and spell new words. We are also becoming much more confident in writing our "tricky words," such as we, go, me, and the. A big focus this week has been consistency; we are checking our work to ensure every sentence starts with a capital letter, uses clear finger spaces, and finishes with a full stop.

We have been building on our understanding of number composition this week by exploring how larger numbers are made. The children have been introduced to the "5 and a bit" method to help them compose and understand numbers from 6 to 10. For example, they are learning to see 7 as "5 and 2 more" or 8 as "5 and 3 more." This helps the children visualize the structure of numbers and provides a brilliant foundation for more complex addition later on.

Year One



We have had a fabulous week in year 1 ! In English this week, we have been writing an informal letter to a friend about Gorillas. This was inspired by the book we have read this half term 'Dear Greenpeace' by Simon James. The children have been looking at how to describe gorillas using adjectives. They have also been encouraged to use a wide range of punctuation, including question marks in their letters.

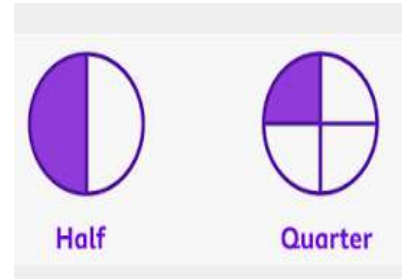


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In maths this week we have been learning how to make halves and quarters of a quantity. To do this we have been using many practical resources such as cubes and counters and sharing them on our halves and quartering mats. The children loved these lessons and it was a great introduction to understanding fractions.

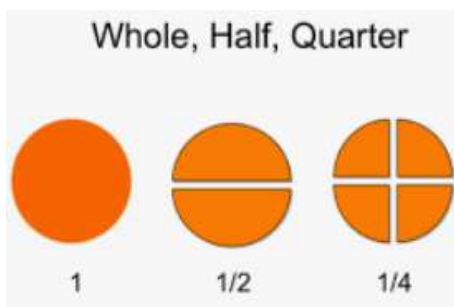
In history this week, we have looked at many of the structural changes that have taken place in Croydon since the year 1890. This was so interesting for the children because we learnt that the borough of Croydon today was so different many years ago! We learnt that more houses, travel routes and roads have been built in Croydon over time. This was mainly due to the expansion of the City of London.



Year Two



This week in English the children have been busy writing a letter to one of the characters from the autobiographical story 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. They were really engaged and did an amazing job, nailing all the must-haves for a good letter, like using first person pronouns 'I,' 'me' 'my', using present tense, and throwing in some thought-provoking questions. They ended up with super interesting letters, telling the character all about London, West Thornton Primary School, and a bit about themselves too.



This week in maths, the children delved into the foundational concept of fractions. They were formally introduced to the numerical representations of parts of a whole, focusing specifically on identifying and finding one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) and one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$). Through hands-on activities and visual aids, the children gained a practical understanding of how a whole can be divided into two or four equal parts, successfully demonstrating their ability to recognise and calculate these

basic fractional amounts of both shapes and quantities.



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Our young scientists truly blossomed as they put their horticulture skills to the test! The children were immersed in a practical investigation, tasked with the important job of designing and executing a fair test to determine the absolute best environment for a seed to germinate and grow successfully. This hands-on experiment encouraged them to think critically about the variables affecting plant growth such as sunlight and water, and how to control them to ensure a reliable outcome. They worked collaboratively, making predictions and carefully setting up their experiments.



as

Year Three



The children have dived head-first into the **Bronze Age**, specifically investigating the various types of equipment and tools used during this era. By exploring how these items were crafted and used, the children have gained a real insight into how technology advanced beyond the Stone Age. Alongside this, our DT sessions have focused on **money containers**, where the class researched the history of the wallet and how its design has evolved over the centuries to meet the needs of the time.

In science, the children have continued to explore plants, this week they investigated how water is transported through the stem. They have set up an experiment to see if they can turn some white roses red or blue using food



colouring and are excited to see the results!

In Maths, the children have been mastering the practical application of **money**. They have been busy performing complex calculations to find totals and honing their subtraction skills by working out exactly how much change is owed from various amounts. It has been fantastic to see them apply their mental and written methods to these real-world financial scenarios.

English has been a true highlight over the last three weeks, and the children are absolutely loving it! After immersing themselves in our core text, *Oliver Twist*, the class compared narratives, graphic novels, and playscripts to truly understand the traits of characters like Oliver and the Artful Dodger. Now, after three weeks of dedicated work, they are preparing to complete their **final playscripts**. We are so proud of their creativity and can't wait to publish their finished scripts on our fabulous display boards around the school for everyone to admire!



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Year Four



It has been an incredibly busy and productive week in Year 4, with the children showing fantastic dedication across all their subjects! In Maths, we have been mastering the world of money, learning to convert fluently between pounds and pence (£1 = 100p) while practicing creating various amounts and adding them together. Our young writers have also excelled by completing their innovated narratives; they worked hard to incorporate dialogue, adverbial phrases, and conjunctions to create sophisticated, complex sentences, resulting in some truly impressive final pieces. To top it off, we turned into scientists to explore the digestive system, specifically the vital role of saliva. Through a hands-on experiment crushing biscuits with and without water, the children saw firsthand how essential saliva is for breaking down food. It has been a wonderful week of learning, and the children should be very proud of their "amazing" efforts!

Year Five

This week in Year 5, the children have been engaged in a range of exciting and meaningful learning. In English, they explored the lives of influential naturalists such as Jane Goodall, Steve Irwin, and David Attenborough. After researching their chosen figure, the children used their findings to write their own biographies, focusing on key achievements and the impact these individuals have had on the world.

In Maths, we have been revising regular and irregular polygons, as well as developing our skills in plotting points on a grid using coordinates. The children have shown increasing confidence in applying this knowledge.

In Science and RSHE, we have been learning about the transition from childhood to adolescence, including the changes that occur during puberty. The children approached these topics with maturity and curiosity, showing a thoughtful interest in understanding how their bodies develop.



In DT, the children designed and built structures for their wind turbines, successfully applying their prior knowledge from last half term's work on structures.

Overall, it has been a productive and engaging week, and we are very proud of the children's efforts and attitudes to learning.



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Year Six

As year 6 approaches the final week before SATs, learning has been as fantastic as ever. Across both sites, children have been working hard on securing arithmetic skills, practising reasoning questions on all topics, refining their reading skills and perfecting their spelling grammar and punctuation.

It is a busy time for year 6 everywhere, but our children are taking the learning in their stride and showing us responsibility and integrity in everything they are doing.

We are so proud of everyone and we know that all the children are doing their very best.

Phrases of the Week



¡Que tengas un buen fin de semana festivo! - Have a great bank holiday weekend!



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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Jaaziha	Eliyanah	Usman	Isai	
Cruz	Zimal	Vasumathi	Lily	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Khavalli	Austin	Alita	Mia	
Victoria	Prethvi	Jeriah	Stan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Anaum	Favour	Pranitha	Anshika	
Chidera	Adriana	Esther	Athwin	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Arya	Ava. O	Yumna	Alice	
Kaliyah	Thanusik	Emilia	Hamza	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Anaya	Mia	Arayan	Praisejah	Rachel
Stari	Sia	Praise	Iyaaz	Joy
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Isiah	Joel	Salome	Yathusha	Layla
Nishtha	Hilmi	Arleen	Brianna	Nandini
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Zaina	Haya	Caitlin	Bliss	Zayne
Maja				



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Anaaya

Geneive

Nithusan

Areha

Skylar

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

CCGPS 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



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

* £12.50 applies for emergency sessions