



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

2nd October 2026

It's been another lovely week at West Thornton!

Census Day Success

Thursday's Census Day was a huge success! The children had a fantastic time enjoying non-uniform day, tucking into pizza and ice cream with all the toppings, and dancing on the playground with sparkly streamers in the sunshine.



JLT & Eco Team Recruitment

We are officially looking for our next Junior Leadership Team and Eco Team representatives! Applications for Rosecourt Road (Class Representatives, Year 6 Head Pupils and Eco Team) have been sent home today for those children that were keen to apply; they will need to be brought back by next Wednesday 7th October. Please encourage your child to complete their applications over the weekend and if they change their mind about applying, they can pick up an application on Monday! Discussions around JLT at Canterbury Road are in progress and updates will be shared with the children soon.



What's coming up? Bookings for our upcoming **Parents' Evenings** are now open on **Arbor**. Please log in and book your appointment early to secure your preferred time slot. Also, don't forget about our **Halloween Discos** on both sites! **Tickets are now available in both school offices**. Check for further information about the discos on the letters that have been sent home!



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

2026/27 Core Priorities



Community First

To further strengthen community engagement by continuing to work collaboratively with parents and local community council members to build a culture that deeply values education, raises aspirations for every child and ensures strong attendance

This academic year, our Community First priority is dedicated to strengthening our bonds even further with you and the wider local area to create the best possible environment for our children. Over the year ahead, we will continue to work collaboratively with parents and local community council members to foster a supportive school culture that deeply values education. By listening, sharing, and working together, we aim to raise aspirations further for every single child and champion strong attendance habits. We know that when school, families, and the community unite with a shared vision, our pupils are empowered to attend regularly, aim high, and achieve their very best.

Attendance

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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Reception - Oak Class	Reception - Ash Class
Year -1 Fir Class	Year 1 - Lime Class
Year 2 - Rowan Class	Year 3 - Chestnut Class
Year 2 - Spruce Class	Year 3 - Cherry Class
Year 3 - Cedar Class	Year 4 - Olive Class
Year 5 - Silver Birch Class	
Year 5 - Magnolia Class	
Year 6 - Blackthorn Class	
Year 6 - Juniper Class	



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Curriculum Focus

Reception

What another busy and exciting week we have had in Reception!



With a little help from our friends the Numberblocks, we have been diving into the composition of numbers—learning how numbers 2 and 3 are made up of smaller parts. The children know that if you have 1, you need another 1 to make 2, and they have been proudly using our sentence stem: *"1 and another 1 makes 2!"*

Alongside our number work, we explored how people are composed differently, too! During these lessons, the children discussed how everyone is different and how being unique is what makes us all special. We brought these ideas straight into our talk partner work, where the children practiced listening carefully to their partners' thoughts on what makes us special. Everyone worked hard on speaking in clear, confident voices to communicate their ideas using full sentences.

In Phonics, we have learned four new sounds: **i**, **n**, **m**, and **d**. We have also been exploring how individual sounds come together to build words.



The children have been working on oral blending and segmenting, as well as looking at written sounds on the page and blending them together to read full words.

Year One

It has been a busy and productive week in Year 1 as the children dive into new concepts across all their subjects. In English, we have been working hard on improving our writing. The children have been learning how to use pronouns - such as *he*, *she*, *they*, and *it* - so they don't have to repeat names over and over. We have also started using the conjunction **and** to join ideas together, extending our sentences to share even more detail.



In Maths, our focus has been on comparing groups of objects. We've been practicing using important vocabulary like *greater*, *fewer*, and *equal*, and the children have done a fantastic job learning how to use the symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$ to show when a group is greater than, less than, or equal to another.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Finally, we had another great session in History to look at toys from the past. We noticed that many of the toys from the past were made from wood and metal and the newer toys were often made of plastic.

"All these toys were made in the past and they are made of wood. It lasts a long time. The new toys are plastic. They have bright colours."
Beatrice



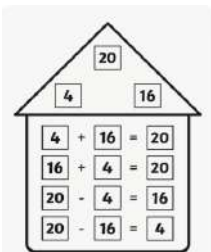
Year Two

Our new core text *Izzy Gizmo* has been a huge hit in the classroom this week! The story follows a young girl who loves inventing but struggles when things go wrong, a great lesson in perseverance for us all. Using Izzy's experiences, the children have been learning how to write diary entries. Ask your child if they can tell you about using time conjunctions for chronological order, spotting past tense verbs, or shouting out a great exclamatory sentence!



In Maths this week, the children have been strengthening their recall of number

bond facts to 10 and 20. Using tens frames and part-whole models, they have been visualizing how numbers fit together to build their speed and confidence. The class has also been exploring fact families, learning how addition and subtraction facts relate to one another!



The children became scientists this week as they put their knowledge of everyday materials to the test! Tasked with finding the best material for a waterproof raincoat, they applied what they've learned to make thoughtful predictions before carrying out a fair test. There was fantastic curiosity on display as they observed, recorded, and discovered which materials kept the water at bay!

Year Three

In English, the children have been diving into the world of poetry. We have been exploring poetic structures, identifying stanzas, and spotting features like rhyme, personification, and sensory language. Alongside our poetry focus, we have been linking our writing to the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. The children have discussed essential rights—such as the right to learn, to play, to be heard, and to have a safe home. They used these important themes to write powerful sentences using **subordinating conjunctions** (our *I SAW A WABUB* words!) to explain why and when these rights matter.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

In Maths, we have continued building our place value and calculation skills. The children have worked hard on mentally adding and subtracting **1s, 10s, and 100s** from 3-digit numbers. To deepen their understanding, they put these skills to the test by tackling multi-step **word problems**. They did a wonderful job of carefully reading the instructions, identifying the key mathematical operations needed, and checking their working out!

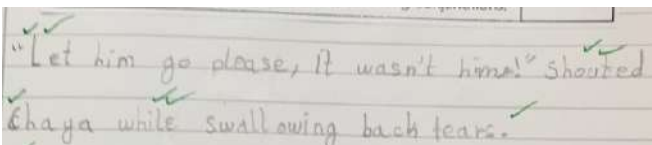
In Art, the children enthusiastically applied the various drawing techniques they've learned to create artwork inspired by the style of Corey Barksdale. Using their creativity, they were given chalk pastels to complete their pieces by drawing the other half. The children had a fantastic time experimenting with the materials and expressing their artistic skills.



In History this week, the children worked collaboratively to research and use their inference skills to explore the similarities and differences between two famous Egyptian queens—Nefertiti and Cleopatra. Using both primary and secondary sources, they discovered fascinating facts about each queen. After discussing their findings, the class created Venn diagrams to compare and contrast the lives and legacies of Queen Nefertiti and

Queen Cleopatra, deepening their understanding of these historical figures.

Year Four



Year 4 has had another good week! In English we have begun a new unit looking at narrative writing in preparation for writing our own narrative based on the book *The Girl who Stole an Elephant*. We

have looked at the features of a narrative including dialogue, characters and emotions. Then we have been reviewing our learning about writing dialogue from Year 3 and extending our dialogue using subordinating conjunctions and clauses.

In maths we have finished learning about 4 digit numbers by comparing and ordering numbers to 10,000. Then we briefly looked at Roman numerals and learnt how to write numbers to 100 in them. Finally we have learnt how to round numbers to the nearest 10 and 100.

In the wider curriculum, we have continued to learn about Sri Lanka in geography. We looked at how the physical features of the country have impacted the human features. In science we have learnt about the impact of humans on the environment and considered how we could help to take care of the environment in our community.



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Five

It's been a busy and productive week for year 5. In English, the children have been working hard to innovate a narrative based on our core text *The Boy and the Globe*. It's been wonderful to see them use the skills they have been learning when writing a narrative to entertain. For example, children have included dialogue to begin to advance the action in the story, used examples of show not tell to describe characters' feelings and synonyms to avoid repetition and increase cohesion. It's been really great to see children use their knowledge from the trips from the previous weeks to help them with their writing.

In reading this week, the children have continued to read adaptations of Shakespeare's work with *The Tempest*. It has been extremely entertaining reading in class and exploring the stories, especially after visiting Shakespeare's Globe earlier this term. In maths, Year 5 have been growing in confidence with their learning on place value with lessons on number lines and rounding. There has been lots of practice of working methodically and applying mathematical language.

In history, the children have been learning about Henry VIII's break from the Catholic Church and life for different social classes during Elizabethan England. The children had a fantastic debate, taking on the role of Henry VIII, his advisers and the Pope to discuss why he should divorce his wife. It was great to see the children taking responsibility for their own learning and of their group's learning. Finally, in science, the children have set up an investigation into plant reproduction using cuttings to measure whether mint or basil cuttings grow roots more quickly.



Year Six

As always, the weeks in Year 6 are flying by! This week we have immersed ourselves in the debate around animal testing, factors and prime numbers, and exploring how Croydon's landscape is changing!

In writing, the children have dived into the world of animal testing as they prepare to structure their persuasive letters to campaign for a complete ban. They have gathered essential information and research on the topic, while actively working on their cohesive skills to link paragraphs and ideas smoothly.

In maths, the children have been plying their times table fluency and reasoning knowledge to deepen their understanding of factors, multiples, and prime numbers. They have been finding



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

common factors and using problem-solving strategies to identify prime numbers within varied contexts. In addition to this, they have focused on explaining their mathematical thinking clearly, using precise vocabulary to justify their answers.

In geography, the children have explored the impact of population increase right here in Croydon and how it has impacted the use of land across our local area. They have investigated how a growing population creates competing demands for residential areas, transport, commercial spaces, and green environments. They have been analyzing these local changes over time to better understand how our surrounding urban environment continues to adapt.

Things to Celebrate

In Year 5 Magnolia, Aathuren and Leonardo have shown such wonderful enthusiasm with their maths learning and were able to explain the steps to interpreting number lines confidently and using excellent mathematical language. Well done!

Community



Family films & creative activities at Croydon Harvest this weekend

Small World Cinema is joining Croydon Harvest at the David Lean Cinema in the Croydon Clocktower, on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October, with films and creative activities for children and families.

Cinemini (ages 2–5) - Saturday & Sunday, 10.30am - a FREE, playful first cinema experience with short films, sensory play, light and movement.

Saturday - 'Oink', 12pm - 2:30 a funny family film (PG, recommended 6+) followed by a free farm animal workshop, where children can make recycled animals and bring them to life in a time-lapse recording. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/559pjyb2>

Sunday - Animal Short Films, 12pm - 2:30 a playful collection of dialogue-free short films for all ages, followed by a free workshop making miniature animal habitats from natural materials and found objects. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/36x9ruh9>



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cinemini is free and drop-in. Film + workshop sessions are ticketed, with the workshop included.

Find out more and book:

<https://www.culturecroydon.com/event/croydon-harvest-small-world-cinema/>



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Students can learn to play these instruments in our Endangered Species Centre, Brass and Clarinet Star Class, and Cello Star Class on Saturday mornings as part of our Saturday Centre.

Please sign up using the QR to take part!



GENERAL INFORMATION

When can I start?

After we have received your application, we will contact you as soon as a place is available.

Rehearsals

We rehearse at Oasis Academy, Shirley Park most Saturdays during term time, from 9:15 - 10am. Dates will be issued at the beginning of each term



For more information about our Saturday Sessions, please contact the CMA office via email at musicandarts.education@croydon.gov.uk or visit croydonmusicandarts.co.uk



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE TASTER SESSIONS!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING

Learn to play one of these amazing instruments!

Try out the bassoon, double bass, french horn, oboe, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, or cello.

Hear them played and find out what happens in lessons!

SCAN ME



BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE TODAY

**Years
3 – 7**



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 10TH**



9:15 – 10:00AM



**OASIS ACADEMY
SHIRLEY PARK CR9 7AL**



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KG-Doodles

CHILDCARE

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

UC Universal
Credit



Childcare Vouchers*

Childcare
Choices

CCGPS

VISA



Open Hours:

Monday - Friday Breakfast

07:30 am - 8:40 am

£5.50 per session

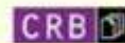
Monday - Friday Afterschool

15:15 pm - 18:30 pm

£12.50 per session*

Registered & Approved

Ofsted



www.kgdoodles.co.uk
0117-3322-811

* All fees include VAT and are subject to change