



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

5th June 2026

We hope you had a lovely half term and enjoyed the heat and sunshine!

The school has been absolutely buzzing with excitement, creativity and some truly delicious aromas as we celebrated Food Week in Design and Technology.

As many of you may know, Design Technology is Mrs Callaghan's absolute favourite subject, so walking around the school this week has been a total joy! It is a subject that beautifully combines practical life skills, scientific understanding, and creative flair.

Our pupils have thrown themselves into their culinary projects with incredible enthusiasm and focus. Across the year groups, our young chefs have been busy peeling, chopping, kneading, and baking to create a fantastic array of dishes including beautifully decorated biscuits and perfectly baked, golden scones; fresh, vibrant fruit salads and healthy kebabs; traditional, rotis and freshly baked bread and savoury, custom-topped pizzas.

Seeing the children collaborate, follow complex recipes, and take such pride in their finished products is exactly what Design Technology is all about. A huge thank you to our staff for organising such a fantastic, hands-on week of learning, and to the children for showing such wonderful culinary skills. We hope some of these treats made it all the way home for you to taste!

Next week see's our annual Sport's Days take place. Event dates and timings can be found below:

| | Morning (9.15am start) | Afternoon (2.00pm start) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday 8th June | Reception (CR) | Reception (RR) |
| Tuesday 9th June | Year 5 and 6 | |
| Wednesday 10th June | Year 1 and 2 | |
| Thursday 11th June | Year 3 and 4 | |

We warmly invite you to come and support your children on these dates. This year, the event will again take place at **Archbishop Lanfranc Secondary School**.

***Reception** sports day will be held on the **West Thornton Rosecourt Road and Canterbury Road sites**.



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Sessions will consist of a variety of different sports and events. The Parents' Race will take place last at the Year 1 - 6 sessions, so bring your running trainers!! Fingers crossed the sun stays out and the rain stays away!

Missed our Culture Day Survey? We'd still love to hear from you!

A huge thank you to those parents who have already filled out the survey. Your feedback is incredibly important to us, so please use the link below to share your thoughts:

<https://forms.gle/N84WF9kkRP1x38by6>

Attendance

Well done to all these classes with Attendance over 97%

RR Year 2 Rowan Class

CR Year 5 Hawthorn Class

RR Year 4 Beech Class

CR Year 6 Acer Class

RR Year 4 Acacia Class

RR Year 4 Yew Class

RR Year 5 Silver Birch Class

RR Year 6 Eucalyptus Class

Every Day Counts: Attendance & Punctuality

We would like to kindly remind everyone about the importance of punctuality and consistent attendance.

Our Daily Timetable

- **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:** Whistle is blown and children are accompanied into school for lessons to begin promptly.
- **8:45am onwards:** Pupils 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 pupils should be collected 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.



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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



This week in Reception, the children had a very exciting start! They were visited by Ranger Stu to recap their learning on the rainforest and animals from last half term. They met different exotic animals, such as a tarantula, a python and even an armadillo!



The children have also listened to their new core text 'Michael Recycle'. They have learnt about what to do with litter and how litter should go into the bins. The children even took part in a litter pick of the playground to ensure that their school environment was tidy.



In maths this week the children have been learning how to use a new counting tool called a 'Rekenrek'. They have been using their subitising skills to move different amount of beads. They have been using sentence stems such as '7 is made of 5 and 2... 2 and 5 make 7.'

In writing this week, the children have continued practising writing sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They have used the tricky words 'has' and 'the' to write their sentences and have used a range of digraphs.



As part of their week, they have also taken part in DT food week where they have tasted different biscuits and even made and designed their own!





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Year One

This week, everyone has come back with big smiles on their faces and a wonderful, ready-to-learn attitude! It has been fantastic to welcome the children back and see them dive straight into their new topics with so much energy and curiosity.

In English, the children have been investigating the impact of pollution in the local area. To support this, they read their new core text, 'Someone Swallowed Stanley', and had some incredibly thoughtful discussions about the importance of looking after our planet. This work beautifully links to our wider global theme of Sustainable Development. The children also discovered what a fact file is and worked hard to identify all of its key features, which they will be using in their own writing soon.



Over in maths, the children have started a very practical new topic: money! They began the week by identifying different coins and learning all about their values. To put their new skills to the test, they have been practising counting up coins and even role-played using them to "buy" items in our classroom shops. It has been brilliant to see their confidence with money grow day by day.

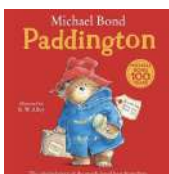


The absolute highlight of the week was undoubtedly our Design and Technology (DT) project. The children became food scientists as they researched, tasted, and designed their very own fruit salads. Alongside preparing the fruit, they explored different types of packaging and designed eye-catching logos for their products. The week ended on a delicious high as the children made, evaluated, and finally got to taste their wonderful creations!



Year Two

It has been an exciting first week back for our Year 2 children and they have thoroughly enjoyed our Design Technology food week. This has linked to our geography work from the last half term on Trinidad and Tobago because we were back in the Caribbean learning all about the foods you would eat there. The children did some investigating on the types and flavours of food you would find before taking part in some food tasting of plantain chips, spiced bun, sweet potato mash and roti. They then found out more about how to make roti before designing, planning and cooking their own.



In English the children have been immersed into our new core text 'Paddington'. They have enjoyed reading the story and finding out about the characters. They



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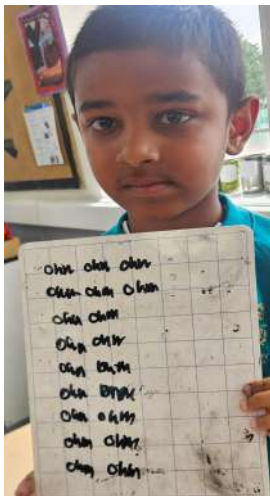
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have been using adjectives, similes and expanded noun phrases to describe Paddington's appearance and personality. They have been fantastic at checking their punctuation to make sure they have a comma in between two adjectives.

In Maths, the children have started their time unit. They began the week by revising how to tell the time to o'clock and half past which they learnt in Year One before moving on to quarter past and quarter to. Once they had mastered this they moved onto beginning to tell the time past the hour (e.g. 5 past, 10 past etc). Throughout the week they have solved a range of reasoning and problem solving questions to show their understanding.

Year Three

Wow, what a fantastic start Year 3 has had to the final half term of the year! It's been a busy and exciting week, full of brilliant learning!



In Maths, the children have finished learning time and this week carried out a range of practical activities to measure seconds and minutes, these included building towers of 10, writing their names and star jumps all within a minute. We started our topic of angles and shape. The children spent this week identifying acute, obtuse and right angles. They also were able to explain what an angle is and identify them within objects in the classroom.

In English, the children have begun a new core text, 'The Invisible'. It is a story about a girl who feels invisible but then finds a way to make her local environment better. Inspired by the events in the book the children planted seeds into tin cans and placed them around the classroom! The children have also begun to explore diary writing and in another task they wrote a diary entry which was sealed and will be delivered to their new teachers to

open in June 2027!



Our Design and Technology (DT) lessons were extra tasty as we enjoyed a special Food Week! The children kicked things off by travelling back in time to discover what Victorians ate. They were really surprised by some of the interesting food choices from the past! Then came the delicious part – a scone taste test! Everyone got to try different types of scones to find their favourite before designing and making their very own.





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Year Four

What an amazing week it has been for the Year 4 children this week!

In English, the children immersed into their core text 'The Goldfish Boy' by going outside into the playground and really imagining what people would see through the windows of the terraced houses around the school. This was so that they could understand more about what Matthew - the main character - from the book was doing everyday. They then looked at features of a good narrative. Later on in the week, they learnt how to punctuate direct speech and also how to use show not tell not tell in their writing.

Our young mathematicians kicked off the week by diving into geometry, learning how to identify and name acute, obtuse, and right angles. They even used handy "angle markers" (made from post-it notes) to compare different sizes, before mastering the unique properties of each angle type.



Meanwhile, Design Technology took a delicious turn for DT Food Week! Drawing inspiration from our history topics, the children loved recalling ancient Greek cuisine to help them design their own vegetable kebabs. They carefully planned their ingredients, equipment, and step-by-step methods before



getting stuck into the kitchen. There was fantastic focus on display as they chopped vegetables and threaded them onto skewers. Naturally, the absolute highlight was tasting their culinary creations and evaluating how they tasted!

Year Five

What a fantastic first week back we have had as we jump straight into the final term of Year 5! The children have returned with enthusiasm, ready to tackle new and exciting topics.

In English, we have started to immerse ourselves into the dystopian genre, looking at our core text 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick. The children were encapsulated by the hook lesson exploring what a dystopian world may look like and what emotions they would feel if they were left all alone to survive on a disappearing land.





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In Maths, children have been looking at decimals and how to sequence them from smallest to largest and back again. They have also revisited multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and have made good use of their prior knowledge of place value to work out the answers efficiently.



For DT food week, children loved creating pictures of their own pizzas using all sorts of toppings... some even added chips and chocolate as a favourite! They had a lot of fun making their pizzas and no doubt eating them!

In History, children have started to look at the Anglo-Saxon era and had some fabulous discussions about who they were, where they came from and why, and what they did for Britain.

Year Six

We have had an incredibly busy and productive week, diving into everything from historical trade routes to culinary creations and real-world math skills. In history, we took a deep dive into the Islamic Golden Age, exploring just how advanced this civilization was compared to Europe during the same period. The children were fascinated to learn about the incredible breakthroughs in science, medicine, and mathematics that came out of Baghdad's famous House of Wisdom.

To expand on this, we also explored the Silk Road, learning how this massive network of ancient trade routes allowed for the exchange of not just goods like silk and paper, but also ideas, culture, and technology across continents.

Linking beautifully with our history topic, this week was DT Food Week! The children became

bakers and chefs, learning the science behind making traditional pita bread from scratch. To accompany their freshly baked bread, they designed and created their own custom dips, carefully selecting and blending spices that would have been traded along the Silk Road during the Islamic Golden Age. The classrooms smelled absolutely incredible, and the final results were delicious!



In math, we stepped away from traditional abstract equations and focused on essential life skills by starting our unit on financial literacy. The children have been learning about budgeting, understanding the difference between "wants" and "needs," and exploring how money works in the real world. They showed great maturity during our discussions on bank accounts, savings, and making smart financial choices.



Reading

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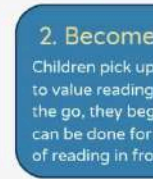
Tips For Parents

5 ways to encourage reading at home



1. Let your child choose what they read

Comics, fact books, football magazines, joke books and recipe books ALL count. Help your child to fall in love with reading by allowing them to read based off their interests. All reading counts, and if your child is normally a reluctant reader, letting them choose something that isn't their typical school reading book is a great way to help them start to find reading more interesting.



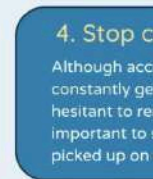
2. Become a reading role model

Children pick up on everything! If they never see adults at home reading, they aren't likely to value reading themselves. However, if they regularly see adults at home with a book on the go, they begin to view reading as a natural part of every day life, and something that can be done for fun rather than just as a homework chore. Don't underestimate the value of reading in front of your children!



4. Forget the 'ten minutes a day' reading rule

Short, positive reading moments often build stronger habits than long or stressful sessions. Some days reading will not happen at all, and that is okay. It is important not to force reading as that could lead to it becoming a negative experience. Keep reading flexible: some days it may only last a couple of minutes, while on other days a child may become so engaged they want to read for much longer. Also remember that not all reading sessions have to be books - baking a cake together and reading the recipe still counts!



4. Stop correcting your child if they make a mistake

Although accuracy is important, confidence is more important! If a child feels they are constantly getting things wrong, they are likely to lose confidence and become more hesitant to read. Although it can be hard not to jump in and correct mistakes, it's important to sometimes allow children time to explore books without always being picked up on errors they make. As confidence grows, accuracy will develop.



5. Keep books visible

Children are more likely to begin reading naturally when books are easily accessible. Try making sure that in every room of your house, or even in the car as well, there are books somewhere that are within reaching distance. They may sit there untouched for a few weeks, but eventually, curiosity will overcome them and they will reach for a book. Visual reminders or books around the house also help to reinforce the message that reading is an important part of everyday life, without adding any pressure.

www.vickyphillipswrites.com

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Phrases of the Week



¿Cuántos años tienes?- How old are you?

Tengo — anos. - I am — years old.



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Stars of the Week

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| YR Ash | YR Oak | YR Pine | YR Willow | |
| Thomas | Ziva | Arianna | Yahya | |
| Sochikaima | Zaviyar | Essa | Lilian | |
| Y1 Elm | Y1 Fir | Y1 Lime | Y1 Maple | |
| Kulture | Sofia | Khyla | Arjun | |
| Lorena | Zahid | Kalai | Ahana | |
| Y2 Aspen | Y2 Palm | Y2 Rowan | Y2 Spruce | |
| Mateo | Whole class | Mehrab | Maya | |
| Denis | | Branavi | Jayce | |
| Y3 Cedar | Y3 Cherry | Y3 Larch | Y3 Chestnut | |
| Yousef | Dhanvi | Aaron | Leith | |
| Chloe | Jaafina | Adona | Daisy | |
| Y4 Acacia | Y4 Beech | Y4 Hornbeam | Y4 Olive | Y4 Yew |
| Whole Class | Anamika | Fatima | Kayalvily | Whole Class |
| | Vihaan | Mustafa | Mateo | |
| Y5 Cypress | Y5 Hawthorn | Y5 Magnolia | Y5 Silver Birch | Y5 Sycamore |
| Joanna Helna | Ethan | Safa | Neveah | Stanley |
| | Kanish | Kwadow | Dhavi | Fiza |
| Y6 Blackthorn | Y6 Eucalyptus | Y6 Juniper | Y6 Holly | Y6 Acer |
| Zaim | Kishan | Romarie | Esha | Isabel |
| Avaneesh | Uri-Jay | Satvic | Samuel | Bilqes |



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Student Voice

Pusti, Year 6 Blackthorn

This week I've been proud of creating my pita bread which I made for DT week. I am also proud of my work in English because I really enjoyed writing with a sarcastic tone. My work turned out really well!

Community

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 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*

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