



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

10th July 2026

Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our summer fair this year! Despite the blazing hot weather, our amazing community came together and helped us raise a fantastic £2,000. The children had a wonderful time enjoying delicious snacks, exploring different stalls and jumping on the bouncy castles. There was a great mix of old and new activities, from glass jar painting to the crowd-favorite 'Sponge the Adult' stall. We were also treated to a brilliant performance from the children who attend Ms Melbourne's Glee Club.

A huge thank you goes out to the staff who made the day so special, the parents who supported us both before and during the event and the outside vendors who joined us to make it a community celebration. We are already looking forward to our next fair!



Thanks to your incredible support, we have had a very successful year of fundraising across the board. We are currently putting the finishing touches on an update to show you exactly how these funds have been used to benefit the children so far, as well as our exciting plans for future projects. Stay tuned for details soon!



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Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome several new members to our teaching team for the coming year. We are pleased to welcome Mr Oraa, who will be teaching Year 3 at our Canterbury Road site, and Miss Patel, who will join Miss May and Miss Okoroafor to support our Year 5 cohort at Rosecourt Road. Additionally, we are excited to have Miss Yassi join our Year 6 team at Rosecourt Road, and we are equally thrilled to welcome back Mr George, who will be a fantastic addition to our Year 3 team at Rosecourt Road.

On a sad note, we must also share that Mrs Caddell and Miss Takeda are sadly leaving us as they enter their well-deserved retirement; we thank them for their incredible service and wish them the absolute best.

We are also delighted to share that Mrs Little has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher. She will work closely with our SLT across both sites but will be based at Canterbury Road. Rosecourt Road will not be the same without her!

Football Success



The Year 5 football team overcame both tough opposition and a blazing sun to win their recent league format tournament!

Playing in a format where every match counted, the year 5 football team showed incredible consistency, skill, and focus despite the sweltering heat. What stood out most was the team's attitude - showing immense determination and resilience during high-pressure moments.

Thanks to a brilliant team effort, West Thornton finished top of the table to take the title. Huge congratulations to the Year 5 squad on a well-deserved victory!

A big thank you to Mr Williams and Mr Walters for all of their hard work and dedication to the team this year too.

Summer Disco

Yesterday, the atmosphere at Rosecourt Road was absolutely brilliant as children gathered for our fantastic summer disco! The hall was alive with music, laughter, and some truly incredible dance moves as everyone came together to celebrate the end of the school year. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves so much, enjoying refreshments, and making lasting summer memories with their friends. A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the event such a massive success!



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Attendance

Well done to those classes that are over 97% this week

RR Year 1 Fir Class

RR Year 3 Cedar Class

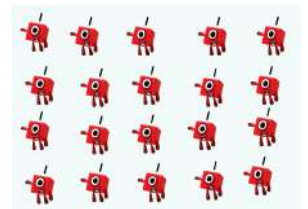
RR Year 4 Acacia Class

RR Year 4 Yew Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week, our Reception children have been working hard to build on their phonics knowledge by writing full sentences. They have been focusing on the golden rules of writing, learning how to carefully include capital letters at the start of their sentences, use clear finger spaces between their words, and place full stops at the very end. It has been wonderful to see them applying their sounding-out skills so confidently to get their ideas down on paper!

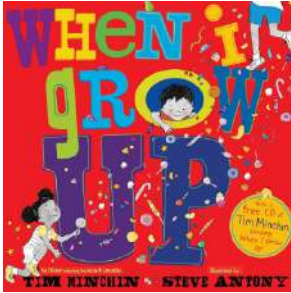


In maths, the children have been learning to recite numbers past 20. Alongside mastering the number sequence, they have been exploring the fundamental rules of counting. They practiced important principles like one-to-one correspondence—ensuring they touch and count each object only once—and understanding that the final number they say tells them exactly how many objects are in the group.



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Our curriculum sessions this week were filled with inspiration as the children explored the world of work and discussed what they want to be when they grow up. They listened to the story 'When I Grow Up' as a hook into the topic. They loved sharing stories about the different jobs their own family members do, helping them realize just how many exciting pathways are out there. To top it off, everyone tapped into their creative side to draw fantastic, detailed pictures of their future dream jobs in the creative area.

Year One

Year One has had another busy week! In English they have become authors writing their own narratives based on their core text Tidy. They have changed the setting and rewritten the story set at a beach. They have worked so hard showing everything that they have learnt this year including superlative and comparative adjectives, past tense and conjunctions.



In maths they have been reviewing everything that they have already learnt this year including numbers to 100, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and addition and subtraction within 20. Finally they have applied these skills to solving problems and all preparation for Year 2.

In the wider curriculum, in geography they have learnt about different types of pollution and the impact that it has on the earth. In art it's been a busy week as they have finished creating their jellyfish inspired by the "Washed Ashore" project.

They worked hard to combine their knowledge of colour and creating 3D structures to create some super masterpieces!

Year Two

This week, we have been writing all about our fantastic trip to the Paddington Bear Experience. By recounting everything that happened we have been using our great writing skills like time adverbials, expanded noun phrases and the power of three. They have been enjoying talking about their experience of helping Mrs Brown and Mrs Bird, making sure that 'Marmalade Day' was a success and finally meeting the famous bear himself, Paddington.



In maths, they have been continuing to develop their knowledge of statistics and the different ways data can be represented. They have been learning about pictograms and how pictures



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can be used to reflect information. They have also been problem solving and finding out how they can answer different questions by using the pictograms and the data collected.

For our wider curriculum journey, the children have been exploring and discussing who their special person or place is in RE. They have enjoyed speaking about who, what and why it is special to them. They then drew lovely pictures to represent what they discussed and it was clear to see how important these places or people were special to them!

Year Three

This week, our classroom turned into a bustling authors' studio! The children have been busy writing their own narrative stories based on our core text, *The Princess and the Pea*. Taking on a creative twist, they wrote their narratives from the perspective of either the Prince or the Queen. It was wonderful to see them successfully applying all the literary features we've been learning about this term to bring these classic characters to life.

In Maths, we have been exploring how to collect and present data using pictograms and bar charts. We kicked off the week with a hands-on investigation, where the children collected data from their classmates using tally charts and converted them into colourful pictograms. Later in the week, we moved on to bar graphs—learning not only how to read and interpret them but also how to construct our own from scratch.



The children proved themselves to be excellent geographers this week by directly applying their new math skills to their local studies. Using the real-world data they collected last week during our traffic survey on our road here in Croydon, the children created bar graphs to represent the different types of vehicles passing by. It was fantastic to see them linking their subjects together so brilliantly!

Our Science lessons this week focused on healthy eating and understanding how to keep our bodies strong. We explored the Eatwell Guide and broke down the different food groups: Fruit and Vegetables: For essential vitamins and minerals to keep our immune systems fighting fit. Carbohydrates: To give us the slow-release energy we need to run around at playtime. Proteins: To help our muscles grow and repair themselves. Dairy: For strong teeth and bones. The children had great discussions about how a balanced diet directly affects our energy levels, growth, and overall well-being.



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Year Four

In English, Year 4 stepped into the shoes of investigative journalists as they tackled their latest innovated newsletter piece. The young reporters were tasked with reporting on a mysterious local crime: the baffling disappearance of a bicycle from the school grounds. To gather their scoop, the children conducted rigorous witness interviews, tracking down clues and gathering evidence. They then masterfully wove these accounts into their reports, showcasing an excellent grasp of both reported speech and punctuated direct speech to lay out the cold, hard facts of the case. The children were completely captivated by the mystery, and their final articles truly demonstrated their growing flair for dramatic yet accurate journalism.

Over in mathematics, the children have been diving deep into the world of statistics, focusing their attention on reading, interpreting, and constructing line graphs. Moving beyond simple data, they learned how to track changes over time and identify distinct trends. Year 4 showed tremendous resilience when facing complex data sets and proved they could successfully apply their knowledge to multi-step, worded problem questions. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they unlocked the stories hidden behind the numbers.

The creative arts also took center stage this week as Year 4 brought their latest artistic journey to a spectacular close. Having spent time studying the mind-bending world of Surrealism, the children applied their refined cutting, layering, and composition skills to complete their final mixed-media collages. By blending unexpected imagery rooted in their own personal hobbies and interests, they successfully created dream-like, surrealist masterpieces. The resulting artwork is a fantastic testament to their individuality and imagination.

Well done, Year 4, for showing such brilliant enthusiasm and dedication across all your subjects this week!

Year Five

What a week! Despite the blazing heat doing its absolute best to melt our focus, Year 5 powered through and produced some truly spectacular work.

Taking inspiration from our class text, *Floodland*, the children stepped into the shoes of critical editors. Armed with a success criteria checklist, they carefully reviewed their own discussion texts. It takes real maturity to look at your own writing and find ways to make it better, and the kids did just that, independently up-scaling their vocabulary, tightening their arguments, and taking their writing to the next level.





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In maths, we dove headfirst into the world of volume and capacity. The children tackled some tricky fluency and reasoning problems that required them to seamlessly convert between millilitres (ml) and litres (L). To wrap up the unit, they completed their outcome tasks and spent time reflecting on their learning, identifying which conversion strategies clicked quickest and how they successfully navigated switching between different units of measurement.



Our art sessions were an absolute highlight. Drawing inspiration from the world-renowned South African artist Esther Mahlangu, the children designed vibrant drafts utilising bold colors and striking geometric patterns. They incorporated traditional motifs they've learned over the past few weeks alongside symbols that hold personal meaning to them. Then came the ultimate test of patience: carving these intricate designs onto lino tiles! It was incredibly fiddly, painstaking work, but their dedication paid off beautifully. The final prints look stunning.

A quick note from the Year 5 team: We are so incredibly proud of how hard the children worked this week. To maintain that level of focus and creativity during a heatwave is no small feat. Have a wonderful, well-deserved weekend!

Year Six

It has been an incredibly exciting week in Year 6 as the children dive into their end-of-year preparations!

Rehearsals for our upcoming production are well underway. We have been so impressed by the children's resilience and determination as they take on feedback, perfect their lines, and continuously improve their performances. It's shaping up to be a fantastic show!

Meanwhile, over at Rosecourt Road, creativity has been flowing as the children work hard on their Year 6 leavers' quilt. Centered around the theme of 'Power and Governance,' the children have been exploring a range of stitching techniques, including chain and running stitches. They have also learned how to use sublimation printing to bring their final designs to life.

Anticipation is now building for next week, and the children are incredibly excited to celebrate all their achievements at the upcoming Leavers' Prom!

Phrases of the Week





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Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
Cairo	Ziva	Alea	Sebastian	
Elara	Dunya	Bianca	Saad	
Y1 Elm	Y1Fir	Y1Lime	Y1 Maple	
Umar	Sofia	Kavani	Ezekiel	
Yuri	Jesman	Saleem	Meena	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce	
Elina	Sabrina	Ayaan	Jessica	
Haris	Harry	Mohammed H	Tharun	
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Chestnut	
Taraji	Ava M	Ohm	Jordanna	
Vinojan	Gracella	Kavya	Manvay	
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Whole	Yathusha	Mareya	Rayan	Whole
Class	Riian	Praise	Muhammed	Class
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Whole Class	Oresti	Arleen	Anaya	Yaqub
	Idrees Amelia	Nesh	Sulaiman	Marcel
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer



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Isabella	Whole Class	Elijah Brown	Whole	Whole class
Avaneesh		Harini	Class	

Community



In our continued effort to be more sustainable and reduce waste, **Rosecourt Road** will be moving away from providing single-use plastic bowls and spoons for cereal, during our breakfast club on the playground. Starting in September, we kindly ask that any children who would like to continue having cereal in the morning bring their own reusable bowl and spoon from home. We will have facilities on-site to rinse them out so they can be packed back into school bags safely and used again the following day.

On the subject of breakfast club.. We rely on the generosity of our parent helpers! If you could help out one morning to ensure our breakfast club continues, please reach out to Miss Williams directly.

Online Safety Quick-Start Guide

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we understand that screen time might increase. With this in mind it's more important than ever to apply parental controls to secure your child's device

Use this checklist to secure your child's devices in under 10 minutes.

 Apple (iPhone/iPad)

The Tool: Screen Time

How: Settings > Screen Time > Content & Privacy Restrictions.

Action: Set Web Content to "Limit Adult Websites" and set In-App Purchases to "Don't Allow."

 Android & Google

The Tool: Google Family Link (App)

How: Download the app on your phone and link your child's account.



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Action: Turn on SafeSearch and set Google Play age limits to "PEGI 7" or "PEGI 12."

YouTube & YouTube Shorts

Standard YouTube is designed for **ages 13 and up** and can easily expose primary school children to inappropriate content, disturbing copycat videos, and unmoderated comment sections through its autoplay algorithm. To keep younger children safe during screen time, experts recommend switching to the **YouTube Kids** app or setting up a Supervised Account through Google Family Link, which filters out mature content and disables comment sections entirely.

The Best Option: Use the YouTube Kids app for primary-aged children or set up the Family Link app.

The Action: In the main YouTube app, go to Settings > General > Restricted Mode and toggle to ON.

Algorithm Tip: In Family Link, you can "Pause" watch history. This stops the algorithm from suggesting "more of the same" content, which helps limit exposure to viral Shorts.

Gaming Consoles (Xbox, PS5, Switch)

The Action: Set a Spending Limit of £0.00. This prevents children from buying "loot boxes" or skins without permission.

Privacy: Set "Communication" to Friends Only to prevent strangers from messaging your child.

The "Safety SIM" (Network Level)

Child-friendly SIM cards feature strict parental controls, spend caps, and tracking capabilities to protect kids online. Top options in the UK include dedicated child networks like ParentShield, which offer call monitoring and data blocking, as well as family-focused plans from EE and Tesco Mobile.

Recommendation: Look into ParentShield or EE Safer SIM plans. These allow you to shut off data at bedtime and monitor texts directly from your own phone.

Great British Summer Saving Scheme

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families.



From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to



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cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions.

Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

A huge range of major UK attractions offer heavily discounted tickets—often for just £1 to £3—if you receive Universal Credit, Pension Credit, or other means-tested benefits, perfect for the upcoming Summer holidays!

Major Attractions with Benefit Discounts

Attraction	Benefit Ticket Price	Key Rules
Tower of London, Hampton Court, & Kensington Palace	£1 per person	Max 6 tickets per household. Must pre-book online.
Kew Gardens & Wakehurst	£1 per person	Book online. Allows up to 4 additional guests.
RHS Gardens (<i>All locations</i>)	£1 per person	Max 6 tickets per booking. Must pre-book online.
London Zoo & Whipsnade Zoo	£3 per person	Online advance bookings only. Max 6 tickets.
Buckingham Palace & Windsor Castle	£1 per person	Max 6 tickets per household. Must book in advance.
London Transport Museum	£5 annual pass	Kids go free. Gives you unlimited entry for a whole year.
Edinburgh Zoo & Highland Wildlife Park	£7–£8 per person	Max 6 tickets per household. Must book online.
Eden Project (<i>Cornwall</i>)	Heavily reduced	Varies by season, check their dedicated benefits page.



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The Lost Gardens of Heligan (Cornwall)	£5 adult / £1 child	Covers recipient plus up to 5 household members.
York Castle Museum	Free	Show proof at the desk or book online.

If you are looking for a beach day without the hassle of driving, these excellent UK beaches are located remarkably close to their local train stations. 🌂

Beaches Under a 10-Minute Walk From the Station

Beach	Nearest Station	Distance to Sand	Type of beach
Margate Main Sands (Kent)	Margate	4 minutes	Wide sandy bay, vintage amusement park (Dreamland), and modern art (Turner Contemporary).
Brighton Beach (East Sussex)	Brighton	10 minutes	Iconic pebble beach, bustling pier, lively bars, and independent shopping in The Lanes.
Viking Bay, Broadstairs (Kent)	Broadstairs	8 minutes	Quintessential, family-friendly sandy horseshoe bay framed by chalk cliffs.
Southend City Beach (Essex)	Southend Central / Victoria	8 minutes	Classic seaside resort featuring the world's longest pleasure pier and theme park rides.
Whitstable Beach (Kent)	Whitstable	10 minutes	Relaxed shingle beach, picturesque fishing huts, and world-famous local oysters.
Weymouth Beach (Dorset)	Weymouth	3 mins	A stunning three-mile curve of golden sand with calm, shallow waters perfect for swimming.



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Travel Tip: When heading out on sunny weekends, try to book your train tickets in advance to secure a seat, as these coastal routes get incredibly popular when the weather warms up.



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- 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



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£6.50 per session

Monday – Friday Afterschool

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£13.00 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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