



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

18th September 2026

We wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your attendance at the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings for each year group. Your presence and engagement in these meetings are greatly appreciated as they play a crucial role in building a strong partnership between home and school.

Attendance and punctuality are two fundamental aspects of a successful educational journey, and we'd like to emphasise their importance. Good attendance and punctuality are not only valuable but also essential for your child's educational development. Research has consistently shown that attendance and punctuality in line with the national average are directly linked to improved educational attainment and overall performance.

Thank you to all our pupils and parents for your brilliant cooperation as we complete our first two full weeks of having a soft start to the day. We are already seeing the benefits of a calmer start to the morning and far less congestion in the playground.

It has been another exciting week of learning across the school: Year 1 took part in a fantastic history workshop on Monday, while Year 5 enjoyed a memorable trip to the Globe Theatre on Wednesday. We look forward to many more of these opportunities throughout the year, as we firmly believe that learning outside the classroom is a vital part of school life.

Finally, with the weather turning wetter, please ensure your child comes to school every day in appropriate clothing, including a waterproof coat.

2026/27 Core Priorities



Professional Growth

To cultivate a collaborative community of reflective practitioners, fostering a culture of continuous, evidence-informed professional growth to maximise pupil success



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This academic year, our Professional Growth priority is all about cultivating a collaborative community of reflective educators to ensure your children receive the very best learning experiences. Over the year ahead, we will continue to build a culture of continuous, evidence-informed development across our whole team. We are committed to expanding our instructional coaching programme for all staff, further empowering our middle leaders to drive excellence in their subjects, and launching our next round of impactful Professional Growth Projects. By constantly refining our teaching practice and learning together, we aim to directly maximise pupil success and create the best possible outcomes for every child.

Attendance

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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Reception - Oak Class	Year 1- Elm Class
Year 2 Rowan Class	Year 1- Lime Class
Year 2 Spruce Class	Year 3 - Cherry Class
Year 4 Beech Class	
Year 4 Acacia Class	

Why Every Day Matters:

- **Your Friends Are Waiting:** School is where your team is. Working together, sharing laughs, and learning side-by-side makes every challenge easier.
- **Brain Gains:** Just like practicing a sport or a game makes you unstoppable, coming to class every day builds a stronger, sharper brain.
- **Unlocking Your Dreams:** Whatever you want to be when you grow up—an astronaut, a creator, an athlete, or a scientist—starts right here, right now, with the habits you build today.

Set that alarm, put on that uniform, and take on the day. Your future self will thank you for showing up!



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Curriculum Focus

Reception

Reception children have continued to settle beautifully into their new learning environment this week. They have been busy making new friends and learning the rules and routines of the classroom.

This week, the children began learning to subitise - a math skill where they look at a small group of objects and recognize "how many" straight away, without needing to count them one by one (just like knowing the dots on a die!). They practiced using their "fast eyes" to spot small groups of objects instantly without counting, then showed the matching amount on their fingers.

Throughout the week, we have also continued our baseline assessments. These have included activities such as matching numerals to quantities, recognising numbers, and practising writing their names.

We are so proud of how well the children are settling in and engaging with their new learning!

Year One



Year 1 kicked off their week with a very exciting history workshop by Pollock's Toy Museum where they got to see and handle a range of antique toys. They learned when the toys were made, what materials were used to make them and how they are different from today's toys. The children were very interested to hear all about how children played with them in the past.



In English, the children have been introduced to our core text for this half term "My shadow is pink". They have looked closely at the main character to see what the boy likes to do. They then shared hobbies and interests of their own with each other, writing sentences about themselves.

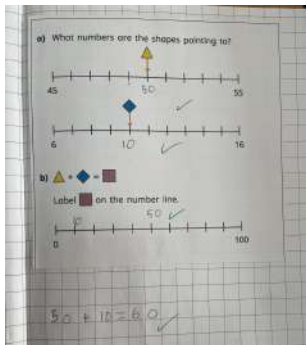


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In maths, the children have continued to strengthen their knowledge of numbers to 10 by counting on from any number and filling in missing numbers on a number track. At the end of the week they were introduced to the concept of '1 more'. They enjoyed using manipulatives such as cubes to make 1 more and find patterns.

Year Two



This week in year 2 we have been expanding our learning. In English, the children have shown fantastic progress in their descriptive writing based on our core text, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. They have really grasped how to select vivid adjectives and correctly apply the simple past tense to describe the feelings of both the headteacher and the goats throughout the story. In Maths, the class thoroughly enjoyed building on their place value skills—practising counting in tens and ones to order and compare larger numbers with growing confidence.

In Geography, the children turned into global explorers as they identified the world's continents and located them on a world map. In RE, we explored the Christian creation story, discussing what Christians believe about how the world was made. Meanwhile, our young scientists conducted experiments on everyday materials, investigating how various items change shape and identifying key similarities between plastic and paper.



Year Three

This week has been all about discovery and creativity! In **English**, we've been completing our biographies on the incredible mathematician, **Katherine Johnson**. They've worked so hard on their writing, making sure to include key facts and organise their paragraphs to tell her life story. The finished pieces are truly out of this world! The children have also been looking at staff members across the school and their biographies, then we transferred their skills they have learnt previously to point out key information.

In **Maths**, we've been exploring big numbers by **partitioning numbers to 1000**. The children have been fantastic at breaking down numbers into hundreds, tens, and ones. We've also been looking at the *flexibility* of partitioning—understanding that 345 can be $300 + 40 + 5$, but also $200 + 140 + 5$. This has really helped them with their mental maths skills!



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In history, our lessons have taken us on an incredible journey back in time to ancient Egypt. The children have been fascinated by the Egyptian system of writing called hieroglyphs, which uses over 700 tiny pictures instead of letters! The children had a fantastic hands-on experience by making their very own papyrus paper, just like the Egyptians did thousands of years ago.

In science this week, the children have been looking at how light travels through objects. The children have been learning about what transparent, translucent and opaque objects are. This week they even created an experiment and predicted what materials they thought light would travel through.



Year Four

In Maths, Year 4 pupils have been building on their understanding of place value by exploring numbers beyond 1,000 and up to 10,000. Using concrete resources like dienes blocks, place value counters, and Gattegno charts, the children visually represented 4-digit numbers, calculated missing interval values on number lines, and mastered the vital role of placeholder zeros. They also developed their reasoning skills by partitioning complex numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones.

In English, pupils stepped into the lush Sri Lankan setting of *The Girl Who Stole the Elephant* by Nizrana Farook to draft rich, multi-sensory setting descriptions. To make their writing cohesive and engaging, the children practiced combining clauses using FANBOYS coordinating conjunctions (such as *for*, *yet*, and *so*) to extend compound sentences with figurative language like similes. They also focused on varying their sentence structures by using fronted adverbials of place and manner—remembering their "bodyguard commas"—to guide the reader through the sights, sounds, and atmospheric feelings of the jungle.

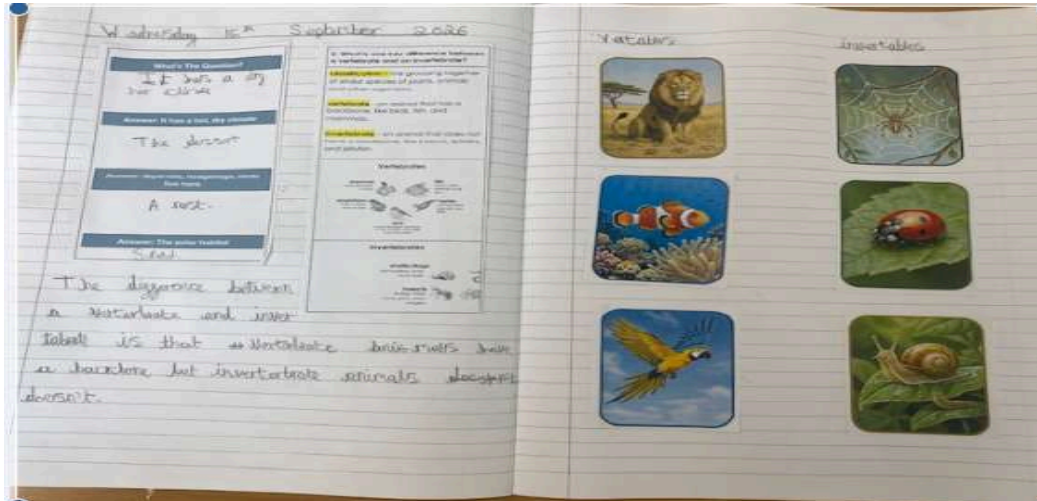
In Science, the curriculum focused on classification and living things. Pupils investigated the fundamental differences between vertebrates (animals with a backbone) and invertebrates (animals without a backbone). They explored how species are grouped by physical characteristics, categorizing vertebrates into mammals, fish, reptiles, birds, and amphibians, while



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comparing them directly to invertebrates such as insects, spiders, worms, and mollusks.



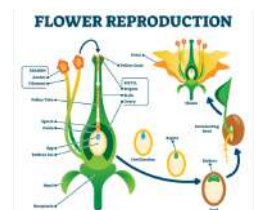
Year Five

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 give them a better understanding, year 5 went on a trip to The Globe Theatre. There they were given a tour of the theatre and took part in an acting workshop, recreating a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. 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 narratives.

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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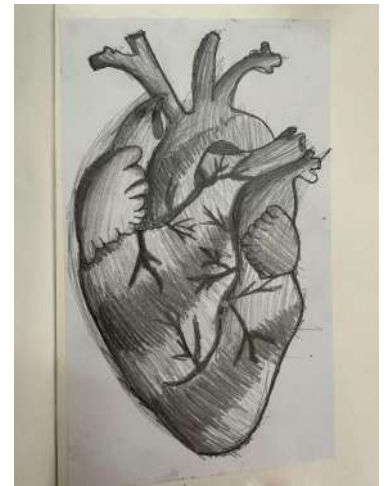
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Year Six

It has been a fantastic week of learning in Year 6! In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of powers of 10, working with number lines up to 10,000,000 and practising how to round numbers to the nearest whole number, including numbers up to 1,000,000.

In English, the children have begun writing diary entries from the perspective of Cameron, the main character in our core text *Pig Heart Boy*. They have been developing their writing by using informal language, figurative language, show-not-tell techniques and adverbial phrases to make their diary entries engaging and expressive.

In Art, the children have explored a range of shading techniques and applied these skills to create realistic sketches of the human heart, carefully considering light, shadow, tone and detail. It has been wonderful to see the children applying their skills across the curriculum and growing in confidence as learners.



Phrase of the Week



El valor del mes de West Thornton es AMABILIDAD! - West Thornton's termly value is KINDNESS!



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Community



Improve your English language
with CALAT



English Course enrolment is now open!

Our Services :

- ✓ Speaking
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Reading



**Come along to the main office at our Rosecourt Road site
to enroll for our 11 week English language courses with
CALAT. Please bring your ID and proof of benefit.**

**CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT WEST THORNTON PRIMARY
SCHOOL, ROSECOURT ROAD CR03BS START: EVERY TUESDAY
AND FRIDAY 9AM-12PM 11-WEEK COURSE.**

Email below for more
information:

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or
claire.smith@croydon.gov.uk



**Croydon Adult
Learning and
Training**



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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*

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