

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 15 Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and a very happy New Year to you all. I hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas holiday with your families.

Despite the stormy weather we have experienced recently, it has been wonderful to see such a positive and settled start to the new half term. Thank you, as always, for your support and flexibility. Please be reassured that in the event of severe weather, should a school closure ever be necessary, we will inform you at the earliest possible opportunity. This is always a last resort and only ever taken with the safety of our children, families, and staff in mind.

I am delighted to say how wonderful it is to have Mr Harris back in school, once again teaching Computing to the children. They have also adapted brilliantly to the change of Forest School day from Friday to Tuesday, and are thoroughly enjoying their sessions with Paloma.

Looking ahead, teachers will be in touch shortly with invitations to parents' meetings. These can be arranged either face-to-face or by phone—please do specify your preference at the time of booking.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable half term ahead.

Warm regards, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Service

Our golden apple winners this week are...



The winning house this week:

English Oak

W/B 12/01/26

At a glance:

Monday

INSET DAY

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

Spring Census Day - pupil attendance is very important to support next year's funding.

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.



Thought of the Week linked to this term's value, Service:

"We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but for each other."



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

We have had such a wonderful first week back in Little Acorns. It was lovely to welcome the children back and welcome new children, who already have settled in so well. I have loved hearing the children talk so excitedly about all the things they got for Christmas.

This term we will be exploring people who help us and our story of the week is Doctorsaurus. The children have loved roleplaying doctors based on some of their own experiences of going to the Doctors. Little Acorns have also enjoyed exploring string painting, building with the duplo, puzzles and playing games like hide and seek. We also enjoyed Forest school this week, where we went and explored the snow on a wintery walk and making ice cakes.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In maths Year 1 & 2 have been practising addition and subtraction, with children becoming increasingly confident and quicker at completing calculations independently. Reception have explored numbers to 5, subitising and finding amounts quickly.

We have been developing our sending and receiving skills in PE through fun target games, including knocking balls off cones. The challenge was increased by narrowing the space we threw through to improve accuracy and control.

In English we have been exploring The Storm Whale, focusing on describing the characters and the setting using thoughtful language and details from the story.

Have a look on the next page to see our super cool work in Music!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

It has been a lovely start to the new term in Orchard Class! After the Christmas break, the children have returned happy and smiling, full of enthusiasm and some wonderful ideas.

We have begun a new DT unit, Constructing a Castle. The children have been learning about the key features of castles and have thoroughly enjoyed designing and carefully labelling their own creations.

In Science, Years 3 and 4 have started their learning about Light. They had great fun comparing different objects in light and darkness by exploring items in a feely bag. Years 5 and 6 have begun their unit on Living Things and Their Habitats, where they explored mammal life cycles and learned all about monotremes and marsupials.

This week, we also welcomed our fabulous trout back into the classroom. This will form an exciting part of the Year 5/6 Science learning as we observe the eggs hatch and follow the life cycle closely.

In Maths, the children have continued developing their multiplication and division skills. Years 5 and 6 have been using both short and long division this week and have worked extremely hard - well done to them!

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.

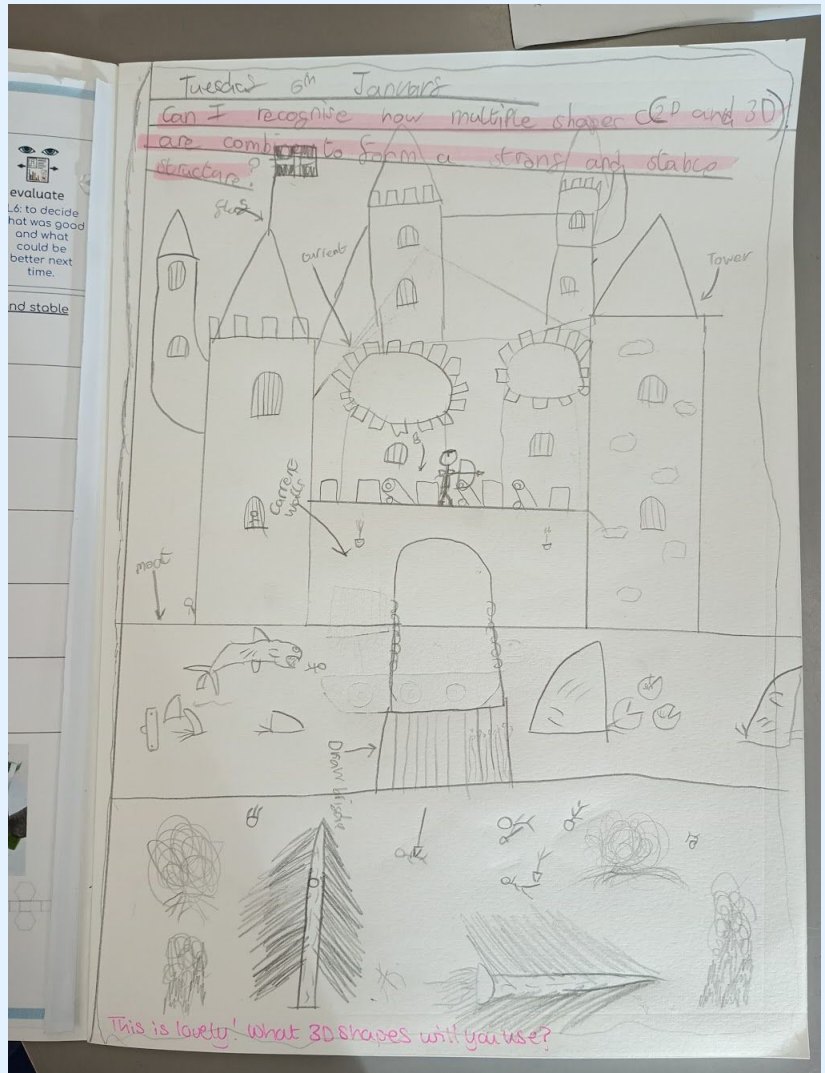
What a lovely week!

Pippin are learning about being in a band in their music lessons. Over the next few weeks they will be working together to create music in their bands.

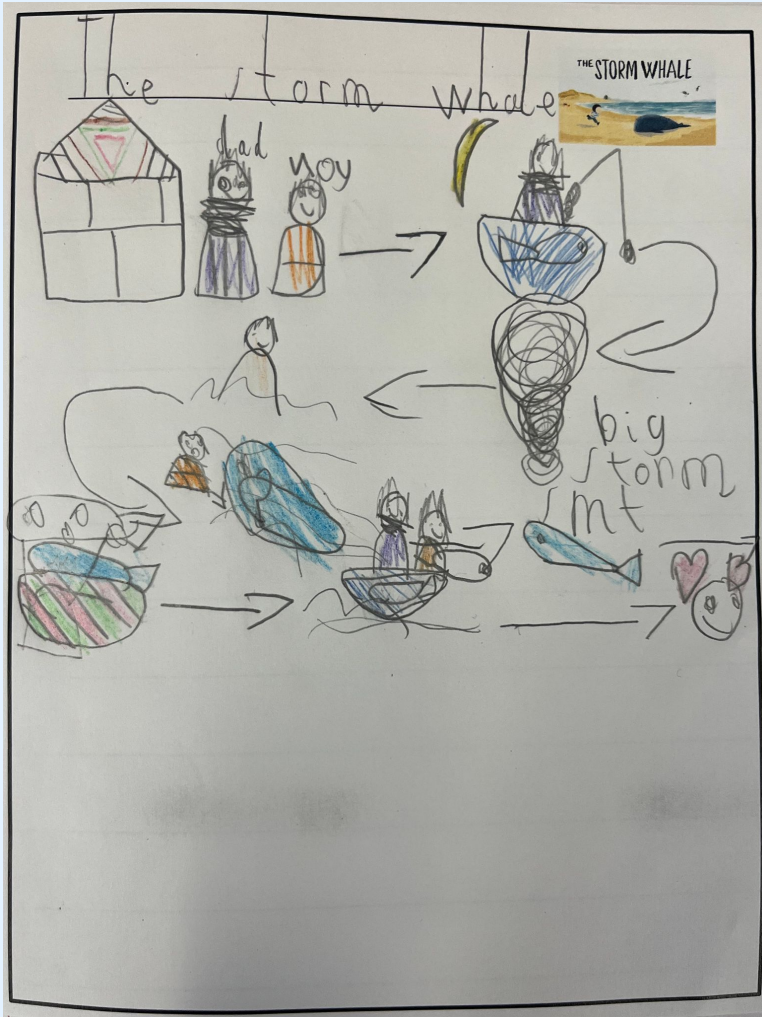
Here they are, looking super cool in their band!



What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!

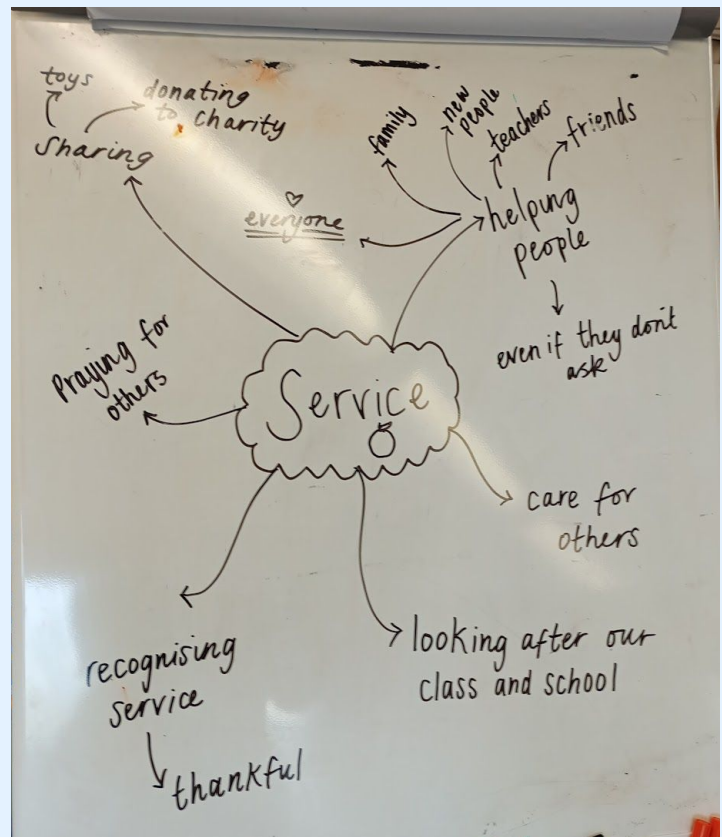


Year 1 English - story map to learn the story 'The Storm Whale'

Boxing-up helps writers break a story into parts so we know what to write and when. We are going to box up the story of The Storm Whale.

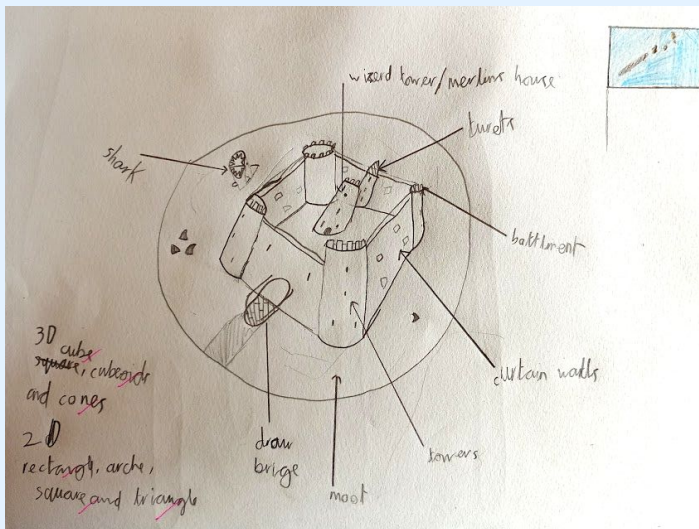
	What happens?	Where is the setting?	How does Noi feel?
Opening	There's a boy who lives in a cosy house with his dad and six cats dad, noi, cats	In his cosy house 	<u>Calm</u> and peaceful
Build up	his dad goes fishing on a boat 	in his cosy house and the clam beach 	lonely + sad
Problem	a big storm 	the sea and stormy night angry sea	scared, bee and worried because his dad is in the sea!
Resolution	the noi finds the <u>whale</u> and helps it	on he saw it in distance on the beach 	brave + kind
Ending	the <u>whale</u> goes back home	in the <u>calm</u> sea on a sunny day	proud + happy

Year 3 'boxing up' process to learn the story structure of 'The Storm Whale'



What a lovely week!

Orchard class were amazing in their first flute lesson!



Lifecycle of a human - placental mammal

Adult → Fertilisation → Foetus → Baby → Child → Adolescent → Adult

Marsupial differences

- live young
- underdeveloped at birth
- grows in a pouch
- drinks milk

Monotreme differences

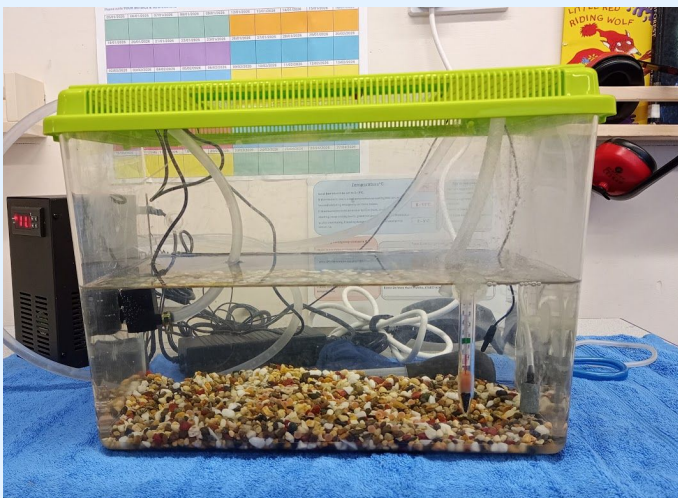
- lays eggs
- baby matures
- drinks milk
- no live birth

All mammals reproduce by sexual reproduction.

Placental mammals usually develop inside the uterus during a long gestation and are born fully developed.

Marsupials are different because they give birth to underdeveloped young who grow in a pouch.

Monotremes are unusual mammals because they lay eggs but their young suckle from milk which makes them mammals.





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](#).