WEST THORNTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

## 13th November 2026

The children have been enjoying getting into their new learning journeys for this half term. It has been a joy to see each class get excited about new books and topics throughout the school. This week we shared our parental engagement activities for the remainder of the term including our Winter Fair and the times of all our Winter performances. There are a lot of wonderful opportunities to support your child's learning and the wider school community and we look forward to welcoming as many of you there as possible.

A reminder about our reception tours for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2027. We had our first tour this week but there is still an opportunity to book on our final date of Monday 30th November at 3.45pm.

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.

**Winter Fair - Thursday 3rd December, Rosecourt Road Site**

It's that time again! Join us after school on Thursday 3rd December, from 3.30 until 5pm for our annual Winter Fair. Come along for festive activities and seasonal treats. All funds raised go directly to supporting our pupils. We look forward to seeing you there!



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## Attendance

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

| Rosecourt Road | Canterbury Road |
|---|---|
| Reception Pine Class | Reception Willow Class |
| Reception Oak Class | Year 1 Elm Class |
| Year 1  Fir Class | Year 2 Aspen Class |
| Year 3 Cedar Class | Year 3 Cherry Class |
| Year 5 Silver Birch Class | Year 4 Olive Class |
| Year 5 Magnolia Class | Year 5 Hawthorn Class |
| Year 6 Eucalyptus Class | |

Just a reminder about our Class Attendance Competition
Please see poster below



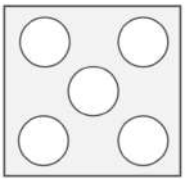
# WEST THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Curriculum Focus

### Reception



We are so proud of the children this week as they concluded their first block of phonics learning! They have been busy demonstrating everything they have learned during their assessments, showing fantastic focus and enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see them applying their new phonics knowledge independently in their writing—listening carefully to segment the sounds they hear in words and accurately representing these to write CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as *cat*, *pin*, and *dog*.



In Maths, we have been continuing our work on the purpose of counting: finding out 'how many' objects there are altogether. Through lots of hands-on activities, the children have been reinforcing their understanding of cardinality (knowing that the final number we say tells us the total size of the set) and practising their 1:1 correspondence by saying one number name for each object as they move or tag it. A big focus this week has been deepening our understanding of 5 as a quantity by linking it to the five fingers on one hand. The children have been exploring different ways to represent numbers up to 5 using both their fingers and the Hungarian number pattern (the classic five-dot arrangement seen on a dice)




### Year One



In English this week, Year 1 have been putting their acting skills to the test! as we dived deeper into *Little Red Riding Hood*! We have been learning how a character's tone of voice shows how they are feeling and what kind of personality they have. The children had a fantastic time recreating scenes from the story, switching between bright, curious voices for Little Red Riding Hood and grouchy voices for the Big Bad Wolf.

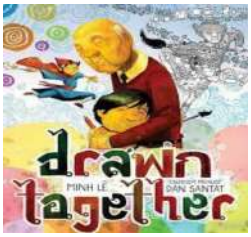
In maths this week, Year 1 have been building on their knowledge of part-part-whole models to uncover "fact families." Using number stories to help them visualize the maths, the children have been learning how three numbers link



together—and writing out all the different addition number sentences they can make from them!

Before we start constructing our own model buildings inspired by our local area, Year 1 has been busy testing out different ways to join materials together. Through plenty of hands-on experimenting, the children discovered an important design secret: the same joining technique doesn't work for everything! They did a brilliant job problem-solving and comparing which methods worked best for different materials—essential preparation for their big builds ahead.

## Year Two




We have had another fantastic and busy week in Year 2, with the children showing wonderful enthusiasm across all of their learning! This week, the children wrote lovely recounts of the story *Drawn Together*. They worked hard to apply a range of new writing skills, including using the past tense consistently, expanded noun phrases, and carefully chosen adjectives to describe the characters and their feelings. We were especially impressed with how they wove expressions of emotion into their writing to bring the story to life.

In Maths, the children have been working brilliantly on subtraction, using their knowledge of number bonds to help them subtract from 10 and across 10. Throughout the week they had plenty of practical, hands-on lessons which the children were thoroughly engaged in before confidently transferring their learning into their maths books.



In History the children continued our topic on the Great Fire of London, exploring how the fire began and investigating the key reasons why it spread so quickly across the city. This connected to last week's DT lesson where we found out how the fire was actually put out.

We put our investigating hats on to test the durability of different materials, specifically cardboard, plastic, and wood to see how well each could support a weight. This practical experiment was a huge hit across year 2!

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## Year Three

What a fantastic week Year 3 have had! In Writing, the children have been planning their own instructional pieces inspired by the amusing book *Until I Met Stanley*. They have been letting their imaginations run wild, wondering how a whole crew of cats could possibly be hiding inside, washing plates and cutlery!



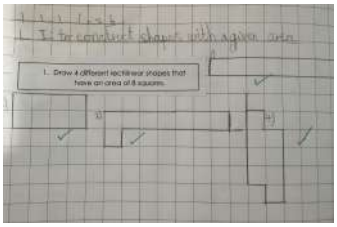


In Maths, they have been building on their understanding of exchanging tens and hundreds, using both pictorial and abstract methods to solve calculations.

In DT, the children have been busy experimenting with different ways to strengthen materials and exploring stability and structure as they designed and built their own models of chairs, tables and homes. They had an absolute blast bringing their creative ideas to life! What a brilliant week of learning!

## Year Four

Year Four has had another busy week! In writing they have been retelling the main events from the beginning of their core text The Accidental Prime Minister from Joe's perspective through a diary entry. They have been working hard to include the features of a diary including thoughts and feelings, informal language as well as first person and past tense.



In maths they have had a fun week learning all about calculating area. A highlight included using post it notes to find the area of different surfaces in the classroom. At the end of the week, they applied this knowledge to solving word problems.

In science they have learnt all about the melting point of solids and conducted an experiment to slow ice melting. In DT they have learnt about a number of different designers and the styles that they used in the work. They then choose one that will inspire their own creations, drawstring bags, that they will be making later on this term.

## Year Five

Year 5 have been thoroughly busy in maths learning about the properties of numbers. They have focused on multiples and factors, recalling their knowledge of times tables from year 4. Within this,

children have worked methodically to demonstrate their reasoning skills, also using mathematical language.

In English, the children have continued to explore the core text Boy in the Tower. The skills that they have focused on this week have been using dialogue to convey character while also using adverbials and conjunctions to write cohesively and link sentences and ideas together. The children have also been continuing to work on the accuracy of their sentences- focusing on consistent use of punctuation.

In Geography, the children built on their map reading skills by examining a 500 year old Tudor map of Croydon. They spotted some interesting facts- for example that our local area had many more physical features and that the places we know now were just small villages or hamlets with only a few buildings. Then, the children worked together to compare the Tudor map with a current map and wrote down their findings.

We also were very lucky this week to take part in a rail safety workshop run by Amey- a transport company. During the session, the children learnt about how to stay safe when using the railway or walking near the railway and stations. They learnt about the dangers of trespassing. It was extremely informative and we hope that the children will share what they learnt with friends and family.




## Year Six

This week, Year 6 have been tackling fractions in maths. We have been finding the LCM (lowest common multiple) in order to compare, order, add and subtract fractions. The children are continuing to practise their mental starties too, in our daily arithmetic sessions. These are supporting their practice tests which we have started this week.

In writing, we have been building towards a modelled description of a safe or scary atmosphere, based on Stella By Starlight. The children are trying to incorporate different ways of constructing sentences by using subordinate clauses, list adjectives and personification. They have also completed GPS and Reading papers, using all their resilience skills!

In the wider curriculum, the children have explored the Bristol Bus Boycott in more detail, looking at the hard work of Paul Stephenson which helped pass the Race Relations Act of 1965. The children wrote interview questions for him and responded in first person. We have also explored pneumatic devices and tried to create one to lift a box lid.

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## Phrase of the Week



¡ Hace frío ! = It 's cold!

## Things to Celebrate

**Guinness World Record holders**

Last half term Lime, Elm, Palm, Cherry and Holly classes joined over 153,862 readers from around the world to achieve the Guinness World Record for the most people reading online within 12 hours!

Participants from 92 countries and territories (representing over 3,000 schools, libraries, workplaces, and community groups) took part by reading for 10 minutes during the online event organised by The National Literacy Trust and the British Council as part of the National Year of Reading.

We are incredibly proud that our children were part of this amazing world record-breaking achievement! What a fantastic way to celebrate the joy of reading!



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## Community

Please save the following important dates in your diary for the upcoming Winter festivities including our Winter Fair on the 3rd December.



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# BRIGSTOCK ROAD COMMUNITY HUB

NOV
16

**EVERY MONDAY 10AM-1PM**
Scratchley Hall
81 Brigstock Road
Thornton Heath
CR7 7JH



- **Need support or information for yourself or someone you care for?**
- **Want to connect with local residents?**
- **Want to know about resources available in your area to help you stay well and independent?**

Pop in for a chat over a cup of tea with friendly faces from the voluntary & community sector, health services and social care teams. There is no need to make an appointment. You can also scan the QR code below to see what additional activities and events will feature at the hub.

**Invite your family and friends!**

198, 250, 450

Thornton Heath

communityhub@arcclld.com

Croydon age UK

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**

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