WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

9th October 2026

Learning has been in full swing at West Thornton this week! Among many great activities, Year 2 enjoyed a brilliant 'Stories from Europe' workshop to support them with their learning in English and geography.



Athlete Visit - Monday 12th October (CR) and Tuesday 13th October (RR)
As we approach the final week of this half term, there is still plenty for children to look forward to. We are thrilled to welcome former GB athlete Hannah Beharry to our school as part of the *Great Athletes* initiative to inspire our young learners on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October. If you have already collected sponsorship money, remember to bring it in or collect donations online by following the link below.

https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing

We are raising money to purchase new sports equipment for our school. Hannah will be helping us to do so by leading a fitness circuit activity for all the children. Thank you to those who have already sponsored our children. We have raised over £600 so far!

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 13th October and Thursday 15th October
We look forward to meeting with you all on Parents' Evening next week to discuss your child's development. Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th October. Research consistently shows that strong parent-school engagement directly boosts children's progress, so please ensure you book your appointment slot via Arbor if you haven't done so already.

Before our two-week half-term holiday, we will be holding our Halloween Discos on Friday 16th October. There is still time to buy tickets for the event.

Please help us end this term on a high note by ensuring your children come to school every day next week. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership! Have a lovely weekend.

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2026/27 Core Priorities



Culture of Connectedness

To further embed our established relational and trauma-informed practices, ensuring that understanding behaviour as communication and building strong, secure relationships remain central to our school culture, driving improvements in pupil well-being, connectedness, and self-regulation

This academic year, our Culture of Connectedness priority is focused on deepening the supportive, nurturing environment where every child feels safe, seen, and understood. Over the year ahead, we will further embed our established relational and trauma-informed practices across the entire school. By continuing to view behavior as a form of communication, our staff will prioritize building strong, secure relationships that help children feel truly connected to our school community. Through this approach, we aim to nurture pupil well-being, foster emotional resilience, and empower our children with the tools they need to regulate their emotions, engage fully in their learning, and flourish every day.

Attendance

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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Y1 - Fir Class	Reception - Ash Class
Y2 - Rowan Class	Y1 - Elm Class
Y4 - Beech Class	Y1 - Lime Class
Y4 - Acacia Class	Y2 - Aspen Class
Y5 - Silver Birch Class	Y3 - Chestnut Class
Y6 - Juniper Class	Y3 - Cherry Class
	Y5 - Hawthorn Class



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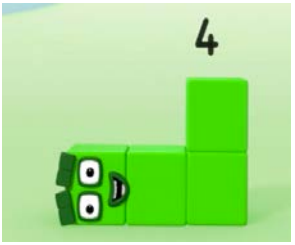
Curriculum Focus

Reception



What a busy and exciting week it has been in Reception! In phonics, the children have been hard at work expanding their letter-sound knowledge by focusing on **g**, **o**, **c**, and **k**. They have enjoyed exploring words that begin with these sounds and practising blending them together. It is wonderful to watch their confidence grow as they begin to recognise these key building blocks of reading and writing all around the classroom.

In their composition lessons, the children turned their focus towards their personal worlds, discussing family and the people who care for them. Using full, descriptive sentences, they spoke about who they live with and shared what makes their families unique. The highlight of the week was certainly looking at the family photos sent in from home; the children thoroughly enjoyed displaying their pictures and proudly telling their classmates all about their loved ones.



Maths learning was equally hands-on as the children continued developing their subitising skills up to the number four, learning to instantly recognise quantities without needing to count them one by one. The children have also learnt all about their new Numberblock, Number 4. He showed children all the different ways he can be represented and how even though he changes shape, he still makes the same amount. In addition to subitising, they explored how to sort various objects based on different attributes like color, shape, and size. Their enthusiastic discussions and careful observations made for a brilliant, learning-filled week!

Year One



This week in Year 1, the children have shown excellence and resilience in their poetry unit! We have been reading the book 'My Shadow is Pink' written by Scott Stuart. The children have been writing poems, focusing on using verbs and adjectives to describe what their shadow is like. Additionally, the children have had to ensure that their use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops are consistent and correct. They have shown so

much positivity and urgency when completing their poems and it has been a joy to see.



This week in maths, Year 1 has been learning to order numbers from smallest to largest and largest to smallest. They have also been exploring the greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols to compare numbers and identify which number is bigger or smaller. The children have enjoyed using their number knowledge to compare numbers and explain their thinking. Well done, Year 1!



In art, Year 1 have been developing their printing skills by transferring their own designs onto print tiles, exploring how patterns and images can be used to create prints. In RE, the children have been finding out why many people give thanks to God for the Earth and its harvest of fruits and crops. They explored the Jewish festival of Sukkot by creating their own sukkahs, helping them to understand how Jewish people celebrate the harvest and give thanks for the food and shelter they have. The children have enjoyed sharing their ideas and making connections between harvest celebrations, gratitude and the world around us.

Year Two

This week has been a super busy week for Year 2. In English, they have been using all the skills they have learnt last week to write their own diary entries. They came up with fantastic exclamatory sentences, used good adverbs and time adverbials to describe a day that did not go according to plan but in the end managed to be a day that ended in positivity and resilience.

In maths, they have been focusing on working on related addition and subtraction facts to create fact families and number bonds. They really enjoyed noticing specific number patterns and working out the number sums which helped them develop their number knowledge further.



In the wider curriculum, the children have continued enjoying their learning journey based on the famous inventor Izzy Gizmo. Within art, they created their own clay designs using super cool tools that Izzy would use as an inventor. In science, they

helped Izzy test different materials to see what would be the best one for a Super Splash Shield for her teddy bear when she takes it outside in the rain.

What a great and productive week it's been in Year 2; for all the children.

Year Three

This week, we continued our exciting unit on poetry! The children have been diving deep into different types of nouns, learning about the difference between a concrete noun (something you can touch or see, like a 'ball') and an abstract noun (a feeling or idea, like 'joy' or 'freedom'). They have been using these powerful words to help them write their own free verse poems based on the important right, the 'Right to Play'.

In maths, we tackled a challenging new concept: adding 10s across a hundred! The children have been using two fantastic resources to help them understand this: dienes blocks and place value counters. With place value counters, they would count out a number like 90, and then add 20 more, recognising that the ten counters in the tens column needed to be regrouped to make one counter in the hundreds column. This helped them smoothly calculate tricky sums like 90+50=140.





Our young historians stepped back thousands of years into Ancient Egypt to experience the fascinating process of mummification firsthand! Acting as ancient embalmers, the children actively took part in preserving a "body," using tomatoes to simulate extracting organs and carefully drying the tissues. They discovered how the organs were removed and placed into four special canopic jars - each protected by a guardian - while learning why the heart was left inside to be weighed in the afterlife. After scooping out the tomato "organs" and packing them with salt to mimic natron, the class completed the ritual by wrapping their subjects in tissue.



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Year Four

Year 4 have shown fantastic dedication recently as they begin retelling the story of our class text, 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. The children are applying key writing techniques mastered in previous sessions, including fronted adverbials, punctuated direct speech, and 'show, not tell' descriptions. Next week, they will put their own creative twist on the tale by innovating key story elements to write a unique version of their own.

In maths, the children have been tackling challenging application problems involving rounding to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000 - such as identifying possible starting numbers that round to 300. They then moved onto adding two four-digit numbers. They practised first adding without an exchange, then with one exchange and later on with more than one exchange. The children also tackled reasoning questions and application questions.



Over in art, the Year 4s thoroughly enjoyed exploring depth and shading using line techniques and watercolors. Meanwhile, their PE lesson saw them building essential team and movement skills during Monday's cricket coaching lesson. In geography, the children described how physical geography impacts human geography.



Year Five

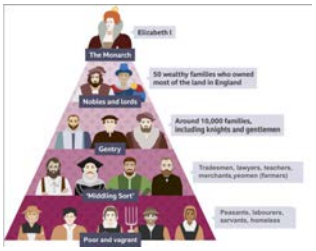
In English, pupils have been immersed in an in-depth study of the essential structural and linguistic features of recount letters. This will lay a solid foundation for their upcoming extended independent writing tasks. Through detailed analysis of exemplary texts, the children explored the significance of writing from a first-person perspective and organising content strictly in chronological order to build clarity and narrative logic. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on selecting precise past-tense verbs and artfully integrating personal thoughts and feelings, allowing pupils to convey authentic character experiences and emotional depth within their correspondence.

In maths, the children have worked diligently to deepen their understanding of rounding whole numbers across multiple magnitudes, specifically to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, and 100,000. Once fluency was established, pupils applied these mathematical strategies to solve complex

multi-step reasoning problems, demonstrating resilience as they justified their methodology and articulated their problem-solving pathways.



In history, Year 5 embarked on a fascinating historical inquiry into Elizabethan England, investigating how social class and personal wealth profoundly shaped the daily lives and opportunities of individuals during this period. To step into the shoes of real historical detectives, our Year 5 pupils worked directly with authentic historical evidence—specifically probate inventories (inventories of people's belongings from the past!). By looking item by item at everything from simple household goods to larger assets like farmland and livestock, pupils learned how to piece together clues about a person's real wealth and place in society. It was a hands-on way to bring past economies to life!

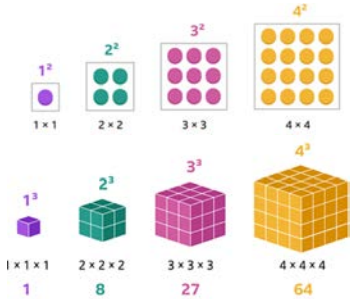


Year Six

It has been another busy and engaging week in Year 6 as the children have dived into a fantastic variety of learning across the curriculum. From crafting compelling arguments to investigating scientific phenomena, our pupils have shown brilliant enthusiasm and curiosity in everything they have tackled!



In writing, the children have been exploring the persuasive power of language. They began by researching animal rights and dissecting the key features of persuasive letters, analysing how writers structure strong arguments to influence their readers. The children are now getting ready to apply these techniques - such as rhetorical questions, emotive language, and backed-up evidence -to craft their own impactful persuasive letters on the topic.



Meanwhile, in maths, the year group has been deepening their understanding of number properties. After mastering the differences between prime and composite numbers, they transitioned seamlessly into exploring square and cube numbers using a range of hands-on resources.

Science has seen some exciting hands-on discovery as the pupils launched an investigation into the growth of mould on bread. Acting like true scientists, the children carefully formulated their own hypotheses and wrote out clear, step-by-step methods, making sure to identify key variables to ensure a fair test. Over the coming days, they will be observing, tracking, and analysing how different conditions affect mould growth, connecting their findings directly to their wider science topic on living things and micro-organisms.



Rounding off a brilliant week, Year 6 headed out for a geography field trip to study land use and local history. Walking through the local area, the children surveyed different types of housing - such as terraced and detached homes - alongside local industrial spaces, businesses, and green areas. They noticed how our surroundings have evolved over time, including modern developments like the new West Thornton Primary School site on Canterbury Road, while recognising places that have stood the test of time. A highlight of the trip was exploring Mitcham Common, where the children thoroughly enjoyed spending time in nature. They put their scientific knowledge into practice by identifying and classifying living organisms around the pond, from various fungi to local vertebrates!

Community

Leading Parent Partnership Award

On Monday 12th October, a LPPA advisor will be visiting us to review our progress and see how we collaborate with parents, carers and the local community. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our school community - we look forward to sharing our next steps and progress with you soon!

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Crystal Palace Opportunities



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KG Doodles
CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club

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