



WEST THORNTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

25th September 2026

What a fantastic week it has been at West Thornton Primary! It's been wonderful to see the sunshine return, with children making the absolute most of the warmer weather and enjoying their outdoor play across both sites.

On Wednesday, Year 5 stepped back in time with an exciting visit to Hampton Court Palace to bring their history topic on the Tudors to life. The children explored the grand Great Hall, experienced the bustling atmosphere of Henry VIII's vast kitchens, and learned about the daily routines and drama of royal court life. It was a fantastic experience that deepened their understanding of Henry VIII's reign and ignited their enthusiasm for Tudor history.

On Wednesday afternoon, our dedicated team of Peer Mediators from across both sites came together for a special session to reset and refresh ahead of the upcoming year. Our Peer Mediators play such a vital role in our school community. They make an immensely positive influence on our playgrounds by helping their classmates resolve conflicts peacefully, encouraging inclusive play, and supporting their peers socially. The team left the afternoon full of enthusiasm, and we can't wait to see the wonderful impact they will continue to make as the school year progresses!

2026/27 Core Priorities



High Quality Inclusive Practice for All

To ensure every child, regardless of their individual needs, strengths, or backgrounds, continues to thrive within our school community with a particular emphasis on supporting disadvantaged pupils and learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

This academic year, our High Quality Inclusive Practice for All priority focuses on ensuring that every single child, regardless of their individual needs, strengths, or backgrounds, continues to thrive in our school community. Over the year ahead, we are committed to further narrowing the



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achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers by tailoring our support and removing barriers to learning. We will be expanding adaptive teaching strategies to further support our learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL), while continually enhancing our overall SEND provision. Crucially, we will continue to develop specialised, targeted support for children with the most complex needs, ensuring that every pupil feels valued, fully included, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Attendance

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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Year 2 - Rowan	Year 2 - Aspen
Year 3 - Cedar	Year 6 - Acer
Year 4 - Beech	
Year 5 - Silver Birch	
Year 5 - Magnolia	
Year 6 - Juniper	

Curriculum Focus

Reception

This week, the children officially started their phonics lessons! They have been fantastic at listening carefully for the initial sounds in words. They have learned four new sounds and have worked hard during their sessions. A phonics practice sheet will be coming home this Friday to help you practise the sounds together at home.



In Maths, the children have been learning about the number 3. They have been exploring the different ways 3 can be represented and are beginning to develop their subitising skills. They have



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also been practising counting objects using one-to-one correspondence, using their fingers to touch each object as they count to make sure they count each one only once.

As part of their topic work, the children have been exploring painting. They have been learning about different painting techniques and how to use equipment such as paintbrushes, paint pots and aprons safely and carefully.

The children have also continued with their baseline assessments throughout the week.

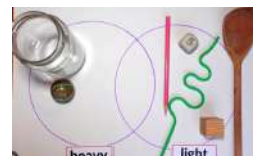
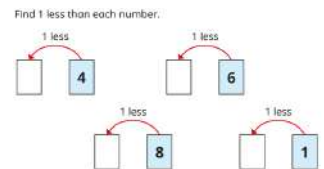
Year One

This week, our young mathematicians have been practicing counting backwards and finding one less than a given number within 10. They have been using hands-on manipulatives like cubes and working with number lines to help visualize these concepts and build a strong mathematical foundation.

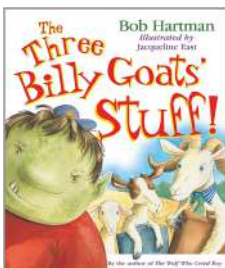


In English, the children have been working hard on expanding their sentence-writing skills! We have been learning how to use **nouns** and **adjectives** together to bring our writing to life and add exciting details to our sentences.

Our scientists have been investigating the properties of everyday materials! Through hands-on exploration, the children have been testing and grouping materials based on how they look and feel—discovering whether items are heavy, light, soft and hard.

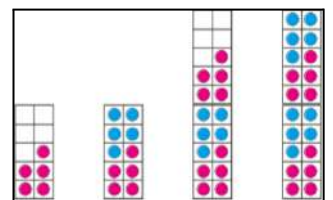


Year Two



This week in English, the children put their creativity to work, using their previous planning to draft exciting new endings for *The Three Billy Goats Stuff*. They showed fantastic effort incorporating descriptive adjectives to bring their characters to life, alongside conjunctions to connect actions with reasons and elevate their storytelling.

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In maths, our mathematicians focused on skip-counting in 2s, 5s, 10s, and even tackled the challenge of counting in 3s! Using 100 squares and completing number lines both forwards and backwards, Year 2 explored a variety of hands-on resources and visual models to count fluently in multiples rather than ones.

In art, the children honed essential clay techniques, including scoring, moulding, and cross-hatching, building the foundational skills needed to craft their upcoming final masterpieces.

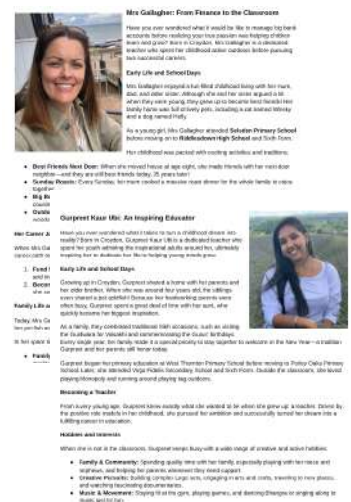


Year Three

Our Year 3 classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity and friendly competition this week! In Maths, the children have been deepening their understanding of place value by comparing three-digit numbers. They put their skills to the test in a lively classroom challenge, using number cards to strategize and build the largest and smallest possible values to see who could take top spot.

In Writing, the pupils turned into star journalists as they researched and wrote biographies about their teachers. They were thrilled to uncover some truly wonderful (and surprising!) facts, while working hard to polish their sentences using fronted adverbials and clear pronouns.

Meanwhile, our young scientists have been exploring the fascinating world of Light, investigating how it reflects off a variety of different surfaces through hands-on discovery. It's been a week full of proud "aha!" moments, big smiles, and fantastic progress across the board.



Year Four

In Maths this week, Year 4 consolidated their place value knowledge by rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000. The children applied these skills to estimation challenges and practised column addition for two 4-digit numbers without exchanges.

In English, our focus was entirely on creative writing, with children planning and drafting vivid setting descriptions inspired by our core text, *The Girl Who Stole an*





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Elephant. Pupils selected a setting and mapped out sensory details describing sights, sounds, and feelings. They brought their scenes to life using expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, similes, and personification.

In Geography, pupils investigated how physical features shape human activity in Sri Lanka, discovering why coastal trading towns and agricultural lands are situated near specific rivers and mountains. In Art, inspired by artist Jill Pelto, children deepened their colour theory knowledge using analogue and complementary watercolour palettes as well as tracing climate change line graphs onto their backgrounds in fine ink.



Year Five

It has been a very busy and interesting week in Year 5. The children have been working hard across a variety of subjects and enjoyed a visit to Hampton Court to consolidate their learning about the Tudors.



In Maths, we have been learning to identify and estimate numbers on different number lines, including number lines with different intervals. The children have also been comparing and ordering numbers up to 100,000 and applying these skills to reasoning and problem-solving activities.

In writing, the children put their imaginations to work by beginning to craft their own narratives based on our core text *The Boy and the Globe*. They worked hard to include the skills we have practised so far in their writing: personification, hyperbole, show not tell and dialogue to advance the action. They showed fantastic effort as they added unique creative details to truly make the stories their own.

In History, we have continued to explore our topic on the Tudors, exploring how key decisions made during this period have influenced aspects of modern life. This learning



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was consolidated during our trip to Hampton Court, where the children were thrilled to see their learning come to life.

In Art, the children reviewed and experimented with different painting techniques, including graffito, wash, blending and dry brush. They enjoyed trying out each technique before reflecting on which one they would like to use in their final piece.

Year Six

As always, the start to Year 6 seems to go very quickly! This week we have immersed ourselves more in show not tell characterisation, negative numbers and putting Croydon on the map!

In maths, the children have been understanding more about crossing the 0 boundary to add or subtract from a positive or negative number. They have been able to read scales and number lines in different orientations to calculate real-life situations like temperature change. In addition to this, they have looked at completing sequences which include negative numbers.

In writing, the children have worked on a model write in first person which conveys show not tell actions and reactions from characters from our core text, 'Pig Heart Boy'. They have included similes and metaphors which build tension within the home. They are now ready to innovate using another character's perspective.

In other subjects, the children have worked on comparing different locations to Croydon, observing that it is a heavily built up area compared to small villages or towns elsewhere, with fewer green spaces. They are preparing to look at this in more detail next week when we go on our fieldwork walk. In art, they have developed their sketching and shading techniques further by using a grid to support their anatomical drawings of the heart – the results have been excellent!

Phrase of the Week



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

is KINDNESS!



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Things to Celebrate



Rutmi and Persis in Year 6 at Rosecourt have been motivated by our work on regulation and have made their very own 'Regulation Backpack' to support themselves and others. Not only beautifully made, but thoughtfully put together to support pupils across the school. An inspiring idea - well done!

Year 5 showed our value of responsibility whilst on our trips! Children from Canterbury Road were recognised by a well-known author while waiting for the train at East Croydon. She commented on their integrity and gave them a signed copy of her book. Also, Anaya and Rayya from Rosecourt Road showed kindness by standing up for members of the public to let them sit on the train without being asked.

Community

Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT) are pleased to be running an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Family Learning Programme at the **Asian Resource Centre** next door to West Thornton, Canterbury Road site.

This 8-week course is designed for parents and carers at all ESOL levels and will support the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

The programme will have a strong focus on helping parents and carers to support their children's learning and educational development at home.

Please see attached leaflet, for more information please email: familylearning3@croydon.gov.uk



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ESOL+ For Families

(English for **S**peakers of **O**ther **L**anguages)

A free English learning course at the Asian Resource Centre for mums, dads and family members.



Improve your English



Make new friends



Connect with your child's school



Find out how to support your child

Starts: Friday 2nd October 9:00 – 12:00 • 8 Weeks

Where: Asian Resource Centre • 89 Canterbury Road
Croydon • CR0 3HA

No creche available.



Croydon Adult
Learning And
Training

For more information email:

familylearning3@croydon.gov.uk

www.calat.ac.uk/family-learning

CALAT

One more week to enrol for our inhouse CALAT English language class! Join us twice a week, 9am - 12pm to improve your spoken and written English.



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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:
linda.gray@croydon.gov.uk
or
claire.smith@croydon.gov.uk



**Croydon Adult
Learning and
Training**



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CDI Parent-Led Anxiety Group Intervention

Is your child aged 5–12 struggling with big fears or worries that get in the way of everyday life? Join the CDI Parent-Led Anxiety Group Intervention, a supportive 6-week program designed to empower you with practical, everyday tools to foster your child's bravery and calm. Because you know your child best, this course guides you through understanding their anxiety and encouraging independence in a safe environment. Sessions run weekly for 2.5 hours starting Monday, 28th September 2026 (10:00 AM – 12:30 PM) at the Shirley Family Hub (34 Lilac Gardens, Croydon, CR0 8NR), with refreshments provided and a dedicated follow-up session included. Reserve your spot via the link below:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0ZOUTUlp60iXF4UEbsog6JMDCoacVsFBuVxua7f6_6BUQIZIRUxCRFBYSUpZMEJKUTVGN0Y4UTUzSy4u&origin=lprLink&route=shorturl



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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 subject to VAT and other charges