

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 21 Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Spring Term 2. I hope you all had a restful half term break. It has been lovely to see the children return refreshed and ready to learn. We have already been fortunate to enjoy some fairer weather, and the children have particularly appreciated being back on the field at playtime. We hope this continues as we move towards the drier months and can make the most of our outdoor spaces.

In Collective Worship this week, we have been reflecting on the importance of taking responsibility. Alongside this, we introduced and explored our core value of Hope. We shared the story of Noah and the Ark, thinking carefully about the symbols of hope within the story, particularly the rainbow, and the hope that Noah and his family must have held during uncertain times. The children engaged thoughtfully with the idea that hope gives us strength and helps us to act responsibly, even when things feel challenging.

A gentle reminder to please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. This makes a significant difference when items are misplaced and helps us return belongings quickly, avoiding unnecessary disruption to learning time. We have several items of lost property in the cloakroom, please ask a member of staff to see these. In addition, we kindly ask that toys and personal items remain at home unless specifically requested for learning. When these items are brought into school and go missing, it can cause considerable upset and distraction for children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive and productive second half of the Spring term.

Warm regards, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Hope

Our golden apple winners this week are....



The winning house this week:

English Oak

W/B 02/03/26:

Monday

Breakfast club
Lego & Games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Forest School Sessions
Bikes+Trikes ASC: 3.15-4.30

Wednesday

Year 6 - Woodroffe
PFA AGM 2pm
Breakfast club: 8-8.30
PE Lessons
Sports Skills ASC: 3.15-4.30

Thursday

World Book Day!
Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Creative ASC: 3.15-4.30

Friday

Breakfast Club: 8-8.30
Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30

Please like, comment and share on our social media posts to spread the word of our wonderful school. Click below to be taken to them.



Quote of the week:

"Hope is the little light inside you that keeps shining, even on cloudy days."



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

It has been a wonderful week in Little Acorns. It was nice to hear what the children had been upto over the half term break. Little Acorns have thoroughly enjoyed our story of the week 'Dear Zoo'. The children have loved getting involved in this story, predicting what animals came next and repeating keys words and phrases from the story as well. We have also engaged in various activities based around the story, We have completed a Dear Zoo puzzle, exploring animals from around the world and zoo animal yoga. The children had so much during our gross motor sessions where we have moved around like different animals, this was a firm favorite of the week!. Little Acorns also explored shaving foam and had so much fun getting very very messy, including me!.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In Maths this week, Year 1 and 2 have been exploring length and height.

They've been learning about centimetres and metres and comparing different objects. We talked about how it's important to always start from 0 when measuring, and that you can measure a longer object with a shorter ruler (for example, measuring a 30cm laptop with a 15cm ruler) you just need to move and reuse it carefully.

Reception have been focusing on time this week, using past and present vocabulary and ordering events. They've also been sorting numbers 1-8 and spotting any missing numbers.

In History, Year 1 and 2 have started their learning about Kings and Queens. This week they found out what the word 'monarch' means and how someone becomes one. Year 3 began learning about the Viking invasion and where the Vikings came from.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

This week, Orchard Class began an exciting writing project on myths and legends. The children explored the features of Norse legends and used show not tell, figurative language, and powerful vocabulary to build tension in their character and setting descriptions.

In History, we have launched our new topic on the Vikings. The children learned about where the Vikings came from and explored the significance of the raid on Lindisfarne, understanding why it marked the beginning of the Viking Age.

In Art, we have begun a mixed media project focused on Viking longships. The children have carefully sketched and refined their designs, which will later be developed into layered mixed media artwork. They will be experimenting with different painting techniques and texture effects to bring their pieces to life.

In Science, Years 3 and 4 began their Sound unit by exploring how vibrations create sound through sound station classroom investigations. Years 5 and 6 have started learning about Earth and Space, creating proportionally scaled clay models of the planets to compare their sizes.

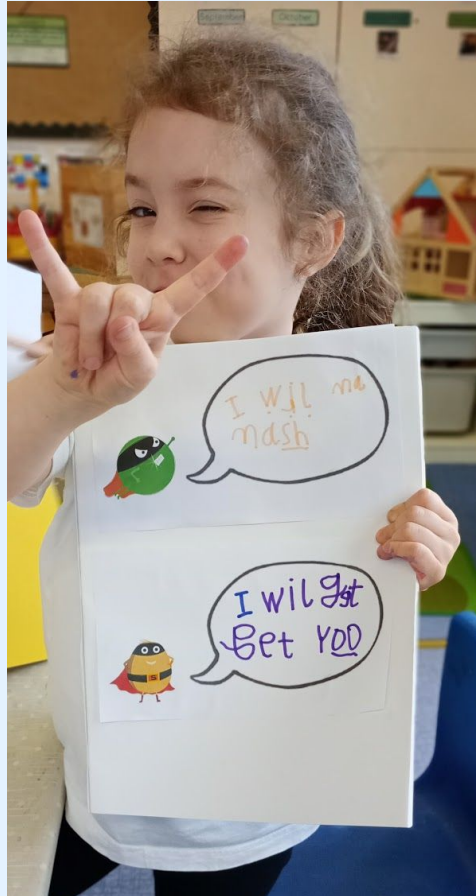
Over the next week...

- Hear your child read at least 3 times each week. Please record this in their reading records/BoomReader. Parents - children are never too old to have a story read to them. They gain so much from this special time with you.
- Practise your multiplication and division facts using TTRS or other resources.

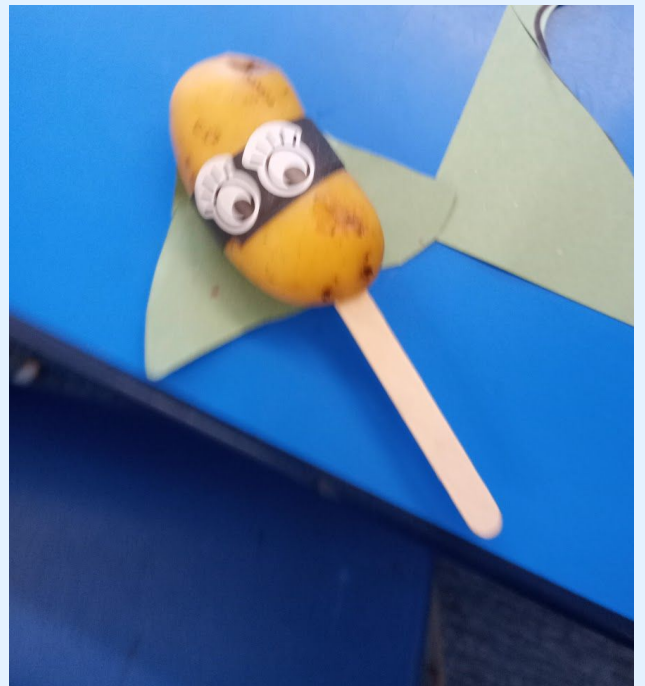
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

Children learn
4,000 to 12,000
words per year
through reading.

What a lovely week!



Reception's story of the week has been 'Supertato' which we have all very much enjoyed! Some of their busy learning challenges this week have been counting, writing what the characters might say, using potato stamps to create patterns and creating our very own super veggies!



What a lovely week!



Pippin First Responder Visit

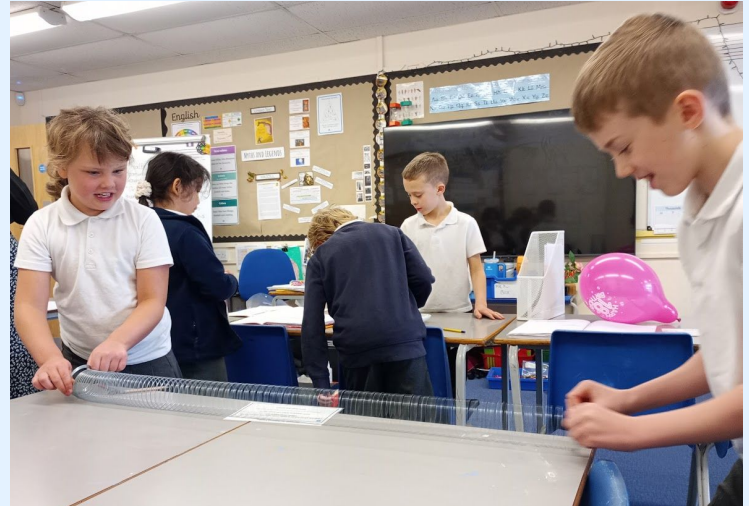
On Friday afternoon, the children were introduced to the Thorncombe First Responders and learned about the important role they play in helping others. We explored the different items in their kits and even had the opportunity to look at and test out some of the equipment.

We also talked about what we should do if we ever found someone who was unwell or injured while playing. The children were introduced to the simple safety check DR ABC (Danger, Response, Airways, Breathing, Circulation) and discussed how and when to call 999 in an emergency.


It was a valuable session that helped build the children's confidence and understanding around staying safe and helping others.




What a lovely week!




Tuesday 24th February
Can explore how a drawing can be developed through sketching and life drawing?




I like this picture because the shape at the end of the boat looks like the tail of a dragon.



I like this picture because it looks like a dragon.



I like this picture because the sun set makes the picture stand out.



I like this picture because the color of all of it is nice. And the shape.

Additional Information



Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sol Davies
Acting Head of School
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Merryn Wheaton
EYFS Lead and Pippin
Teacher
Deputy DSL



Our child protection policy can be found [here](#).