

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 17 Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and positive time across the school. Our KS2 pupils recently visited Woodroffe for a dodgeball event, proudly representing Thorncombe and working alongside children from other schools. This was a fantastic experience, supporting teamwork, confidence and helping pupils prepare for transition to secondary school.

It has been a real pleasure to review the children's writing books and see the excellent progress being made. Our younger pupils are working hard to present their work neatly and apply correct spellings, while our older pupils have been developing more sophisticated writing skills by writing from different viewpoints, exploring what characters are thinking, feeling and experiencing, and how these perspectives can vary.

It was also wonderful to see the school filled with colourful clothing on Friday's non-uniform day, organised by our lovely PFA. Many thanks to everyone involved for making it such an enjoyable day.

Finally, I would like to thank Catherine Davis, our dedicated trustee, who continues to support pupils' outdoor learning and environmental knowledge through bird-related events and the RSPB Wild Challenges. The new bird feeders look fantastic and are perfectly timed to help support local wildlife through the colder winter months.

Warm regards, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Service

Our golden apple winners this week are...



The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

W/B 26/01/26:

Parent meetings this week
Book Fair Wed - Fri - sch hall

Monday

Breakfast club
Lego+Board games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30
PE Lessons
Sports Skills ASC: 3.15-4.30

Thursday

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:

No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted
- Aesop



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

Little Acorns have thoroughly enjoyed our story of the week "The Jolly Postman". We have transformed our home corner in a post office and the children have very much enjoyed roleplaying with their friends. I have focused on scissor skills with Little Acorns this week and already I have seen progression in this area and the children have shown great skills and control. Little ACorns have loved circles games this week, showing great excitement and enjoyment in these games and building up on their fantastic turn taking and teamwork skills. We didn't let the weather get us down this week as we fully embraced the wet weather by putting on our all-in-one and wellies and having lots of fun splashing around in lots of puddles! It has been a wonderful week!

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

It has been great to see the children's progress in reading. We have really enjoyed our Friday sessions when we read with our friends. The older children have been helping the younger ones by listening to them read, and they loved writing in their reading records too. It's wonderful to see them supporting one another and sharing strategies to tackle tricky words, often they listen more carefully to their peers than to the teacher!

In RE this week, we explored the parable of Jonah and the big fish. The children created some lovely folding artwork to represent the story.

Reception have had a busy week and have enjoyed a range of activities linked to The Three Little Pigs. As part of this, in PSHE we focused on teamwork and problem-solving. The children worked in groups to build a house for the three little pigs, and they did a fantastic job.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

In Geography this week, Orchard class have been exploring mountains of the UK and higher ground. They have learnt about contours and how to read high ground on a map. They made some fabulous contour mountain models which look wonderful on our display!

In Science Year 5 and 6 compared the life cycles of birds and reptiles, the children learned the difference between hatchlings and juveniles and explored why reptiles and birds lay so many eggs. Year 3 and 4 investigated reflection using mirrors and completed some tricky challenges!

In English, children have completed their narrative from different viewpoints, they have worked incredibly hard to use fronted adverbials, exciting adjectives and 'show not tell' in their writing! We are very proud of their work! In computing the children used canvas to explore features of mountains as part of their Geography learning, they then labelled them. They look fantastic!

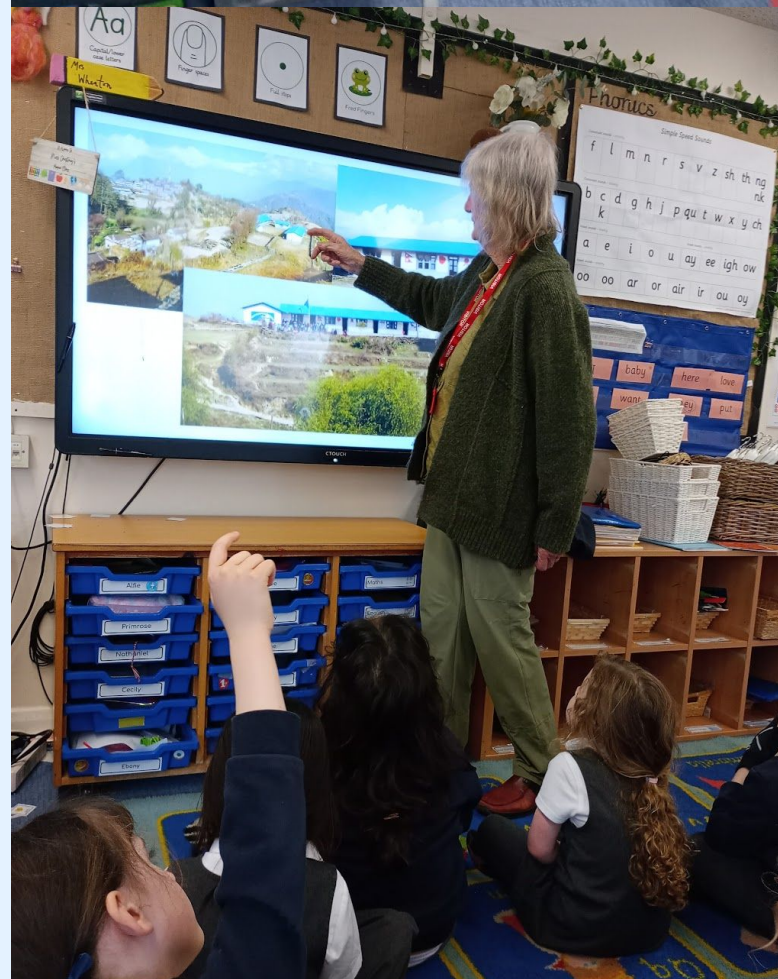
Over the next week...

- 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!




It was lovely to have Liz Rutter come in to speak to the children and update them about the progress of our sponsored child in the village of Ghale Gaun. We supported the child for the last 2 years of his education and he has now moved onto secondary school.

We now sponsor is a 6 year old girl called Ruti.

Fun Fact - Did you know that Thorncombe was the first village to build a pre-school in Nepal? Lots of others have followed suit!

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

The Big Garden Birdwatch is this weekend (23–25 Jan). We are keen to 'spread the word' to help birds by increasing our school community's participation to provide the RSPB with vital data on UK bird populations.

[Register here](#) for count and ID resources 

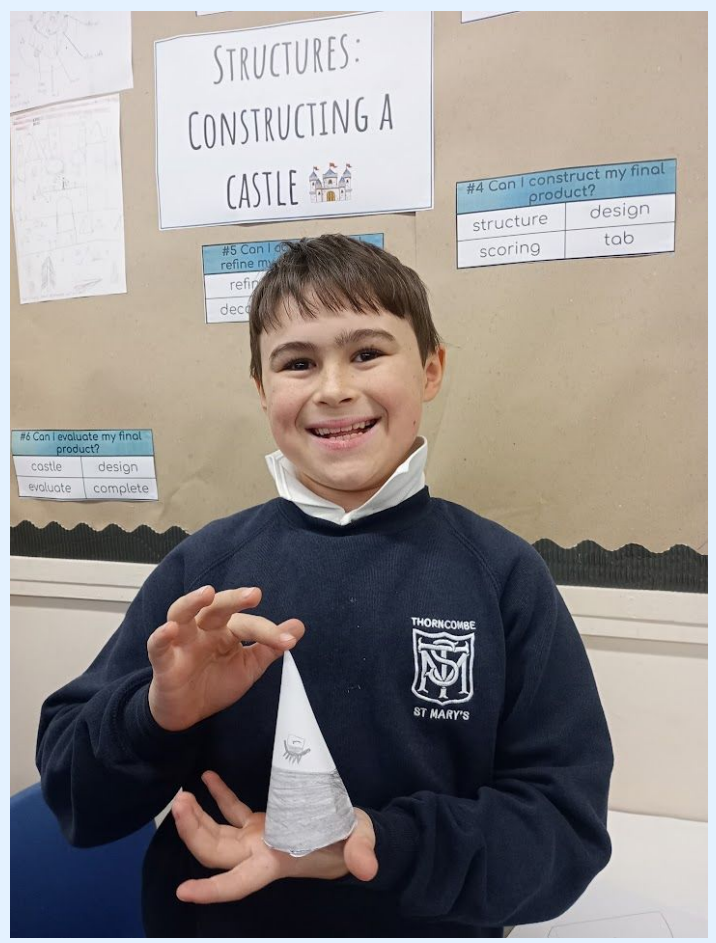


What a lovely week!

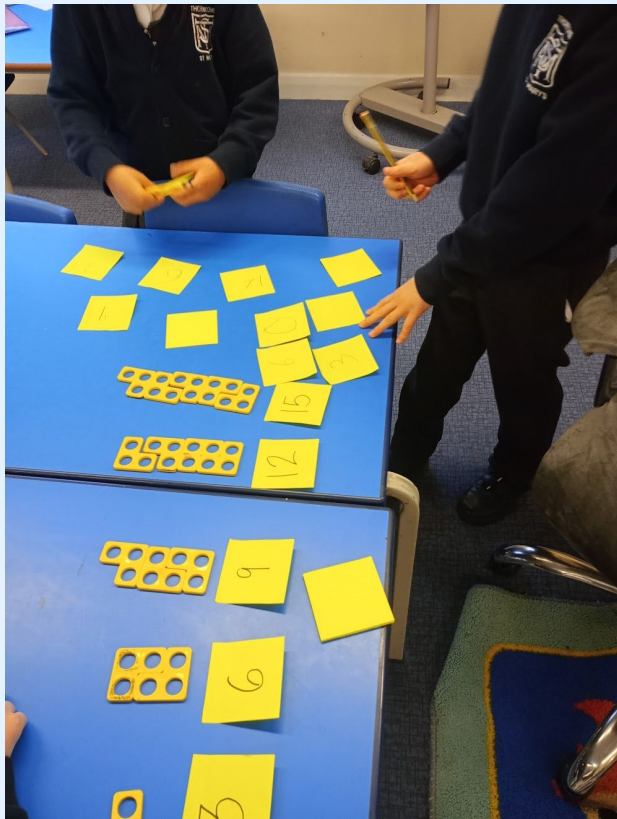
KS2 explored where the UK's mountains are and learned how maps use colours and contour lines to show height and steepness, finishing by building 3D mountain models.



What a lovely week!



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **ROBLOX**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME
- RISK OF ADDICTION
- MATURE CONTENT
- COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS
- IN-GAME SPENDING

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Advice for Parents & Carers

- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
- PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE
- CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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](#).