WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

6th November 2026

Welcome Back to a New Term!

We hope all of our families had a wonderful, restful break! Our team has been busy preparing an exciting line-up of activities and lessons for the weeks ahead, and we can't wait to see our pupils grow in confidence, curiosity, and kindness.

A Few Quick Reminders:

Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning and wellbeing. As recent government guidance highlights, "*Every day in school counts – children who attend regularly are more likely to achieve well and develop the skills they need for life.*" Thank you for ensuring your child arrives on time each day ready to learn!

Please double-check that your child's uniform, PE kit, and shoes align with our school policy. With the changing weather, please also make sure they bring a proper coat to school.

If you need any assistance with uniform, please contact our Family Support Workers, Ms Liburd (Canterbury Road) or Miss Williams (Rosecourt Road).

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our school standards high!

Reception Tours:

Our Reception tours for prospective families are coming up on Monday 9th November at 9am and Monday 30th November at 3.45pm.

We are incredibly proud of our school community and we know that you are our best ambassadors. If you have friends, family, or neighbours who have children starting school next year and are looking for a Reception place, we would be very grateful if you could let them know about our upcoming tours.



They can find more information and book a place by visiting our school website at https://www.inspirewestthornton.co.uk or contacting the school office on 020 8684 3497.

Attendance

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

Rosecourt Road	Canterbury Road
Reception - Pine Class	Year 2 - Aspen Class
Reception - Oak Class	
Year 3 - Larch Class	
Year 4 - Beech Class	
Year 6 - Juniper Class	

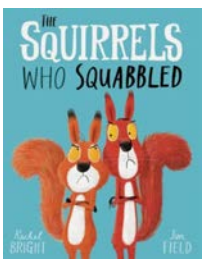
Curriculum Focus

Reception

It has been a lovely start to our new half term in Reception! The children have settled back into their routines and enjoyed a busy week of exciting learning. We began by exploring Bonfire Night and Diwali, creating playdough fireworks and colourful firework pictures using paint and glitter.



Our focus book this half term is The Squirrels Who Squabbled. This week, we explored woodland habitats, learning about the animals that live there and how to describe them. We also looked at Autumn, discussing the changing colours of leaves and exploring autumnal objects such as conkers, pinecones and pumpkins.



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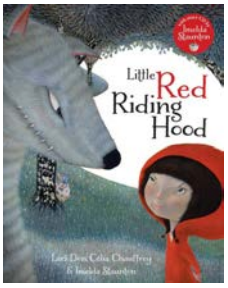
Through our TGMC activities, we explored the feeling of happiness through stories and songs, helping children recognise and talk about their emotions.



In Maths, the children enjoyed practical activities comparing sizes, exploring heavier and lighter objects, investigating capacity and copying and continuing repeating patterns.

We have had a fantastic first week back and look forward to another exciting half term of learning and exploring together!

Year One



Year One has had a great first week back and we have been so impressed with how the children have returned to school eager and ready to learn. In English we have been reading our new core book 'Little red riding hood'. The children enjoyed their hook on Monday where they had to guess the fairy tale character which lead us to our book. They then sequenced pictures from the book before creating their own story map to help them retell the story in their own words.



In maths, the children have started their addition unit by learning about part, part, whole models. They then used these to help them solve number stories.

In Science, the children learnt how seasonal changes can affect weather. They discussed the different weathers we get in each season and went outside to look for the changes we can see in Autumn. Back in the classroom, they then matched pictures of different weather that we would find in each season.

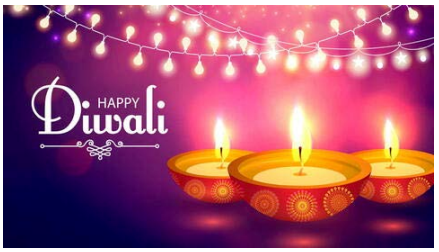
Year Two



Year Two has had a brilliant first week back to the term. After a much needed half term the children have come back ready to focus and in turn enjoyed starting their new core text for English called "Drawn Together". Within this book their are hardly any words so the reader has to look at the pictures and gather their own understanding of what is happening within the story. As a result, the children became fantastic detectives where they have been decoding clues

from what they have seen to interpret the pictures. They really enjoyed this activity and loved the meaning and especially the ending of the story.

In Maths, the children have been continuing to use their number bonds to help them calculate different sums to adding to ten and then adding across ten. It has been a bit tricky, but the children have remained resilient in working hard, to try and answer these questions correctly. They have worked on different strategies which has helped them enlarge their understanding of how to answer these sums in a more effective way.

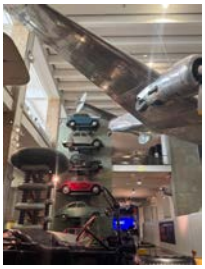


In Wider Curriculum, the children have been particularly keen on learning about the Hindu celebration "Diwali" which means the "The Festival of Lights". In RE, they learned about the amazing story of Rama and Sita and how good overcame evil. The children particularly loved hearing about the significance of diya lamps and how the bright light gives Hindus hope that good will always prevail.

Year Three



What a fantastic yet busy first week back we have had in Year 3! We kicked off our English learning with an exciting visit to the Science Museum! The children explored fascinating inventions and learned all about the work of technicians, providing a brilliant hook for our core texts this half term: *Wendel's Workshop* and *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. It was wonderful to see the children making thoughtful links about how everyday things are invented and how different mechanisms work.



In Maths, we have been mastering addition and subtraction using the formal column method. The children worked hard on understanding their place value, making sure digits were aligned correctly in the hundreds, tens, and ones columns, and using this knowledge to help them exchange accurately when solving trickier calculations.

In Geography, we began our new topic on Rivers. The children used maps and globes to locate Egypt and the UK, comparing their locations before taking a closer look at two iconic waterways: the River Thames and the River Nile.

Science was hands-on this week as we introduced our new topic on Magnets. The children learned about magnetic forces and how magnets work. Working in pairs, they took their own

magnets around the classroom on a hands-on investigation to discover which everyday objects were magnetic and which were non-magnetic.

In DT, the children have started exploring photo frames. They have been looking closely at different frame designs and investigating the structures behind them to learn how they stand up independently and support themselves.

Year Four



This week in Year 4 we have begun our new core text, 'The Accidental Prime Minister' by Tom Mclaughlin. The children have been thinking about what they would do if they were to be Prime Minister for a day and shared their ideas with their classmates.

In Maths this week we have recapped addition and subtraction and challenged the children to use their reasoning skills in two-step worded problems. The children did such a fantastic job at remembering exchanges when adding or subtracting with numbers up to 10,000. Can you answer these questions in your books in preparation for your arithmetic assessment:

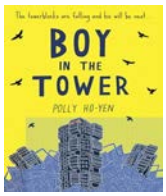
Across the curriculum subjects, the children have been introduced to all their new topics which they seemed very excited about. In geography this term we will be examining the effects of climate change on the environments around us. In science began our topic on states of matter, which will have plenty of experiments for the children to take part in! Lastly, in DT we have begun our research into different materials and uses for bags, ahead of our final outcome for this term.

It has been a lovely first week back to school!

Year Five

To kickstart the term, in English this week, Year 5 children have been exploring our new core text, The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen. The children investigated the dystopian setting, examining how mysterious plants took over familiar tower blocks. Throughout the week, they focused on generating powerful similes for sensory descriptions, using 'show not tell' techniques to portray characters' feelings and anxiety, and applying time adverbials and cohesive devices to sequence their writing clearly.

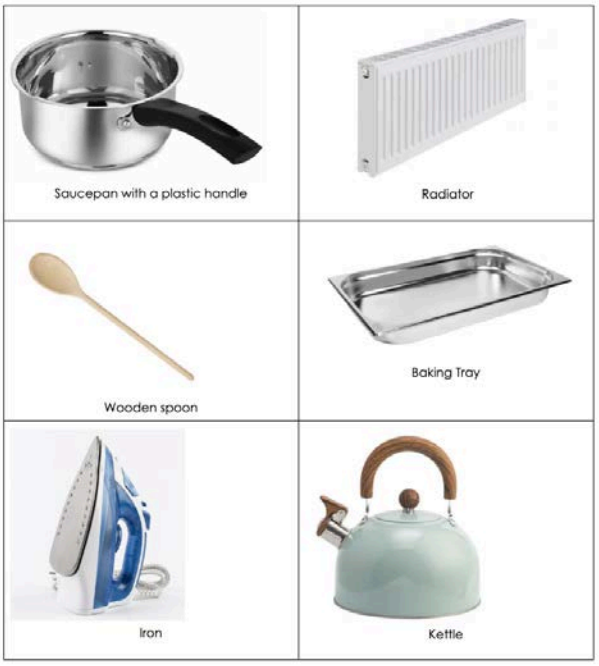
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In Maths,the children worked on solving multi-step addition and subtraction word problems. They used visual tools like part-whole and comparison bar models to help structure missing information and map out each step of a problem. Children also built their mathematical thinking by comparing calculations without needing full written methods and using inverse operations to find missing numbers and balance equations.

In Science, the children explored materials and their properties. They learned about thermal conductors and thermal insulators, investigated what everyday objects are made from and their characteristics. The children discussed how a material's special features and properties determine what it can be used for, this helped them understand the difference between materials that allow heat to pass through easily and those that do not.





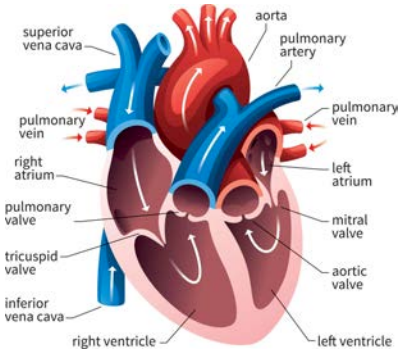
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Year Six



This week in year 6, the children have begun reading their new core text for the half term - Stella by Starlight. We have been generating impactful vocabulary to set the scene and create a specific mood. The children then used the word bank to write varied sentence types using a main clause and subordinate clause.

In maths the children have been learning about fractions. We have looked at equivalent fractions and used the most appropriate method, applying this knowledge to worded problems and reasoning questions. The children showed excellent resilience this week!



In science, the children explored the heart. We looked at how it functions and labelled the parts of the heart while explaining the function of each part.

Community



Aydin's Dinners returns on Thursday 17th December, 2:00pm - 6:00pm, at Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Family Hub.

This year, Aydin has secured additional funding and will be providing families with ingredients to prepare two meals, each designed to feed a family of up to six people - Vegetable Curry & Shepherd's Pie.

Each child will receive a small gift. Registration below:

Click here

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BROAD GREEN COMMUNITY HUB

SCAN ME

See activities and events

A welcoming space for advice, support, connection and community.



EVERY THURSDAY
2PM – 5PM

ARCC
89 Canterbury Road
Croydon
CR0 3HA

GET SUPPORT
Information and guidance for you or someone you care for.

CONNECT
Meet local residents and build community connections.

DISCOVER RESOURCES
Find local services to help you stay well and independent.

Pop in for a chat over a cup of tea with friendly faces from the voluntary and community sector, health services and social care teams.
There is no need to make an appointment – everyone is welcome!

020 8684 3784

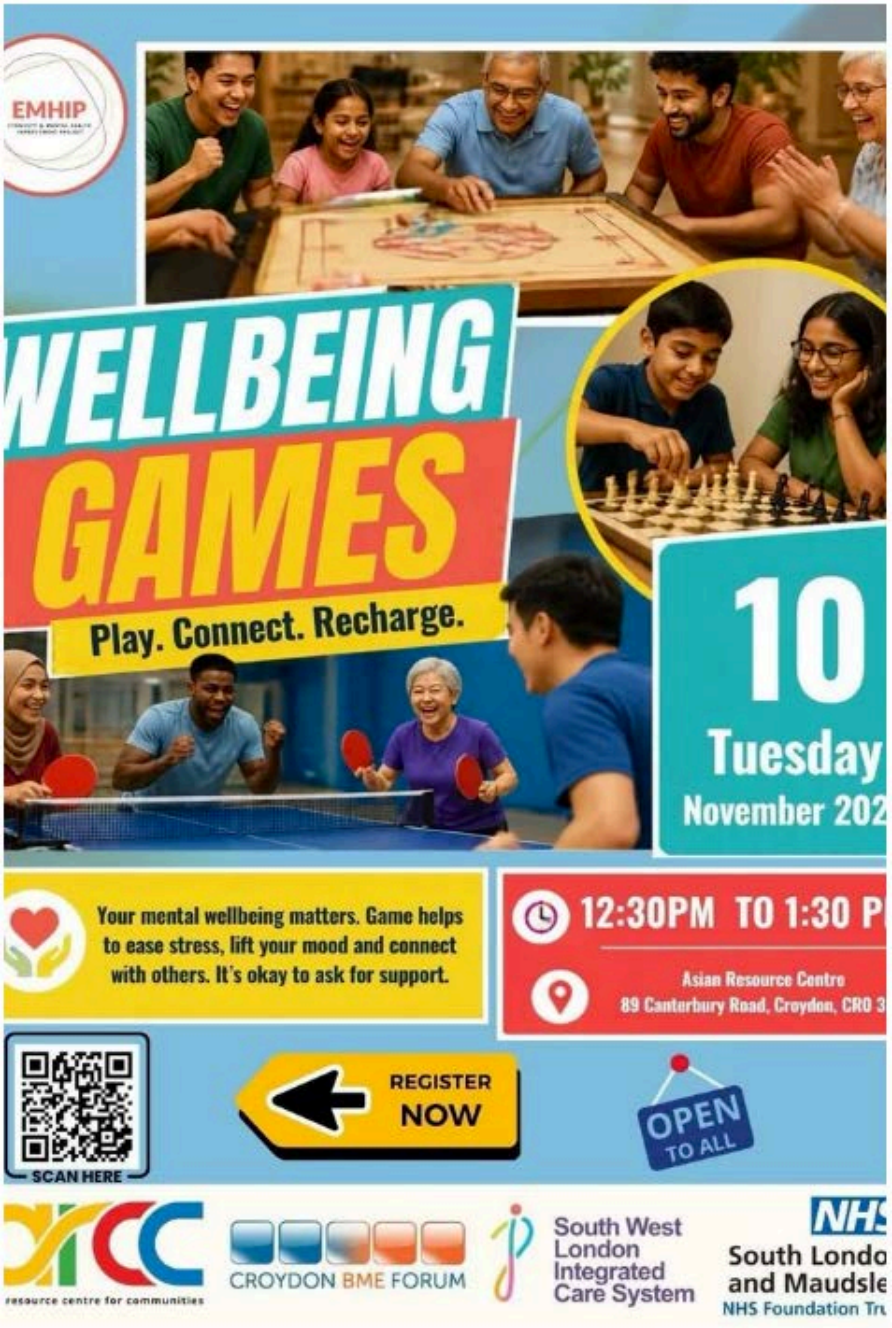
60, 64, 109, 198, 250, 289

communityhub@arccltd.com

COMMUNITY FUND

One Croydon

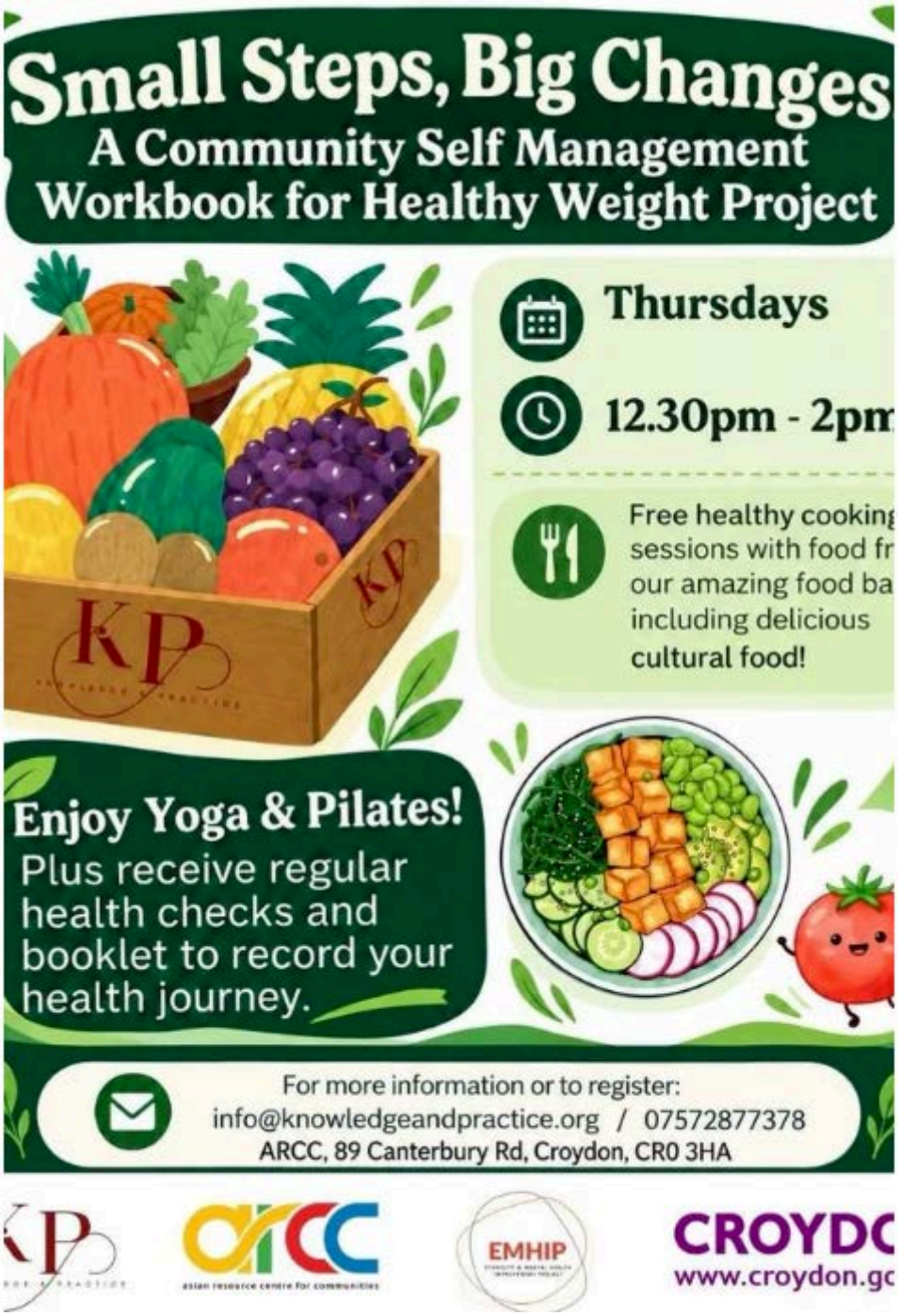
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KG-Doodles CHILDCARE

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 · 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*

Registered & Approved

Ofsted · CRB

www.kgdoodles.co.uk
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