



# WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

19th June 2026

### Male Appreciation Sports Afternoon at Canterbury Road

The playground at Canterbury Road was absolutely buzzing with excitement on Wednesday for our Male Appreciation Sports Afternoon! It was wonderful to see so many dads joining their children to compete in a fantastic variety of fun sporting games. After working up an appetite on the field, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved break filled with crisps, cakes, drinks, and refreshing ice pops. The afternoon wrapped up with a lovely moment as each child proudly presented their dad with a special gift. A massive thank you goes to Mr Ray for hosting such a memorable event and for his fantastic efforts in raising money for our school. Thank you to all the dads who came along and made it such a brilliant success!



### Summer Fair - Thursday 25th June

Don't forget that our summer fair will be taking place next week. We are very much looking forward to it and can't wait to see you there. Mufti days will be taking place at both sites next week - **Monday 22nd June at Canterbury Road and Tuesday 23rd June at Rosecourt Road.** Please note, most stalls will be cash-only so, don't forget to bring along some change! We are also still looking for some volunteers to help with face painting and henna. We would love you to be a part of this community event. If you are available to help then please get in contact with the school office.





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### Fathers' Day Feast at Rosecourt Road

Thursday's Father's Day Feast was a resounding success at Rosecourt Road! It was fantastic to see our hall filled with so many dads, grandads, uncles, and male role models spending precious, quality time with their children. The hall was buzzing with laughter, chat, and delicious food. Creating opportunities for our school community to come together like this is what makes West Thornton so special. A huge thank you to all the wonderful fathers and role models who took the time out of their busy schedules to join us, and to our fantastic staff for putting together such a memorable event.



## Attendance

Well done to these Classes with Attendance over 97% this week, keep up the good work.

RR - Reception Oak Class

CR - Year 2 Palm Class

RR - Year 2 Spruce Class

RR - Year 4 Beech Class

RR - Year 4 Acacia Class

RR - Year 4 Yew Class

RR - Year 5 Magnolia Class

RR - Year 5 Cypress Class

RR Year 6 Juniper Class

### Punctuality

Punctuality is incredibly important at West Thornton Primary School. We recognise that lateness results in loss of learning and may draw unnecessary attention, impacting upon progress and your child's emotional wellbeing. Please support your child by helping them to get to school on time every day.

Gates open at 8.30am and will close at 8.45am. Children arriving after 8.45am will be marked as late. Did you know? – Being just 5 minutes late each day adds up to 3 days of learning loss across a year!



# WEST THORNTON

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### Curriculum Focus

#### Reception

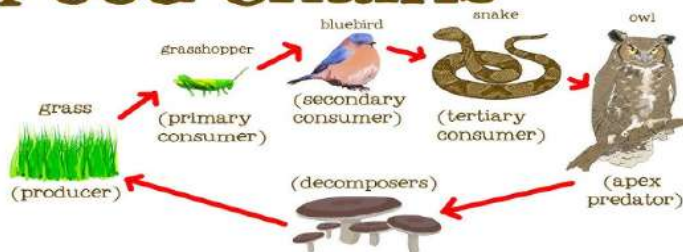
This week, we continued our adventures with our favorite green superhero, *Michael Recycle!* The children have been deeply engaged in discussions all about rubbish, exploring what we do with it, who the amazing people are that collect it for us, and the impact of littering. We talked about what happens if we don't dispose of our rubbish correctly, learning how it can sadly end up in the sea and cause harm to sea creatures and wildlife.



In our writing, we have been working hard to perfect our sentence building. The children are trying so hard to remember their capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops! We have also been super brave in phonics, applying our new sound knowledge to stretch out and attempt to write much longer words.

We have also had a very brain-stretching week in maths, embedding our understanding of how numbers are made. We started with a quick recap of our doubles (like double 2 is 4, double 3 is 6), and then moved on to the "5 and a bit" structure using tens of frames. For example, looking at the number 7 as "5 and 2 more," or 6 as "5 and 1 more." This really helps the children visualize numbers and builds a brilliant foundation for their future maths skills!

## Food Chains



the delicate balance of nature by investigating food chains and ecosystems. **Who Eats Whom?:**

The children learned how to identify and categorise organisms into producers, consumers, predators, prey, and decomposers. We discussed how plants act as producers by trapping sunlight to make their own food, while decomposers like fungi and worms break down

decaying material to return nutrients back to the soil.



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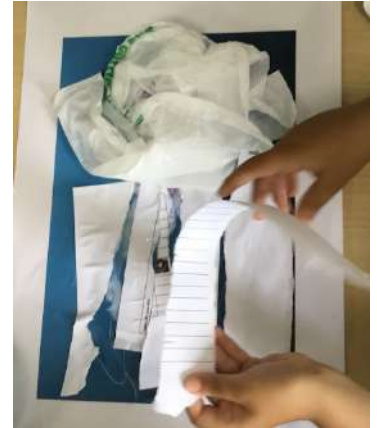
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### Year One

While it has only been a short week, Year one has worked so hard! In English they have continued to apply their knowledge of the features of a factfile to create their own factfiles all about sea pollution. It was amazing how much they already knew and they loved recording the facts in their own leaflets.

In maths they have been learning about time. This week we have learnt the months of the year and the days of the week. Then we have applied our knowledge of the days of the week and months of the year to solve problems.

In art the children have been looking at photos of jellyfish and then using different materials to recreate different textures. In geography they have been identifying features of a rural area.



### Year Two

This week the children have been working very hard on developing their ability to use expanded noun phrases in their narrative writing and using the power of 3 which they learnt last week. This is where they use 3 adjectives to describe a noun (E.g Paddington was wearing a red, old and crumbled hat). The children were very confident when incorporating this into their narrative writing where they wrote in the role of Mr or Mrs Brown seeing Paddington for the very first time. They then started writing from the point of view of Paddington including some power of 3 sentences, similes and rhetorical questions.

In maths, we have continued our time journey by beginning to learn to tell the time in 5 minute intervals past and to the hour. We do this by counting in 5's from 12 (eg 20 past 3, 10 to 6). This is a very tricky concept for the children and they need lots of practice so if you have an analogue clock at home, ask them a few times a day to tell you the time. If they need help, remember to use the trick of counting in 5's from the 12.

In science, the children have been exploring an animal's suitability to its habitat. They did this by matching animals to the correct habitat and then discussing why particular animals are suited to where they live through questions such as 'What helps a shark to survive in the water?'. The children then collaborated in groups to read some information sheets on what special features



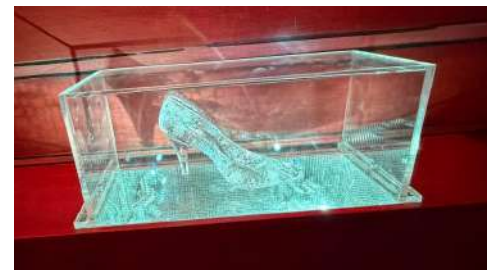
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animals have that help them to survive in that particular habitat and fed back to the class what they learnt.

Canterbury Road children were lucky to have had the opportunity to visit the British library this week where they got to see the fairy tales exhibition that is currently on. During this visit they had a live storytelling session of the West African tale - Anasi the spider. This was very interactive and fun for the children and some of our children even got to act out some parts. We were so impressed with their confidence on stage and how all the children took part in this session. This exhibition runs to the 23rd August and is well worth a visit if you get a chance to go.



### Year Three

We have had another incredibly busy, energetic, and successful week in Year 3! The children have been working exceptionally hard.

In maths this week, our young mathematicians have turned into geometry detectives! The children have been learning all about different types of lines, including **horizontal, vertical, perpendicular, and parallel lines**. Instead of just looking at them on a page, the class has been exploring how these lines appear all around us, hunting for where in the real world we might spot them. They discovered parallel lines in train tracks, vertical lines in lamp posts, and perpendicular lines where window frames meet! The children have also been practicing their precision by carefully drawing these line types themselves using rulers.

In our English lessons, we have been diving deep into our core text. This week, the children stepped into the shoes of the main character, **Isabel**, to write some beautifully expressive diary entries. The focus of their writing was capturing Isabel's overwhelming happiness and gratitude for her local community. The children did a fantastic job of using powerful adjectives and first-person emotive language to describe how the community came together to support her. It has been



wonderful to see their empathy shine through their writing, and they have worked hard on incorporating varied sentence starters and accurate punctuation to bring Isabel's voice to life.





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Our geography lessons took us on a virtual tour of our local area as we explored the human features of Croydon. The children have been identifying man-made structures in our town. We had some fantastic class discussions about why these features are so important for the local community. The children thought carefully about who might use them on a daily basis, identifying how families use the parks and how commuters rely on the train and tram stations to get to work. It was wonderful to see the children connect their learning directly to the world right outside their front door.

### Year Four

What an absolute whirlwind of a week it has been for our Year 4 pupils! Alongside diving headfirst into fascinating new topics across geography, science, and maths, the children also tackled their **Assessment Week** with incredible resilience. They showed immense focus and determination during their tests, putting their brilliant minds to work. They certainly earned their long weekend following Friday's staff INSET day!

In maths this week, we shifted our focus to geometry, exploring lines of symmetry across 2D shapes in all orientations. The children built beautifully on their prior knowledge through a series of hands-on and reasoning challenges. We used handheld mirrors and tracing paper to identify internal reflective lines, discovering that a regular shape has the exact same number of symmetry lines as it does sides. We then classified shapes using a two-way Carroll diagram. Ask your child about the pink parallelogram—many were surprised to learn it has absolutely zero lines of symmetry!



Our geography lessons kicked off with an absolute bang (or should we say a shake!) as we began our unit on how natural disasters occur.



The Orange Peel Experiment: To understand why the Earth's crust isn't a single solid shell, we modelled it using oranges and jam! The children learned that the orange peel represents tectonic plates, while the strawberry and apricot jam beneath acts as the semi-molten upper mantle. By sliding the pieces of peel against each other until they caught and suddenly snapped, the children safely visualised how energy releases to cause an earthquake. We also looked at the real-world impact of these natural events, comparing tectonic plate boundaries to political maps. The children explored how countries like Japan and Chile must adapt their cities, examining pictures of earthquake-proof skyscrapers built with specialised base isolators.

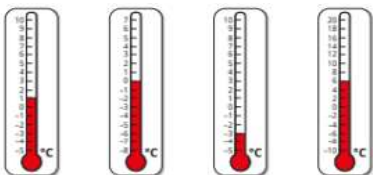


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### Year Five

In English this week, our young writers have plunged into the world of fiction by drafting their very own dystopian narratives. Building upon their prior planning and knowledge of literary devices, the children focused on the core features of dystopian settings to bring their ideas to life. They worked exceptionally hard to paint vivid, atmospheric pictures for the reader, choosing their words carefully to grab attention right from the opening line and build a sense of suspense.



In mathematics, the focus shifted to the number line as the children mastered the concept of negative numbers. Throughout the week, they practiced counting forwards and backwards through zero in intervals of ones and in larger multiples, as well as comparing and ordering negative integers.

The students then successfully applied this knowledge to solve complex mathematical word problems, demonstrating great resilience and strong critical thinking skills when tackling multi-step challenges.



Our journey through history also continued as we investigated the profound ways in which the Vikings permanently changed Britain. The children explored the lasting legacy of the Viking era, focusing their research on key areas such as the religious transition toward Christianity, the influence of Old Norse on the English language, new trading networks, and agricultural developments. The class showed wonderful curiosity, asking insightful questions as they examined how these historical changes altered daily life and shaped the nation we know today.





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### Year Six

Despite finishing the SATs, Year 6 have been extremely busy! At Canterbury Road, we are currently completing our final piece of narrative writing to ensure we have as many pupils at the expected standard as possible. The children are still focussed, and are building in figurative language, dialogue to move action forward and varied punctuation. Meanwhile, at Rosecourt Road, the children have written some incredible hotel reviews. They have used adverbs to connect and contrast ideas with confidence while also creating a shift in formality with carefully chosen figurative language and sarcasm. The results are hilarious and could easily be examples found on Tripadvisor.

In maths, we are continuing to understand more about financial literacy and how money works in the economy. The children are also working in groups to solve challenges in a collaborative manner. In History, they have imagined what old Baghdad would look like, purely based on written clues and accounts – the results were fascinating! In Geography, they wrote letters to their friend explaining 'push' and 'pull' factors which led them to leave the dry north of Brazil (Caatinga) for the bustling capital city, Brasília. Most agreed that the opportunities for education and work were better in the big city, as well as greater access to healthcare. In Science, we have explored the differences between evolution and inheritance, finding out more about how animals adapt to their environments and change over time.

Finally, the children are hard at work practising for their end of year production at CR and their assembly at RR. Learning lines and songs is a new challenge, but one they are embracing everyday! Hope to see as many of you as possible at the performances!

### Phrases of the Week



**¿Cómo te llamas?** - What's your name?

**Me llamo** \_\_\_\_\_. - My name is \_\_\_\_\_.



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### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Whole Class	Dania	Irene	Solomon	
	Marwa	Areesha	Aathee	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Keonna	Olivia	Whole Class	Hiyan	
Bethel	Thishan		Reneil	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Kaiden	Adriyana	Kavish		
Ariana	Vihaan	Esther		
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Alby	Eraj	Christaleen	Ashik	
Safiyah	Jewel	Henrique	Alayah	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Whole Class	Tulasirajan	Ester	Melissa	Ahithii
	Mia	Abishanth	Kavinu	Rathurshan
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Whole Class	Idrees	Aarav	Hazel	Kanva
	Liana	Jacob	Aatheesh	Jahmeil
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sophia Marie	Luke	Whole	Amelia	Dylan
Ayaan	Levi	Class	Melat	Maalik



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## Student Voice

Oliver - Year 1 Fir

I liked writing my book review with Ms Caddell. My favourite book is Lights On Cotton Rock by David Litchfield. It was my favourite because I liked when the aliens played with Heather.

## Community

**WEST THORNTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**OUR FOOD STALL  
IS NOW WEEKLY!**

**EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
CANTERBURY ROAD**

**EVERY  
THURSDAY  
ROSECOURT ROAD**

This is a **GREAT OPPORTUNITY**  
to pick up a variety of **FRESH FOODS!**

**FRESH FRUIT** **VEGETABLES** **MEAT**

**SUPPORT LOCAL. EAT HEALTHY. COME ALONG & ENJOY!**

### Our Food Stall is Now Weekly!

We are thrilled to announce that our food stall will now run every single week across both school sites! To help us keep this wonderful initiative going and continue giving back to our school community, please remember to bring a reusable bag and a small donation.

### We Need Your Help

These events can't happen without our amazing community. We are looking for parent and carer volunteers to lend a helping hand once a week to keep things running smoothly. If you can spare some time, please reach out to the school office - we would love to have you on board!



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## Support with debt

If you are struggling with debt in the UK, it is vital to know that you do not have to handle it alone or pay for professional assistance. There are several government-backed and charitable organisations that offer free, confidential, and impartial advice tailored to your personal circumstances. Major providers like StepChange Debt Charity, National Debtline, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and Citizens Advice can help you evaluate your budget, deal with creditor pressure, and explore free debt solutions.

Depending on your situation, these options might include formal repayment structures like a Debt Management Plan (DMP), accessing the government's "Breathing Space" scheme for temporary relief, or navigating options like insolvency. The most important first step is reaching out early via phone, webchat, or face-to-face services to get your finances back on track securely.

**Find it hard to talk about debt?**

**WE HEAR YOU!**

**StepChange**  
Debt Charity

**FREE, PERSONALISED ADVICE. DAY OR NIGHT, ONLINE 24/7.**

[www.stepchange.org/online](http://www.stepchange.org/online)

The UK's leading debt charity can help you take control of your money. Use our online advice service and debt solutions.

©2020 Foundation for Credit Counselling Ltd/StepChange Debt Charity (Scotland) Ltd/StepChange Debt Charity. Authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered charity no. 1016630 and 10346263

**KG Doodles**  
CHILDCARE

**BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club**

**WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**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](http://www.kgdoodles.co.uk)  
0117-3322-811

If you are navigating childcare costs in the UK on a low income, there is substantial financial support designed to help ease the burden. Parents who are in paid work and claiming Universal Credit can claim back up to **85%** of their registered childcare fees, with maximum monthly caps at £1,071.09 for one child or £1,836.16 for two or more children.

If you are struggling with the initial payment, you can ask a Jobcentre work coach for upfront help through the Flexible Support Fund. For those who are studying full-time, you may be eligible for a non-repayable Childcare Grant via Student Finance, which covers up to 85% of your costs (up to £199.62 a week for one child or £342.24 for two or more). Younger students under the age of 20 can alternatively look into the Care to Learn scheme, while those aged 20 or over in further education can apply for Learner Support



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through their college. Additionally, depending on the age of your child and your income level, you may be entitled to 15 to 30 hours of free weekly childcare, which can be combined with these benefit or grant schemes to drastically lower your out-of-pocket expenses. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working>