

# Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 13 Friday 12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a truly lovely week in school, with a wonderful festive atmosphere all around. It was a joy to see the children looking so cheerful in their Christmas jumpers on Thursday – they certainly helped to spread lots of seasonal smiles! Everything is feeling very Christmassy as we head towards the end of term.

Rehearsals for our Nativity are going really well, and the children have been working hard and showing great enthusiasm. We are very much looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to this special event, which will be held at the Village Hall next Thursday. Please arrive for 2:00pm, and aim to start for 2:15pm..

If you have not already done so, please remember to book your **free tickets** using the link below. This will help us ensure we have enough seating for everyone:

👉 <https://forms.gle/H4e4uNbPZHvVDSB86>

We would also like to remind parents and carers that the **Reception to Year 6 visit to the Pantomime** is booked for **Tuesday morning, 16th December**. The children will be arriving back at school later than usual, so lunch will be slightly later that day. With this in mind, please ensure your child brings:

- A **water bottle**
- **Two snacks:** one savoury and one sweet treat

If you have not yet made payment for the panto trip, please could we kindly urge you to do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to sharing these festive events with you and the children.

Warm regards, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

*Thankfulness*

*Our golden apple winners this week are....*



The winning house this week:

*Silver Birch*

**W/B 15/12/25 At a glance:**

## Monday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30  
8:45 Celebration Worship  
PE Lessons  
Lego+Board games ASC: 3.15-4.30

## Tuesday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30  
**Pantomime Trip Rec-Y6**  
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  
**Nativity 2pm arrival**

## Friday

Breakfast Club: 8-8.30  
Forest School Sessions  
Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30  
**Last day of term!**

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:

"ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS, FOR ONE DAY YOU MAY LOOK BACK AND REALIZE THEY WERE THE BIG THINGS."  
- ROBERT BRAULT



St. Mary's CE Primary Academy, Chard Street, Thorncombe, Somerset, TA20 4NE

Phone: [01460 30535](tel:0146030535) Email: [office@stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk)

Website: <https://www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk/>



# Class News from this Week!

## Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week in Little Acorns we have continued our wonderful christmas activities. The children have enjoyed making and decorating wreaths and Christmas trees. It's so lovely to see how proud they are of their artwork. Little Acorns also enjoyed a bit of christmas yoga, showing their impressive yoga poses. We have also made a start on making some Stars for the Nativity play, Little Acorns are very much looking forward to being a part of this. For our cooking session this week we made some Christmas chocolate chip fairy cakes and decorated them with lots of icing and sprinkles. Little Acorns also made some Reindeer food, using oats and glitter and they can't wait to sprinkle these outside their homes on Christmas Eve. I have continued their support with numbers this week and encouraging them to join in stable order counting forwards by singing songs like 12345 fish alive. The children have also enjoyed the train track and the tap art this week.

## Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

We have had such a FUN week and have absolutely embraced the Christmas spirit this week. We have created Christmas ornaments of ourselves which we hope bring you lots of Joy at home and are something that you and them can keep forever to remember when they were this little!

Year 1,2 & 3 have written their own Christmas poems. Year 1 & 2 focused on letter placement and using phonics to help them spell. Year 3 focused on using alliteration and did a phenomenal job.

In PE this week the children have been getting strong on the climbing apparatus, taking risks and succeeding.

Have a lovely weekend,  
Mrs Wheaton

## Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

What a lovely week we have had! In History, the children enjoyed becoming Anglo-Saxon detectives. They explored local place names and uncovered the meanings behind endings like -combe, -ton, -worth, -ley and -ham. Using maps to spot these names in our area sparked lots of excitement and curiosity.

In English, the children had great fun exploring poems with different structures. They have enjoyed creating their own Christmas limericks, riddles, nonsense poems and rhyming poems!

Orchard Class also finished their drawing unit in Art with a brilliant lesson on perspective. After studying winter landscapes, they produced their own beautiful pencil-shaded scenes using a vanishing point and orthogonal lines. The results were fantastic and we are so proud of them!

Have a lovely weekend!



## 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!



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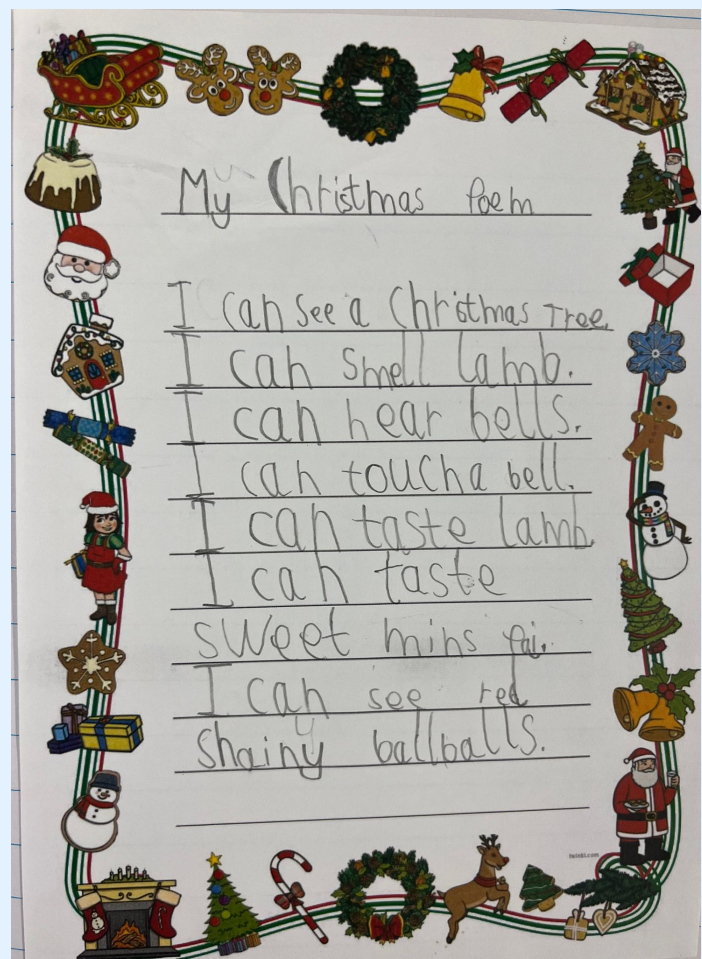
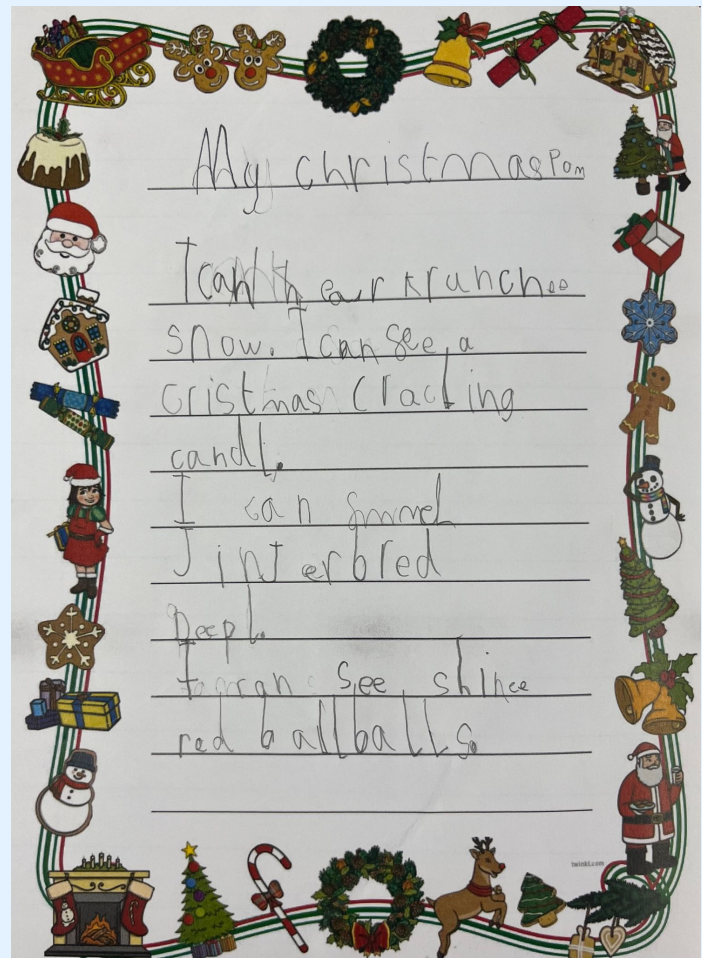
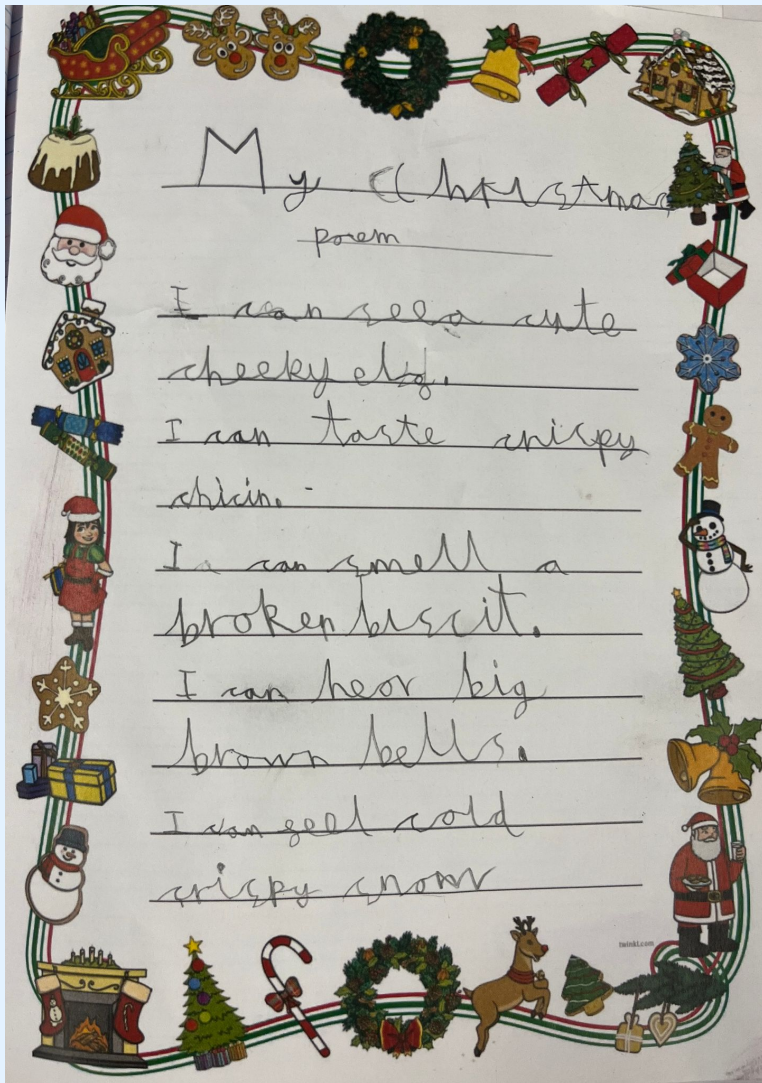


Nativity Preparations in full swing!



What a lovely week!

## Pippin Class' Christmas Poetry



Merry  
Christmas

The text is written in a large, red, cursive font. To the right of the word 'Merry' is a small green Christmas tree with red and yellow ornaments and a red star on top. There are also several yellow stars scattered around the text.

What a lovely week!



Orchard Class Winter Landscapes



# Christmas Jumper Day 2025

On Thursday we joined national support for 'Save the Children' to help children in the UK and around the world stay safe, healthy and learning. For our Woodland Trust Go Green in 15 challenge, we promoted a 'pre-loved' theme bringing the sustainability message to life by encouraging outfit swaps and the wearing of hand-me-downs or charity shop bargains!




# What a lovely week!

## Support for Families Over the Christmas Holidays

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we are mindful that this time of year can bring a mixture of joy and challenge for families. We would like to highlight some **local and national support services** available to families and children living on the Somerset/Dorset border, should you need advice, reassurance, or practical help over the festive period. Please remember: **you are not alone**, and support is available.

### **Support for Parents & Carers**


**Family Lives** - Confidential advice and support on parenting, relationships, and family life.


 **0808 800 2222**

 [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

### **Citizens Advice**

Advice on finances, benefits, housing, and practical concerns.


 [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

 **Food & Practical Support** - If you are worried about food or essentials during the holidays:

**Local Food Banks** - Food banks operate across West Dorset and South Somerset. You can self-refer or be referred by a professional.


 [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org) (search by postcode)

### **Local Community Support**


Many local churches and community groups offer seasonal support, Christmas meals, or hampers. 

**Urgent Help & Safeguarding** - If you are worried about a child's safety or wellbeing:

**Somerset Children's Social Care**

 **0300 123 2224** Out of hours: **0300 123 2327**

**Dorset Children's Advice & Duty Service (CHAD)**

 **01305 228866** Out of hours: **01202 228866**

**In an emergency**, always call **999**.

We hope the Christmas holidays bring moments of rest and happiness for you and your family. Please do reach out if you need support—help is available, and asking for it is a strength.

### Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

### Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sol Davies  
Acting Head of School  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Merryn Chestney  
EYFS Lead and Pippin  
Teacher  
Deputy DSL



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