WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week we've had to wrap up the half term! We were thrilled to welcome Hannah Beharry, the top UK female boxer for the past nine years, to our school. Hannah delivered an inspiring assembly, sharing her powerful story of resilience and perseverance on her journey to success. The excitement didn't stop there - she even showed off some of her boxing skills in a playful showdown against Mrs Dennis and Mr Williams! Following the assembly, the children took part in energetic circuit training sessions in the hall with Hannah.

A massive well done to all of our children who worked so hard to get sponsored for the event. Thanks to your amazing support, we raised over £2,700, which will be split between our school and the charity!






Halloween discos

We are looking forward to tonight for some spooktacular fun! We are so excited for our Halloween Discos. The hall is set to be filled with an amazing array of tiny vampires, sparkly witches, and spooky skeletons.

Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

We are absolutely delighted and proud to announce that our school community has been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)! This achievement highlights our shared

commitment to building strong, supportive, and welcoming relationships across both of our school sites.

From hosting parent ESOL classes and secondary transition sessions to celebrating our vibrant diversity through cultural events and attendance incentives, our journey together has truly strengthened our school family. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your incredible involvement and support in making West Thornton a place where our children thrive!

Black History Month

This Black History Month, CR came together to celebrate and recognise the rich history, achievements and contributions of black individuals and communities. The whole school had the chance to dress in the famous Black History Month colours (red, green, yellow or black) as a way to show their support and celebrate black heritage and culture. Three of our students had the exciting opportunity to venture into the local community to interview black-owned business owners, learning about their journeys, experiences and the important role their businesses play in our community. We also hosted a whole-school assembly to celebrate black history, raise awareness and reflect on the importance of diversity, inclusion and representation. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn, share and celebrate the positive impact of black history, both locally and beyond.









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🗓️ **Important Reminder:** School will be closed from Friday, October 16th, and will reopen on **Monday, November 2nd.**

Thank you for your continued support, and we would like to wish you all a fantastic and restful half-term break.

Autumn 1 Wrap-Up: Celebrating a Fantastic Start! 🍂🌟

As we reach the end of our very first term, we want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all our families! Getting back into the school groove after the long summer break takes real effort, and your hard work in helping your children build smooth morning routines has made a world of difference. From settling into new classrooms to building new friendships, our pupils have accomplished so much over the last few weeks—and having them here regularly to share those moments has made our school community thrive. We know the autumn bug season has started to creep in, so we especially appreciate your efforts to keep routines going while managing those seasonal snuffles. Enjoy a well-deserved, restful half-term break, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back refreshed, on time, and ready for Autumn 2!

Parent Tip: Celebrating the Half-Term Reset ☕

Half-term is a brilliant time to chat with your child about what went well this term! Ask them: *"What was your favorite morning activity?"* or *"What helped you feel ready for school this week?"* Celebrating these small wins together builds confidence for the next term!

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Attendance



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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Year 3 - Larch Class	Year 1 - Lime Class
Year 5 - Silver Birch Class	Year 1 Elm Class
Year 6 - Juniper Class	Year 4 - Olive Class

Curriculum Focus

Reception

What a wonderful first half term it has been! We are incredibly proud of how well all the children have settled into school life. They have worked hard learning routines, making new friendships, and settling into their focused learning.

In maths this week, the children practised subitising up to 4, by showing an amount called out on their fingers. They then compared different groups of objects using key phrases like 'more than' and 'fewer than' to describe what they saw.

Phonics progress continues! The children learnt four new letter-sounds this week: **ck**, **e**, **u**, and **r**. They explored words starting or ending with these sounds and



worked hard on blending them together. It is wonderful to see how confident they are becoming in decoding and reading words.

This week, the children also compared themselves to their families and friends. They learnt the key words 'important' and 'special' to describe themselves and celebrate what makes everyone unique.

Year One

Well done to all our children in Year 1 for completing their first half term. We're incredibly proud of the progress they have made this term and we can't wait to have them back.

This week in English, the children wrote their own wonderful poems about their shadows, inspired by the book My Shadow Is Pink. They explored their creativity and rehearsed their poems, focusing on speaking clearly and confidently in preparation for their performances.
In Maths, the children have been consolidating their learning from this term. They have practised counting forwards and backwards, finding one more and one less, comparing numbers and using number lines to support their understanding.
In Science, the children investigated different materials to discover which ones were waterproof. They enjoyed testing the materials, making predictions and observing the results to identify which materials would be most suitable for keeping things dry.
In Art, the children created their own unique tile designs using printing techniques. They enjoyed experimenting with patterns and shapes to produce their beautiful artwork.
In RE, the children explored different ways people think about and describe God. They also reflected on the things they are thankful for and shared their thoughts and ideas with the class.

Year Two

Year 2 started the week off with a great energetic presence. The children have been working so hard across all subjects, and we are super proud of their dedication and creativity. The children have officially finished writing their final diary entries! They put on their inventor hats and wrote all about their very own inventions - including what went right and what went hilariously wrong! We focused heavily on using all the key features of a diary entry, such as writing in the first person "I", using past tense, sharing personal thoughts and feelings, and organizing ideas chronologically. The results were full of imagination and impressive writing!

In maths, we have been building our addition skills and confidence: **Making 10:** We've been practicing breaking down numbers to "make 10" first to help us add larger numbers mentally.

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Adding Three 1-Digit Numbers: We explored how to efficiently add three single-digit numbers together (for example, looking for number bonds to 10 first to make the addition easier!).

Our young artists have finally completed their clay sculptures! This week, we spent time reflecting on our artistic journey by evaluating our work. The children thought carefully about what went well, what they were proud of, and discussed constructive ideas for what they could do next time to make their sculptures even better.

In Religious Education, the children reflected on their learning about different world religions. They wrote thoughtfully about their understanding of various religious traditions and explored how different faiths believe the world was created. Their respect, curiosity, and deep thinking during these discussions have been lovely to see.

Year Three

What a fantastic end to the first half term of learning! The children in Year 3 have had another jam packed week. In Maths, children were getting to grips with bridging to 10's and 100's using place value charts to support their understanding of addition and number lines to support subtraction. Number Lines were used to build an understanding of efficient strategies to solve calculations quickly. In writing, children produced emotive poetry based on their rights as children. Using show not tell techniques, they conjured up vivid images through abstract nouns and emotive language. In Science, their journey about Light involved understanding how shadows are formed and changes that occur to them throughout the day. The children used torches and a variety of objects to experiment with how light alters the size and orientation of shadows! In Art, the children created self portraits in the style of Corey Barksdale. They thoroughly enjoyed applying his techniques to create unique works of Art.



Year Four

This week in Year 4, the children wrote and edited exciting innovative narrative stories about Chaya and Neel, applying descriptive "show not tell" details, punctuated dialogue, and fronted adverbials.

In Maths, pupils deepened their understanding of 4-digit column addition and subtraction, using place value charts to tackle calculations involving single and multiple exchanges.

In Geography, they produced impressive double-page spreads comparing the human and physical features of the UK and Sri Lanka, exploring key geographical landmarks like Ben Nevis and the River Thames.

In Science, the children investigated environmental dangers to endangered species—exploring the impacts of deforestation, pollution, and urbanisation, alongside positive human efforts like nature reserves and recycling.

Finally, in Art, the children experimented with tints, shades, and brushstroke techniques to create depth, taking inspiration from climate change artist Jill Pelto.

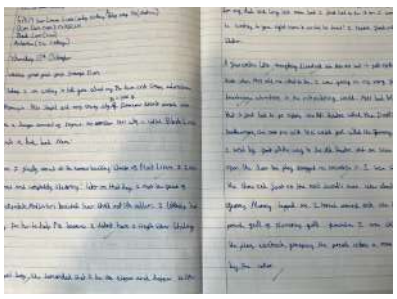






Year Five

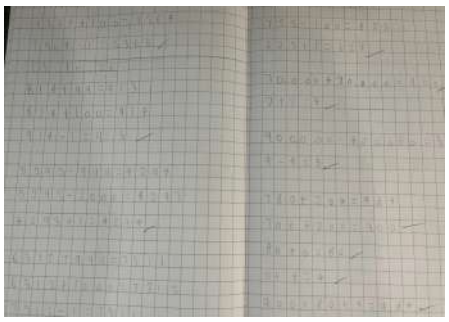
What a busy and inspiring week it has been in Year 5! In English, our young authors stepped into the shoes of the character Toby from our class text, *The Boy and the Globe*, to write emotive recount letters. The children worked hard to bring Toby's experience to life by writing in the first person, organizing their work into clear paragraphs, and describing rich thoughts and feelings. They also showcased impressive grammar skills by weaving time adverbials and relative clauses into their writing.





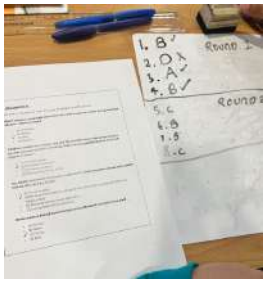
In Mathematics, Year 5 transformed into master strategists as they explored a variety of mental methods for addition and subtraction. Working with large numbers up to six digits, the children

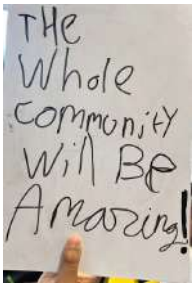
collaborated in groups before confidently demonstrating their skills independently. They put their knowledge of partitioning and rounding to excellent use, applying these techniques to solve calculations smoothly and efficiently in their heads.

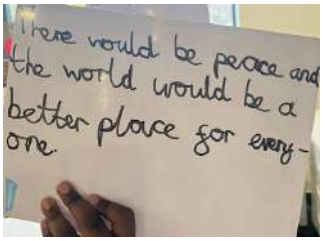




Across the wider curriculum, the week was filled with exciting activities and artistic creativity. In RE, the children put their knowledge to the test in a lively, game-show-style quiz to showcase everything they have learned about why different religions and worldviews care for our planet. Meanwhile, in Art, pupils completed their stunning final outcomes, a portrait of William Shakespeare, inspired by the artist Venus—by masterfully blending a variety of pencil sketching and painting techniques.











Year Six

It has been a busy final week of term in Year 6! In writing, the children have been busy writing their innovative persuasive letters using techniques such as emotive language, rhetorical questions and imperative verbs. Chosen topics have included persuading Lego to reduce their prices, more dessert choices in the dining hall, Mercedes to only sell electrical cars and no uniform for school!

This week in Maths, Year 6 pupils have been tackling **long multiplication** and **short division** with impressive confidence. They've been hard at work mastering these written methods to calculate efficiently and apply their skills to complex multi-step word problems.



It's been fantastic seeing them spot mathematical patterns and reason through their steps!

This week, it was Rosecourt Road's turn to head out on their geography field trip to study the land use and changes in human geography in our local area. The children distinguished how green spaces were limited due to housing, businesses and industrial spaces. Whilst at Wandle Park, the children observed the quality of the air as they stood amongst the trees in comparison to the busy Lombard roundabout!

Elsewhere in the wider curriculum, We have completed some beautiful sketches of anatomical hearts inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci. The children have combined watercolour paintings of flowers to their sketches to produce their final outcome.

Things to Celebrate

Eco Team Update

We are excited to announce our Rosecourt Road Eco Team for 2026/27. The applications were of a very high standard and it was a very difficult decision.

Mrs Callaghan, Mr Ghori and Mr Lee are very much looking forward to working with you all to ensure Rosecourt Road does all it can for the environment!

Maple: Eden
Fir: Amolpreet
Rowan: Ahana
Spruce: Doresha
Cedar: Wiktoria
Larch: Immanuel
Acacia: Adona
Beech: Jansi
Magnolia: Anaya
Silver Birch: Joy
Blackthorn: Rutmi
Eucalyptus: Devorah
Juniper: Ravani

Junior Leadership Team Update

We are also very excited to announce our Rosecourt Road Junior Leadership Team for 2026/27. All children that applied had some wonderful ideas and we know their contributions as a class will all be incredibly useful when shared amongst the JLT in their meetings. Class representatives are:

Maple: Eliyanah
Fir: Kairon
Rowan: Ahana
Spruce: Thishan
Cedar: Athwin
Larch: Patricia
Acacia: Nora
Beech: Asrithan
Magnolia: Hillel
Silver Birch: Jessica
Blackthorn: Aliza
Eucalyptus: Reily
Juniper: Chinmay

We also held some interviews for lead pupils which all blew us away! We are excited announce our two Lead Students for this year are:

Persis in **Blackthorn** and Maitrey in **Eucalyptus**

Our Deputy Lead Students for this year are:

Ava-Mae in **Eucalyptus** and Yathusha in **Juniper**

Community

🎃 October Half Term: Free & Low-Cost Local Fun in Croydon
Looking for ways to keep primary-aged children entertained over the upcoming October Half Term without breaking the bank? Here is a list of free local activities, workshops, and outdoor events taking place right on our doorstep!

🎨 **Creative Crafts & Free Workshops**

Hobbycraft Croydon (Purley Way)

Free & Low-Cost Kids' Craft Sessions: Hobbycraft hosts in-store craft workshops during school holiday periods, ranging from free make-and-take craft tables to low-cost (£2–£5) sessions like ceramic painting, slime making, and seasonal paper crafts.

Museum of Croydon🏛️

Museum of Croydon (Clocktower, Katharine Street)

Free Half-Term Craft Clubs: The museum hosts free drop-in craft activities during the October break. Children can make paper cameras and join themed seasonal craft workshops. Interactive Local History: Kids can explore galleries detailing Croydon's history with family trail sheets.

Croydon Central Library📚

Free drop-In Craft & Story Sessions: Local libraries (including Ashburton, Thornton Heath, Norbury, and Croydon Central) run free family sessions across the week.

Lego Clubs & Games: Free Lego building and board game sessions run on select weekdays across library branches.

👶 Croydon Children's Centres & Family Hubs

Croydon's local Family Hubs and Children's Centres offer free and low-cost stay-and-play sessions, creative workshops, and healthy food initiatives during school holidays:

Stay & Play Sessions: Open to families with primary-aged siblings, featuring arts & crafts, messy play, and indoor sports equipment.

🍂 Outdoor Autumn Trails & Parks

Lloyd Park (Coombe Road)

Autumn Leaf Scavenger Hunt: Perfect for a budget-friendly outdoor afternoon. Collect different leaves, acorns, and pinecones for art projects at home.

Facilities: Adventure playground, outdoor gym equipment, and open spaces suitable for scooting or cycling.

Wandle Park🌳
(Cornwall Road)

Nature Walks & Play: Explore the paths following the River Wandle or use the modern play equipment, climbing structures, and skate park.

Beddington Park (Church Road, Wallington)

Beddington park has expansive parkland featuring the River Wandle, historic Manor House surroundings, a large duck pond, and scenic autumn nature trails. The park includes a large children's playground, outdoor gym equipment, and spacious areas for autumn games and picnics.

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KG-Doodles CHILDCARE

BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL Club

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- Universal Credit claimants up to 85% of fees paid
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- Childcare choices & Voucher scheme Tax relief

UC Universal Credit · Childcare Vouchers* · Childcare Choices · CCGPS · VISA · MasterCard

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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