



West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

3rd July 2026

While we have all thoroughly enjoyed a return to slightly cooler weather, the pace of life at school certainly hasn't slowed down. It has been an incredibly busy, productive, and exciting few days for everyone.

Our Year 3 pupils had a fantastic trip to Butser Farm this week. They fully immersed themselves in history, exploring ancient houses and getting stuck into hands-on ancient crafts and skills. The Year 6 end-of-year celebrations rolled on with a high-energy trip to the bowling alley! Alongside the fun, today marked a major milestone for them: the Croydon secondary transition day. Many of our Year 6s spent the day experiencing a taste of life at their new secondary schools, and we couldn't be prouder of them as they prepare for their next big adventure.

Careers Day

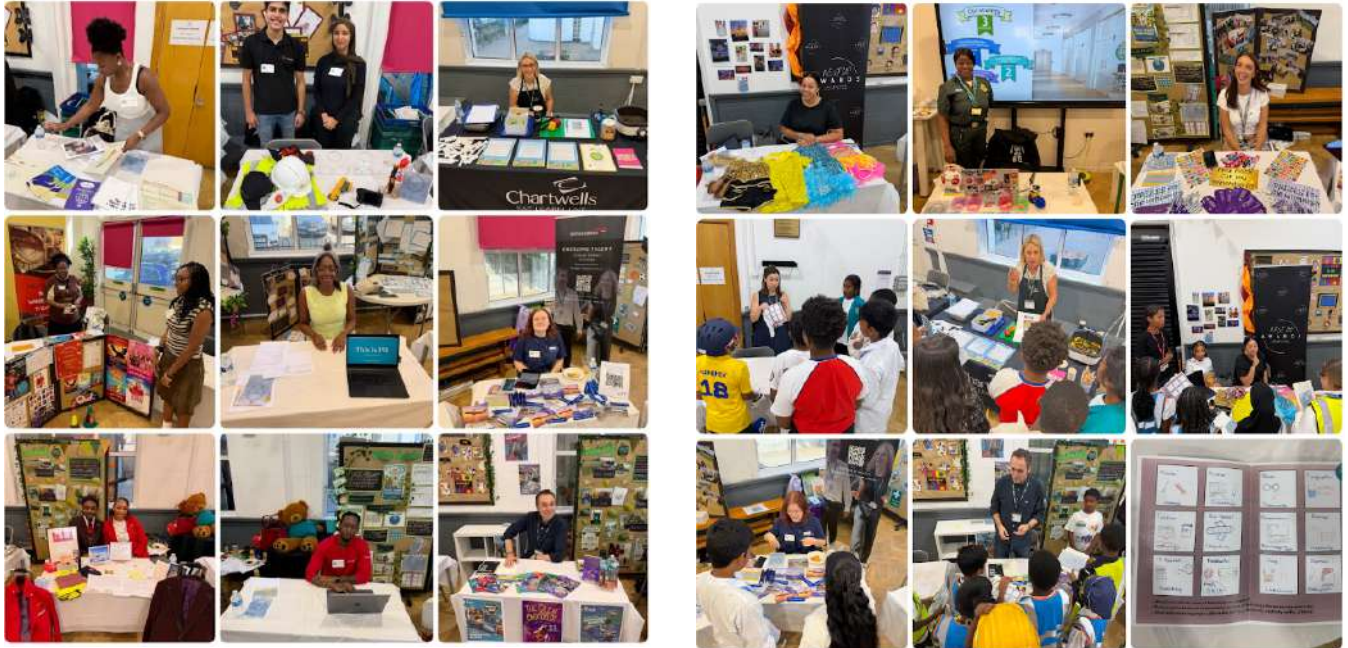
On Friday 3rd July, our school was buzzing with excitement as we hosted our annual Career Day! The day was designed to inspire our pupils, broaden their horizons, and get them thinking about the wonderful possibilities the future holds. Throughout the day, the children took part in fun, age-appropriate activities exploring different jobs, skills, and industries. We were also thrilled to welcome several special visitors from different professions into school for a careers fair, giving the children a fantastic opportunity to ask questions and learn about real-world jobs firsthand. To make the day even more memorable, the children came to school beautifully dressed as their future ambitions, and we loved seeing so many creative ideas come to life—from astronauts and



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vets to chefs, teachers, engineers, and artists.



A huge thank you to our wonderful visitors and to all of you for your continued support in making these enrichment days so special for the children! Wishing you all a wonderful, relaxing weekend!



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Summer Fair

Thank you all so much for your understanding and support with the changes we had to make for this year's summer fair. It is scheduled to take place this week coming on **Wednesday 8th July**. We are very much looking forward to it. Our volunteers and stallholders have been working hard behind the scenes to help make this event happen. If you are able to help in any way, please let the office know. Face painters, henna artists, bouncy castle helpers are still in demand. Also, if you have any donations, let us know. It is appreciated.



Leading Parent Partnership Awards - Parent Survey

There's still time to complete our Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) survey. 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

The Impact of Punctuality

We know that every minute of the school day counts and we want every child to start their day feeling calm, confident, and ready to learn. Arriving on time is a key part of this.

When children arrive punctually:

- They settle into the school routine smoothly
- They don't miss important instructions or learning opportunities
- They feel included and connected with their classmates

Being late can have a bigger impact than it may seem:

- Children may feel rushed, anxious, or embarrassed
- They can miss key learning moments, especially in phonics, reading, and maths



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- Frequent lateness can affect attendance records and may lead to follow-up from the school educational welfare team.

We understand that mornings can be busy, and we're here to help.

Top Tips for a Punctual Morning

- Set a consistent bedtime and wake-up routine.
- Prepare uniforms, bags, and lunches the night before.
- Leave a little earlier than you think you need to, to avoid congestion or unforeseen events.
- Use alarms or reminders to stay on track and minimise distractions such as screen time.
- Talk positively about the school day ahead to build excitement

If lateness is becoming a challenge, please speak to us—we'll work with you to find solutions.

Children Feeling Unwell

We understand that children get sick, and sometimes an illness genuinely requires time off school and a visit to the doctor. However, frequent one or two day absences can quickly add up and impact their learning. Often, children with mild coughs or colds might feel a bit under the weather but are still well enough to attend.

Our Minor Illness Policy: If your child has a minor ailment (such as a mild headache, cold, or sore throat), please bring them into school. Just let a member of staff know how they are feeling so we can keep an eye on them.

Peace of Mind: We stock Calpol in school and can administer pain relief if needed. Rest assured, if your child's condition worsens or they become too unwell to stay, we will contact you immediately.

Curriculum Focus

Reception

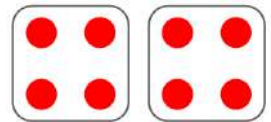
This week in Literacy, we have been very busy getting ready for Year 1. The children have been completing their Summer 1 phonics assessment and practising their independent writing. They have been focusing on forming their letters correctly, beginning their sentences with a capital letter, and ending them with a full stop. They have also spent lots of time revisiting our tricky words, identifying the 'tricky bit' in each word to help build confidence with both reading and



spelling.

In our Curriculum learning, we have been exploring different story settings. The children have learnt about settings such as the city, beach, farm, countryside and forest, using the sentence stems 'It is...' and 'It has...' to describe what they can see. This has helped to develop their vocabulary, speaking skills and understanding of stories.

In Maths, we have been exploring numbers to 10, investigating how numbers can be split into parts and combined to make a whole. The children have also been learning about doubles, even and odd numbers and using a rekenrek to spot patterns and deepen their understanding of number through practical, hands-on activities.



Year One

In English Year 1 have had a busy week creating their very own stories about a helpful character named Max the Monkey, who loves nothing more than keeping his jungle neat and tidy. The children have been using comparative and superlative adjectives to describe and compare things (like finding the *taller* tree or the *biggest* banana), and we've been using conjunctions (joining words like *and*, *but*, and *because*) to pack our sentences with brilliant detail. We are so proud of their hard work and growing skills!



This week in maths, our Year 1 mathematicians have been diving into the world of telling the time! We have been focusing on mastering o'clock and half past. To bring this to life, the children have been using the wonderful clocks they made themselves last week to physically move the hands and show different times. We have also been working hard on our reasoning skills—which just means the children aren't just reading the numbers, but are really understanding why the clock hands move the way they do and explaining their thinking out loud.



With the lovely warm weather we've been having, Year 1 has been learning all about sun safety. We had some fantastic group discussions where the children shared their own brilliant ideas on how to stay cool and protected when the sun is shining. To put their knowledge into action, everyone designed and drew their own colourful sun-safety posters! They did a wonderful job remembering key tips like wearing a hat, putting on sunscreen, drinking plenty of water, and finding shade when it gets too hot.



Year Two

In English, the children have begun to write a recount on their trip to the Paddington Bear Experience. They used the 'W' questions (Who, What, Where, When, and Why) to write a clear introduction before recounting the different activities they did on their exciting day out. They have included time adverbials and expanded noun phrases using the power of three to make their recount interesting for their reader.

In Maths, the children have been looking at data and the different ways it can be presented. They started the week off by looking at tables and recording data using a tally before answering questions to show they can interpret tables. They then moved onto learning about block graphs and enjoyed creating their own using data collected as a class.

In Science, the children have been learning about the term 'adaptation'. They have been describing and explaining the different adaptations that plants and animals have in order to survive in their habitats. They particularly enjoyed learning about how rhinos rely on their sense of hearing to stay alive and how rhino mothers protect their babies by listening for predators to avoid them being eaten by predators such as lions, hyenas or African hunting dogs. They also answered the following questions to describe the adaptations of other animals - 'Why does a duck have webbed feet?' and 'Why does a hawk have talons?'



Year Three

It has been a busy week in year 3, beginning with our exciting trip to Butser Ancient Farm. The children had a great day delving into the past. They took part in a range of activities including pottery, fire making, map reading and became archaeologists to dig for hidden treasures. A great day was had by all!



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In English, we delved deep into our core text, 'The Pea and the Princess'. The children have enjoyed the challenge of rewriting the story from the Prince's perspective. They had great discussions as they got into character, imagining the Queen's stern warnings about cutting off his pocket money if he didn't find a wife! Their stories were full of brilliant insights into the Prince's thoughts and feelings as he embarked on his quest.

In Maths, the children have been looking at data and the different ways it can be presented. They children their unit on 'statistics' and learnt how to interpret pictograms by using the key.

In geography, the children began to carry out fieldwork into the impact of humans on our local environment. They collected data to support their line of enquiry, including the number of cars and number of trees that have been planted by humans. Elsewhere, in art the children have begun to think about the different elements of their art work in the style of Jean-Michel Baquait, looking at symbols and backgrounds. We can't wait to see their final pieces in the coming weeks.





Year Four

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting week in Year 4 as our young writers turned into top-tier investigative journalists! Inspired by our core text, *The Goldfish Boy*, the children have been working hard to plan and write their very own breaking news reports about the mysterious disappearance of Teddy from Chestnut Close. We began by mastering the art of the perfect layout, ensuring every report featured a catchy, alliterative headline, an informative subheading, and a detailed orientation paragraph to give readers the vital "5 Ws" (Who, What, Where, When, and Why). The children then tackled one of their trickiest grammar targets yet: shifting direct speech into reported speech. They did a fantastic job navigating the "tense backshifts" and pronoun swaps required to report the facts just like real reporters. We are immensely proud of their creativity and stamina throughout the writing process!

In maths, our young mathematicians have been sharpening their geometry and data skills. We kicked off the week by continuing our work on coordinates, focusing on how to accurately translate shapes across a grid. The children then seamlessly transitioned into statistics, where they became data experts! They have spent the last few days learning how to read, analyse, and interpret information displayed across a variety of visual formats, including pie charts, bar graphs, and line graphs. They showed fantastic critical thinking when pulling out key facts from the data.

In geography, the children investigated the powerful human and economic impacts of volcanic eruptions. Our main focus this week was the famous 2010 eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano. The children explored how this major event directly affected the lives of local residents, while also discovering the surprising global impact it had on international travel, trade, and the economies of surrounding countries. They also had fun making a volcano using paper mache.



In art the children started working on their final outcome. They first researched surrealism to get ideas from famous surrealist art. They then sketched their art and next week they start on collaging their work. In science, our classrooms turned into newsrooms as the children stepped into the shoes of environmental reporters! Working in groups, they researched specific ecological problems threatening different habitats and confidently presented their findings to the rest of the class. They then took their existing knowledge of food webs a step further by investigating interdependence, exploring the dramatic, domino-effect impact that occurs when a single organism or plant is removed from an ecosystem.





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Year Five

This week, our Year 5 students visited The Archbishop Lanfranc Academy for an exciting secondary school taster day, giving them an excellent feel for what is in store for them in 2027. They took part in a variety of brilliant curriculum classes, including food technology, design technology, drama, computer science, and P.E.



Back in the classroom, students continued working in maths by mastering the metric and imperial systems, exploring various ways to convert between units such as inches and centimetres, or kilograms, pounds, and stones.

In English, they have been developing their cohesive writing skills by learning how to argue a point, focusing on formal introductions and exploring both sides of a debate inspired by our current novel, *Floodland*.



Year Six

What an incredibly busy, productive and exciting week it has been for our Year 6 pupils! Despite also embarking on their secondary school journey with some fantastic induction taster days, the children have remained focused, motivated and enthusiastic in all their classroom activities. Maths: Financial Literacy and Enterprise in Action! This week, our young mathematicians stepped into the real world by exploring adult financial concepts. They have been learning all about managing money, understanding mortgages and calculating the cost of paying bills.

To put these skills into practice, Year 6 launched a highly successful ice cream enterprise! The children worked collaboratively to set up and run their own ice cream stands. This practical project required them to: Design eye-catching promotional posters to advertise their business; organise a fair and functional team rota to manage their time; and create and operate an efficient payment and collection system to handle transactions.

They did a brilliant job of managing their budgets, counting their profits and working as a cohesive team!

In our writing sessions, the children have turned their attention to narrative writing. This week's focus was entirely on character development. Rather than just describing what a character looks like, Year 6 have been learning how to show personality through actions, speech and subtle behaviours. They have crafted some wonderfully complex characters, and we cannot wait to see how these individuals come to life in their upcoming stories.





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In science, we have been investigating the behaviour of light. They conducted an experiment to discover how the size of a shadow of an object varies based on its distance from a light source. Using torches, rulers and various objects, they gathered data, plotted their findings and drew excellent scientific conclusions about light travel and blockage.

Alongside all this rigorous learning, many of our Year 6 children took their first steps towards their next chapter by attending induction days at their new secondary schools. They returned full of excitement, maturity and positive stories about what lies ahead. We are so proud of the resilience and adaptability they continue to show during this transition period.

Phrases of the Week

¡Buena suerte para Inglaterra! - Good luck to England!



Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow
Eza	Khalil	Kairon	Sahur
Jaylen	Marwa	Irene	Kamiyah
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple
Craig	Malahki	Hephzibah	Vivaan
Ayran	Sara	Yoel	Sariyah
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Derrick	Vihaan	Patrica	Khemyra
Ariana	Lianne	Halima	Hitarth
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut
Szymon	Whole Class	Luxshin	Whole Class



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Harry		Lizzia		
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Aadheesh	Romelle	Abdirahman	Izabelle	Mariya
				Joy
Georgina	Rayya	Reign	Hanna	Srishalini
				Rachel
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Precious	Yamur	Rutmi	Dhanvi	Ella
Jarren	Aras	Hasan	Hazel	Nathan
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Naila	Ha My	Whole Class	Marley	Isaac
Chu	Alex A		Karshmi	Neda

Community

We are incredibly proud to celebrate one of our wonderful children at Canterbury Road, who took the initiative to create handmade bookmarks in recognition of the hard work and dedication of our amazing Young Carers.

This thoughtful act of kindness is a wonderful example of empathy, creativity, and appreciation. It reminds us how even a small gesture can make a big difference and help others feel valued.

A huge well done for showing such compassion and for helping us celebrate the incredible contribution of our Young Carers. We are so proud of you!



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BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club





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









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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KG Doodles presents

West Thornton Primary School

Summer Playscheme



DATES:

Monday-Thursday,
27 July - 6 August 2026

LOCATION:

West Thornton Primary
School, Canterbury Road, CR0 3HH

TIMES:

10:00am - 2:00pm

CONTACT:

07535814004

PRICING:

HAF Voucher Funded
£28 per day, inclusive
of lunch & snacks (Early start optional)

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