



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

11th September 2026

Welcome back to the brand-new school year! We hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday. It has been fantastic seeing our corridors and classrooms buzzing with energy again, and we are thrilled to welcome back all our returning families, as well as the new faces joining our school community this term.

Settling back into the school rhythm is always an exciting time and our whole team is focused on making sure every child feels happy, safe, and right at home from day one. We have spent time since returning, making connections and building relationships to ensure another very successful year.

Our Year 6 pupils have already hit the ground running with an amazing team-building day run by WiseUp Outdoor Learning. They dove straight into a range of fun physical and logic challenges, working together to solve problems, build trust, and support one another. Seeing their teamwork and positivity in action was a brilliant way to kick off their final year with us.



2026/27 Core Priorities



Educational Excellence

To sharpen, sustain and systematically apply pupils' foundational skills, enabling them to achieve highly and exceed local and national benchmarks.



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At West Thornton, continuing to embed Educational Excellence is at the heart of our focus for this coming academic year. Our goal is to ensure every child continues to build a rock-solid foundation for lifelong learning, starting with a strong, nurturing environment in EYFS. Over the year ahead, we will be sharpening and embedding essential foundational skills across the entire curriculum; from mastering rapid recall in arithmetic and times tables to developing confident spoken language through oracy. We will also be placing a sharp focus on the core mechanics of writing, including fluent handwriting, accurate spelling, and precise punctuation. By systematically securing these vital tools, we aim to empower our pupils to express themselves creatively, tackle complex problems, and excel in every subject across the curriculum.

Attendance

Well done to these classes with attendance over 97% this week.

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Year 3 - Cedar Class	Year 1- Elm Class
Year 6 Juniper Class	Year 2 - Aspen Class
	Year 3 - Cherry Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception



This week we have begun to welcome some of our new reception children into school. They have had a wonderful time settling into their very first week of school. They have spent their days enthusiastically exploring their new classrooms, discovering all the exciting areas, and making lots of new friends along the way. Together, the children have been practicing the classroom routines and learning how to share and work kindly with one





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another. It has been a great start to their school journey, and they are already growing in confidence every day.

Year One

Welcome back from the summer holidays! It has been a wonderful start to the term, and the Year 1 learners have been working exceptionally hard as they make the exciting transition from Reception into Year 1. The teaching team is already so proud of how well they have settled in.

In English, the children have been focusing on their letter formation, practicing both their capital and lowercase letters with great care. They have also been working on building strong sentence structures. The pupils have done a fantastic job of remembering their writing skills from Reception and applying them to their new learning.

Mathematics this week was all about building strong foundational skills. The children spent time practicing counting objects accurately and spent time perfecting their number formation to ensure their numerals are clear and correctly formed.

History brought the past to life as the children explored the concepts of "past" and "present." They got a hands-on feel for how children used to learn by examining and using a selection of historical school objects, comparing them to the tools they use in their classroom today.

In Science, the class turned into young researchers to explore a variety of everyday materials. The pupils examined different items and practiced using scientific vocabulary to describe their physical properties.

Creativity and global awareness were on show in Art. The children explored flags from around the world, taking a close look at the different designs and describing the specific shapes, colors, and features they could see.

In RE, the lessons focused on the thoughtful topic of gratitude. The children reflected on the things that bring them joy and drew meaningful pictures to express what they are most grateful for in their own lives.

It has been a brilliant first week back, and the Year 1 team looks forward to an amazing term ahead!

Year Two

It has been great welcoming the Year Twos into the new academic year! They have enjoyed learning about all the different backpacks they can use to help themselves settle into their new



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environment and overall learning experience. One thing they have particularly enjoyed is feeling a sense of belonging within their class and celebrating/complimenting someone in their class everyday. It has been great hearing what the children have to say about their classmates and the positivity it brings all round.

On Monday, the children entered Fairytale world for their new English journey. It was lovely to see all the children (and teachers) dress up in costume and discuss all the different fairytale characters and stories they are. This led on to them being introduced to a story called 'The Three Billy Goat's Stuff' where the children enjoyed reading about the mean troll and the brave goats. They were able to use great adjectives to describe the troll and then build on their writing skills by learning how to use different conjunctions to enhance their sentences.

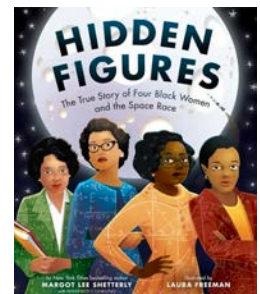
In Maths, the children are developing their knowledge of place value by learning how to partition different numbers using part whole models. They have been using their maths resources to practice making whole numbers and partitioning them into different ways. Through this they have been able to see how different numbers can be created into many ways.

In Science, we are working on expanding our knowledge of materials and their properties. They used their amazing thinking skills to describe different types of materials and through looking at different objects they were able to describe their purposes. By the end of the lesson they noticed that different objects were made from more than one material and can be made out of different materials. For example, we looked at why spoons can be made out of either wood or plastic and we were able to discuss why this was.

Year Three

Year 3 has started the new academic year by setting a high standard of presentation across the curriculum. They were excited to explore their new classroom and be introduced to new topics and teachers as well as learning new routines.

In English, the children have begun to explore our new core text 'Hidden Figures' which explores the lives of inspirational women and how they have impacted space travel. This links to our global theme for the term 'Human Rights'. This week they have looked at the features of a biography and how they portray the significant events in a person's life. They enjoyed following instructions to make straw rockets with their partners.



In maths, the children have started to recap their knowledge on place value and number lines. The children have a secure understanding of tens and ones using a variety of representations. They can partition numbers using digits and base ten.



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In history, the children will be learning about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. This week they looked at a time line of the era and ordered key events in chronological order on a time line.



In science the children have been learning about light. By the end of the term the children will be able to answer the question 'What are the different ways and sources of light we use in our daily lives?' This week they talked about the different sources of light and if they were a natural or artificial source. They were also surprised to find out that the moon is not a source of light.

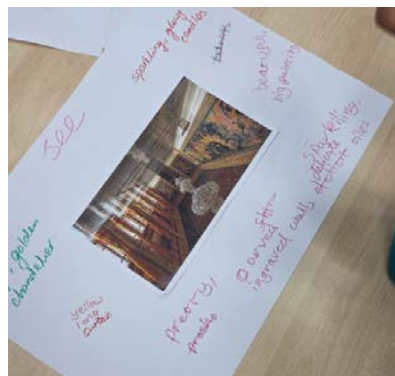
Year Four

Year 4 has kicked off the new school year with fantastic enthusiasm! The children were eager to explore their new classrooms and discover their daily routines.

In English, they couldn't wait to dive into their new core text, The Girl Who Stole an Elephant. Using their senses, the class generated thoughtfully chosen expanded noun phrases to ensure they suited the context perfectly. They have now begun drafting a descriptive setting of the palace, incorporating a variety of figurative language techniques along the way.

In maths, the children explored representing three-digit numbers with dienes blocks, counters, and part-whole models. They then built on this understanding by partitioning three-digit numbers, using dienes, part-whole models, and number sentences to break them down.

In science, the children explored a variety of animal habitats and investigated how specific

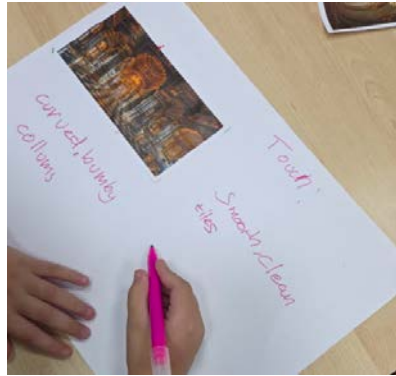


physical features help animals adapt to their environments. In geography, they developed their map skills by learning how to locate places using four-figure grid references. The class applied this knowledge by using Google Maps to pinpoint different landmarks in the local area and record



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their correct grid references. In RE, the children explored what it means to belong to a community. They reflected on the importance of rules and discussed how following them helps keep our community safe, calm, and harmonious.

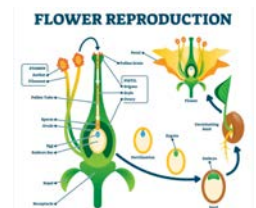
Year Five

In Maths, Year 5 pupils have deepened their understanding of place value by working with numbers up to 100,000. Beyond simply reading and writing large numbers, the children have been partitioning, comparing, and manipulating them with increasing accuracy. They are now applying these foundational skills to complex, multi-step word problems, learning to reason mathematically and explain their step-by-step logic both verbally and in writing.



In English, the children have fully immersed themselves in Tony Bradman's *The Boy and the Globe*. To bring the setting to life, pupils engaged in transforming their classrooms into Tudor-era theatres to contrast the drastically different lives of wealthy patrons and poorer citizens. Building on this rich historical context, they are now honing sophisticated narrative writing techniques—including reference chains, relative pronouns, and figurative language—to bring depth, imagery, and flair to their upcoming stories.

In Science, the curriculum has focused on key biological processes, with pupils investigating the life cycles and reproductive mechanisms of both plants and animals. They have been exploring concepts such as pollination, fertilisation, and seed dispersal, gaining a broader understanding of how different species adapt to ensure their survival.





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Year Six

What a fantastic start to the new academic year! Year 6 pupils have settled into their new roles as the leaders of the school with impressive enthusiasm and maturity. Over the past few days, the children have been busy building strong connections with their peers and classroom staff, quickly mastering our daily Year 6 routines. To support this transition, we held a brilliant team-building day filled with collaborative challenges and problem-solving activities. It was inspiring to see the children communicate so effectively, encourage one another, and lay the foundations for the year ahead!



In English, our learning has centered on Malorie Blackman's powerful novel, *Pig Heart Boy*. The children have explored the text, immersing themselves in Cameron's journey to understand his thoughts, dilemmas, and emotional voice. Through discussions and text analysis, pupils have been looking at key narrative techniques in preparation for crafting their own first-person narratives.

In maths, we hit the ground running by diving deep into our place value unit. The children have been working with large numbers up to 1,000,000. They have used a variety of visual models and place value charts to partition these substantial figures and understand the value of each digit.



In Art, the children have been studying the work of Leonardo da Vinci. Inspired by Da Vinci's scientific approach to art, the children created a mood board.

Phrase of the Week



¡Bienvenidos a todos! - Welcome back everyone!



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Community



**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

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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