



# West Thurrock Academy

## Newsletter No 19 - 6th February 2026

### The next school holiday is -

**Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026**

### Upcoming holidays -

**INSET Day** - Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026

Monday 30th March 2026 - Friday 10th April 2026

**Bank Holiday** - Monday 4th May 2026

Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026

**INSET Day** - Monday 1st June 2026

**INSET Day** - Tuesday 2nd June 2026

### Last day of school -

Friday 17th July 2026 **(2pm Finish)**

### Dates for your Diary -

#### February 2026

9th – Year 2 – Scavenger Hunt

10th – Year 1 Sharing Assembly

12th – Year 3 – Movie Day

24th – Cyber Critical (Year 3,4)

#### March 2026

2nd – Year 3 – Gameshow Day

2nd – Trip to Library (Wildcat Class) **(Change of Date)**

3rd – Trip to Library (Jungle Cat Class) (Change of Date)

5th – World Book Day

5th – Colin Stuart Visit (3,4,5,6)

6th – Year 5 Trip to Tate Britain

9th - Year 2 Chocolate Making Workshop (Change of Date)

### This week's attendance levels -

Lynx - 90.9%

Leopard - 95.2%

Cougar - 94.3%

Liger - 95.7%

Bobcat - 95.1%

**Marozi - 96.1% Key Stage 1 Winner**

Puma - 96%

Tigon - 96.2%

Ocelot - 95.8%

Jaguar - 94.6%

**Panther - 97.2% Key Stage 2 Winner**

Lion - 96.1%

### LUNCH MENU – WEEK BEGINNING 9TH FEBRUARY 2026

<b>Monday</b>	Cheese and Tomato Margherita Pizza served with Pasta Salad	The Ultimate Roasted Vegetable and Cheese Pizza served with Pasta Salad	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling - Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise	Freshly Cut Fruit Organic Fruit Yoghurt Chocolate Cookie
<b>Tuesday</b>	Creamy Chicken Curry served with Basmati Rice & Green Beans	Red Kidney Bean & Pineapple Curry served with Basmati Rice & Green Beans	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling - Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise	Freshly Cut Fruit Organic Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	Roast Chicken & Yorkshire Pudding served with Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots, Broccoli & Gravy	Autumn Squash & Butter Bean Stew served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots & Broccoli	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling - Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise	Freshly Cut Fruit Organic Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Italian Beef Bolognese served with Wholemeal Penne Pasta & Sweetcorn	Chickpea & Tomato Bolognese served with Wholemeal Penne Pasta & Sweetcorn	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Filling - Cheese, Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise	Freshly Cut Fruit Organic Fruit Yoghurt
<b>Friday</b>	<b>School Closed</b>			

### **Author visit – Christian Foley**

This week, we welcomed Christian Foley into school. Christian is a well-known poet in residence in East London schools, researcher at Goldsmiths University and author of children's books like *The Oddsocktopus*. He is known for using rap to transform learning and has gone viral for his freestyle rapping. During his visit, he worked with children from Year 1 to Year 6 in the morning and then completed specific workshops with our Year 4 and Year 5 classes in the afternoon. It was great to hear the children getting involved during his interactive sessions. It is our hope that his visit, and subsequent free book the children received, will inspire the minds of our children. As I have stated before, this is just the first of many author visits this year as we continue to celebrate the National Year of Reading.

### **SEND support sessions**

I am pleased to share details of a number of upcoming workshops being held at school to support parents and carers. These sessions aim to help with a variety of needs and are delivered as part of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINs) programme.

Workshop dates and times:

**Monday 9th February, 9:00–10:30** - Understanding neurodiversity in children

**Wednesday 25th February, 2:00–3:30** - Unique learning and thinking styles in neurodiverse children

**Wednesday 4th March, 2:00–3:30** - How to support neurodiverse children with emotional regulation

**Tuesday 10th March, 9:00 - 10:30** - How to support neurodiverse children with sleep

**Wednesday 18th March, 2:00 - 3:30** - How to support neurodiverse children with eating

In addition, we will be holding our second coffee morning with the SEND Thurrock Family Forum on Wednesday 11th February at 9:00. This is a great opportunity to meet other families, share experiences, and access further support.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at these events, which are designed to support and build understanding of children with neurodiverse needs, or those who may be suspected of being neurodiverse.

### **Year 1 Sharing Assembly**

Next Tuesday (10th February), will be an opportunity for Year 1 parents to attend the Year 1 Sharing Assembly. This will take place in the school hall at 2:30pm.

### **Online Safety**

Next Tuesday marks the 2026 Safer Internet Day. We have arranged for many of our children to take part in workshops linked to areas such as staying safe online. This week, some of the children have taken part in their workshop and future sessions have been planned. This year, we have changed our approach to teaching about staying safe in the technological world we live in. The children now attend a weekly session linked to this which we hope will continue to develop their knowledge about how to interact with technology safely and what to do if they or someone else needs to be protected. We are currently in the process of updating and renewing our online safety section on the website. The updates and changes will be ready by the end of February. Parents will be able to access the information, guidance and support using the address below:

<https://www.westthurrockacademy.co.uk/parents/online-safety>