



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

26th June 2026

What a scorching week it has been! As the temperatures soared, we could not be prouder of how our entire school community handled the heat wave.

Despite the challenging weather, our children and staff have been absolute superstars, refusing to let the heat slow down their spirit. Throughout the week, everyone beautifully demonstrated our core school values in action. We witnessed incredible resilience as the children maintained their focus in the classrooms despite the sticky weather, alongside endless kindness as pupils looked out for one another by sharing shade and reminding friends to stay hydrated. Everyone also showed immense respect by adapting smoothly to the necessary changes in our daily routines. A massive thank you goes to our incredible staff, who worked tirelessly to keep classrooms as cool, airy, and engaging as possible.

We want to extend a huge, heartfelt **thank you** to all of our parents and carers. Adjusting to early finishes at short notice is not easy, and we are incredibly grateful for your cooperation, speed, and understanding. Your flexibility allowed us to ensure that all children and staff remained as cool, comfortable, and safe as possible during the peak temperatures of the day. We truly have a wonderful school community!

Summer Fair

Due to the extreme heat, we had to make the difficult decision to postpone our eagerly anticipated Summer Fair. We know how much everyone was looking forward to it, and we share your disappointment. However, the safety and well-being of our families, stalls, and volunteers always come first. Thank you so much for your understanding regarding this late change of plans.

We have already rescheduled and the new date is **Wednesday 8th July**. We promise it will be a wonderful event packed with all the usual fun, games, and treats—just hopefully in slightly cooler weather!





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Wishing you all a restful, safe, and beautifully cool weekend!

Leading Parent Partnership Awards - Parent Survey

As part of our commitment to the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), we would love to hear your thoughts in our latest parent survey. Your feedback truly makes a difference - in fact, thanks to your input from our last survey, we successfully introduced ESOL classes and launched wonderful parent-pupil events like our Mother's Day and Male Appreciation celebrations! While we are proud of these achievements, we know there is always room to grow. Please take just a few minutes to complete this term's survey and help us keep improving. Your time and continuous support are incredibly appreciated.

<https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/6a37e5fd08d2a>

Attendance

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

RR Reception Oak Class

RR Year 4 Beech 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!



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

Despite the soaring temperatures, the children have demonstrated incredible resilience. They have continued to work hard on their caption writing in Literacy; it is amazing to see how independent they are, remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces, and full stops. When writing their own independent sentences, they are encouraged to 'think it, say it, write it, check it.' This has really helped them to form and orally rehearse their sentences and think about the sounds they need.

In Maths, the children used subitizing to compare amounts by recognising them without counting.



To support this, they used rekenreks as a tool to notice differences between quantities and explore the relationship between them. They used the sentence starters 'more than' and 'fewer than' to give their answers.

This week, they also explored what 'sustainable' means and what they can do to be sustainable. They read the book 'Please Help Planet Earth' and discussed how being sustainable helps the planet. They ended the week by making promises to: 'walk to school,' 'turn off the lights and taps when not in use,' and 'grow their own fruit and vegetables.' We are very proud of our little Eco-Warriors!



Year One

The children have worked incredibly well this week, showing fantastic resilience and focus despite the warm weather.

In English, the class dived into their brand-new core text, "Tidy." They thoroughly enjoyed an engaging hook lesson where they turned into detectives, investigating a series of clues and hints to guess the main character's identity and make predictions about the story. Later in the week, the children built upon their grammar skills by exploring descriptive language, practicing how to use normal, comparative, and superlative adjectives to enhance their writing.





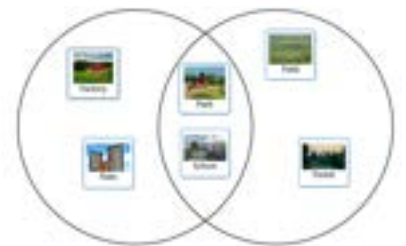
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Time was the central focus in Mathematics. The children spent the week using specific language to describe the passage of time and daily routines. To put their understanding into practice, they crafted their very own clocks and worked hard on identifying and showing time to the hour.

Geography sessions took the pupils on an exploration of different landscapes. The children identified various urban and rural features, discussing the differences between town and countryside settings. They then applied their analytical skills by successfully sorting these features into a Venn diagram.



Finally, in RE, the children deepened their understanding of religious traditions by learning about Shabbat. The class explored what happens during this special time and discussed why it is such an important and holy day of rest for Jewish families.

Year Two

Despite the hot weather this week, Year 2 has shown incredible resilience and focus. They haven't let the hot weather slow them down for a second, diving into an absolute whirlwind of brilliant learning across all of our subjects. We are incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked to stay cool and concentrated!

We kicked off our week with an absolutely unforgettable trip to The Paddington Bear Experience! The children were completely enchanted by this immersive adventure, stepping right into Paddington's world. The excitement started before we even arrived, as we took the tram and train, eagerly spotting famous London landmarks along the way. It was the perfect inspiration for our ongoing learning!

Meanwhile, in maths, we have been tackling the concept of time. Throughout the rest of the week, despite the heat, the class





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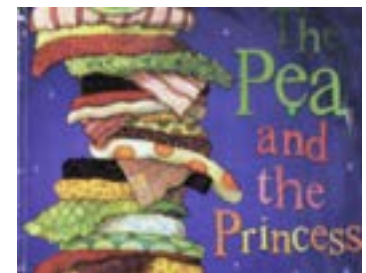
has worked brilliantly to strengthen their understanding and practice their previously learned skills. From reading the clock faces and understanding quarter past and quarter to, they have shown fantastic determination with a tricky topic.

With afternoons that we have had, the children have really enjoyed the wider curriculum topics this week. In Art, we have started designing our own masterpieces inspired by the vibrant, textured work of Eric Carle. The children are loving exploring his iconic collage style and next week we hope to start our own collages of the London city landscape! In Geography, we continued our comparison of Peru and the UK. Tying back into our London trip, the children drew beautiful postcards of their favorite landmarks and wrote some fantastic, thoughtful recommendations for any future visitors.

Year Three

Despite the soaring temperatures this week, our students have shown incredible resilience and focus. They haven't let the hot weather slow them down for a second, diving into an absolute whirlwind of brilliant learning across all of our subjects. We are incredibly proud of how

hard everyone has worked to stay cool and concentrated!



In English, we launched our brand-new core text, *The Pea and the Princess*. To really bring the story to life, the children explored different types of peas being cooked (a very sensory experience!) and used this inspiration to master expanded noun phrases

for some truly brilliant character descriptions. Meanwhile, in maths, we have been tackling geometry. The class explored 2D and 3D shapes, moving on to differentiate between regular and irregular polygons. We spent time investigating their distinct properties and analyzing exactly how these properties change when a shape becomes irregular.



Our afternoons have been just as packed with discovery. In science, we turned our focus to human biology, investigating how our muscles work in pairs—specifically looking at how the biceps and triceps contract and relax to create movement. We also took a closer look at our wider world and community. In **Geography**, we became local urban planners, evaluating what we love about our local area and brainstorming creative ways we could improve it. In **RE**, the children explored how Hindus worship at home, learning about the significance of a Hindu shrine and discovering how a sacred *Puja* tray is traditionally set up.

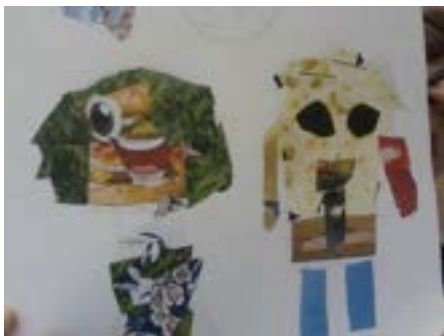


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Year Four

It has been an action-packed week of discovery and high-stakes mystery in our classrooms! In Mathematics, our young mathematicians have been mastering the language of position and movement, plotting complex coordinates and executing flawless shape translations across grids—skills worthy of top-tier navigators. In their Writing sessions, children have plunged headfirst into the gripping world of Lisa Thompson's *The Goldfish Boy*. Inspired by the novel's brilliant twists, they are busy crafting their own suspenseful narratives, weaving vivid descriptions and sharp tension into their writing. Meanwhile, our budding scientists have been exploring the delicate balance of the natural world, building on their knowledge of food chains to construct intricate ecological webs. They are discovering just how interconnected life on Earth truly is, tracking energy flow with fantastic curiosity. It is a joy to see them connecting the dots across every subject with such vibrant energy



and dedication! In Art, the children have leapt into the whimsical and thought-provoking realm of modern-day surrealist Valentina Brostean, exploring how everyday reality can be delightfully turned on its head. Channeling her signature bold,



eclectic style, they have been passionately experimenting with collaging to merge unexpected textures, vibrant figures, and striking imagery. The result is a gallery of truly spectacular, dreamlike works of art that showcase our students' soaring imaginations and burgeoning design skills!

Year Five

What a fantastic week it has been in Year 5, despite the rising temperatures outside. The children have shown wonderful maturity and responsibility in managing themselves during the hot weather, making sure to stay hydrated and sensible. To help keep cool and centered, we have been utilizing the excellent resources from The Good Morning Club. These tools have been brilliant for helping the children build stronger connections with one another, find moments of calm, and focus their minds in a fun and completely relaxing manner before tackling their daily tasks.



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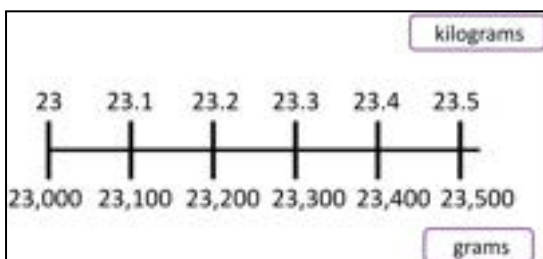
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In our writing sessions, the children have taken inspiration from the current climate by diving into the features of discussion texts. They held a highly relevant topical debate on whether schools should close or stay open during periods of extreme heat, presenting some incredibly thoughtful pros and cons. On one hand, they noted that it can sometimes feel too hot to work effectively, but on the other hand, they expressed a strong desire not to miss out on their learning and shared how much they value spending time together, provided the work is not too rigorous. It was wonderful to see how beautifully they listened to each other's points, offered respectful counterarguments, and calmly reached a shared conclusion.



In Religious Education this week, the children engaged in some fascinating discussions while working in their Kagan cooperative learning groups. They explored how the Golden Rule is viewed across various world religions as well as by Humanists, discovering a wealth of similarities between different belief systems. The children found that at the heart of all these perspectives is the shared conviction that

you should treat other people exactly how you would like to be treated yourself. They had a wonderful time comparing the foundations of this belief, noting that while religious followers believe this principle comes directly from God, Humanists believe it is simply rooted in logic and common sense. It was a pleasure to hear them articulate these complex ideas with such respect and maturity.



Our mathematicians have also been working incredibly hard this week, focusing on the tricky concept of converting metric units. The children practiced changing kilometers to meters and grams to kilograms, confidently incorporating decimals into their calculations. They didn't just stop at abstract

numbers, either; they successfully applied this new understanding to solve a variety of complex, real-world problems. We are immensely proud of how well the children have maintained their focus and enthusiasm during such a warm week, and we look forward to more excellent learning ahead.



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Year Six

We have had another incredibly busy and productive week in Year 6. Despite the rising temperatures, the children have shown fantastic resilience and focus. With the warmer weather upon us, our top priority has been ensuring the children stay safe, hydrated, and comfortable.

The countdown to our end-of-year performances has officially begun, and the halls are alive with the sound of music as singing practices and rehearsals get into full swing. The children are working incredibly hard to memorise lines, perfect their cues and polish their vocals. We can already tell it is going to be a show to remember across both sites.

Alongside rehearsals, there is a wealth of learning happening across all subjects. Across the year group, classes have been exploring the physics of light by investigating how it travels and how shadows are created. They put their scientific skills to the test by setting up fair tests and taking highly accurate measurements to see how a shadow's size changes. Meanwhile, in Eucalyptus class, children have moved on to evolution and inheritance. They became biologists this week, designing their own unique seeds engineered specifically to be dispersed by either wind, water, or explosion. In geography, some of our classes have wrapped up their deep dive into Brazil by exploring urbanisation, looking closely at why cities grow and analysing the causes and impacts of rapid urban development.



On Monday, our Rosecourt Road pupils had a fantastic enrichment opportunity when the Civic Mayor came to school to talk about our topic of Power and Governance. We learnt all about the role of the local government in Croydon and how citizens can report any questions or concerns about their local community. The children asked some incredibly thoughtful questions and represented the school brilliantly.

Phrases of the Week



¿Qué tiempo hace?-What's the weather like?

Hace mucho, mucho calor 🥵 - It's very, very hot 🥵



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Kyro	Aisha	Vasumathi	Salaim	
Keziah	Eden	Bawanika	Thiya	
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Yuri	Stefan	Kalai	Constantin	
Zainab	Aniyah	Tiana	Lois	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Elikem	
			Harriet	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Whole Class	Basil	Whole Class	Nihal	
	Khauban		Katie	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Nabil	Diyone	Ayesha	Joshua	Safiullah
Krish	Zara	Akosua	Gesicca	Britt
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Maitrey	Nadiya	Whole Class	Nevaeh	Whole Class
Aiden	Samuela		Sulaiman	
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Whole Class	Whole Class	Whole Class	Areha	Daniel
			Alicia	Khashifa



Student Voice

Lianne - Year 2 Palm

I liked it when we helped Mrs Bird at Paddington Experience. I enjoyed solving the puzzle with Mrs Brown. I also liked it when I saw the Paddington Experience.

Community

Free Splash Parks & Water Play Nearby!

As the weather warms up, finding cheap ways to keep the kids entertained can be a challenge. Luckily, we have some fantastic **free water play spots and splash pads** just a short trip away from Thornton Heath. Pack a towel, some sun cream, and a picnic for a brilliant, free day out!

1. The Rookery Paddling Pool (Streatham Common)

- **Where:** Streatham Common South, SW16 3HR
- **Getting there from Thornton Heath:** Just a short drive up the A23 or catch the **250 bus** directly towards Streatham.

2. Croydon Road Recreation Ground Paddling Pool (Beckenham)

- **Where:** Croydon Road, Beckenham, BR3 3NR
- **Getting there from Thornton Heath:** Take the **198 bus** towards Shirley/Beckenham or a short drive over towards Elmers End.

3. Tamworth Recreation Ground Splash Pad (Mitcham)

- **Where:** London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3LB
- **Getting there from Thornton Heath:** A quick drive west or take the **289 bus** and change at Waddon for a short tram/bus link towards Mitcham.


4. Norbury Park Water Play (Norbury)

- **Where:** Norbury Avenue, SW16 3RL
- **Getting there from Thornton Heath:** Very close by! A quick 5-minute drive or a short walk/bus ride up towards Norbury station.



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 **Top Tip for Parents &:** Water play areas can sometimes close temporarily for maintenance or water quality checks on very hot days. We always recommend checking the local council websites (Croydon, Merton, or Bromley) before making a dedicated trip!

Adult English Classes:

West Thornton Primary School- Rosecourt Rd- CR0 3BS

Start: Tuesday 15th September 2026

Tuesday and Friday 9am-12pm 11-week course.

To secure your place please email:

linda.gray@croydon.gov.uk

claire.smith@croydon.gov.uk



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KG-Doodles CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club



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- 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
7.30 am - 8.40 am
£6.50 per session

Monday - Friday Afterschool
15.15 pm - 18.30 pm
£13.00 per session*

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