

# Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 12 Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to our wonderful PFA for organising such a successful Christmas Wreath Making event. It was a truly lovely community occasion—bringing families, friends, and neighbours together to start the festive season—while also raising valuable funds for our school. We are incredibly grateful for the time, creativity, and enthusiasm that went into making the evening so special.

At the recent PFA meeting, we were delighted to explore ideas for developing the area at the front of the school. This space has huge potential, and together we are beginning to shape exciting plans to transform it into a Forest School area and outdoor learning classroom. This development will enhance our curriculum, inspire curiosity, and give children even more opportunities to learn, explore and thrive in nature.

Looking ahead, one of our aims this year is to organise a *pre-loved Christmas jumper amnesty* after Christmas. We would like to gather a selection of jumpers that can be stored at school and reused next year, helping families with the cost of seasonal clothing while also supporting sustainability. However, as many of you start sorting out jumpers from last year, you may find that some no longer fit. If that's the case, please don't feel you need to wait until January—do feel free to hand them into school anytime from now onwards.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and for the many ways you contribute to our school community.

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 08/12/25 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  
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  
**Christmas Jumper Day**

### Friday

Breakfast Club: 8-8.30  
Forest School Sessions  
Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30  
**PFA Christmas Film**

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:

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."

OPRAH WINFREY



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# Class News from this Week!

## Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

We have had such a busy week here in Little Acorns. We have had so much fun engaging in lots of christmas activities. The children have loved getting involved and creating some beautiful christmassy artwork, which i have proudly displayed on our artwork board. They have also enjoyed dancing with ribbons to some of their favourite christmas songs, showing their impressive dance moves! Little Acorn also enjoyed making melted snowman biscuits, they were all so proud of their creations and couldn't wait to eat them. This week we have had new children start with us, so would like to say a big welcome them and their families for joining us. Already they have shown great progress in starting to settle in. It has been a wonderful week!

## Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

One of our wonderful Year 3 children brought in some artefacts that had been found in their field from the Anglo Saxon times. It was very interesting to hear all of the facts they shared about them!

Children who are on phonics have had their assessments this week and it is so pleasing to see children's progress from term to term. This allows us to identify gaps for individual children so that we can tailor our teaching sessions to children's needs.

Reception's story of the week has been 'Owl Babies' and they have been painting with feathers, exploring people who help us, measuring worms and more. The children have really enjoyed making in the creative area this week!

Please can we kindly ask that toys are kept at home so that they don't get lost at school.

## Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

Orchard have been busy in maths this week with years 5 and 6 working on subtracting fractions, they've had to work out equivalent fractions and then complete the subtraction. Years 3 and 4 had 7 times tables problem-solving this week, and all did really well.

In RE the children wrote news reports about the birth of Jesus. First we thought of questions we would like to ask Mary and Joseph, then tried to answer them and put this information into the reports.

In indoor PE we have been continuing to learn and practise our Christmas dance, this week we began to teach it to Pippins too!

In science, the children had great fun exploring shadows and how they are formed. They also used their creative abilities to make a Christmas Gonk in art, which was well deserved after all their hard work completing their writing assessments. I was so impressed with their focus and attention to detail. end!

## 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!

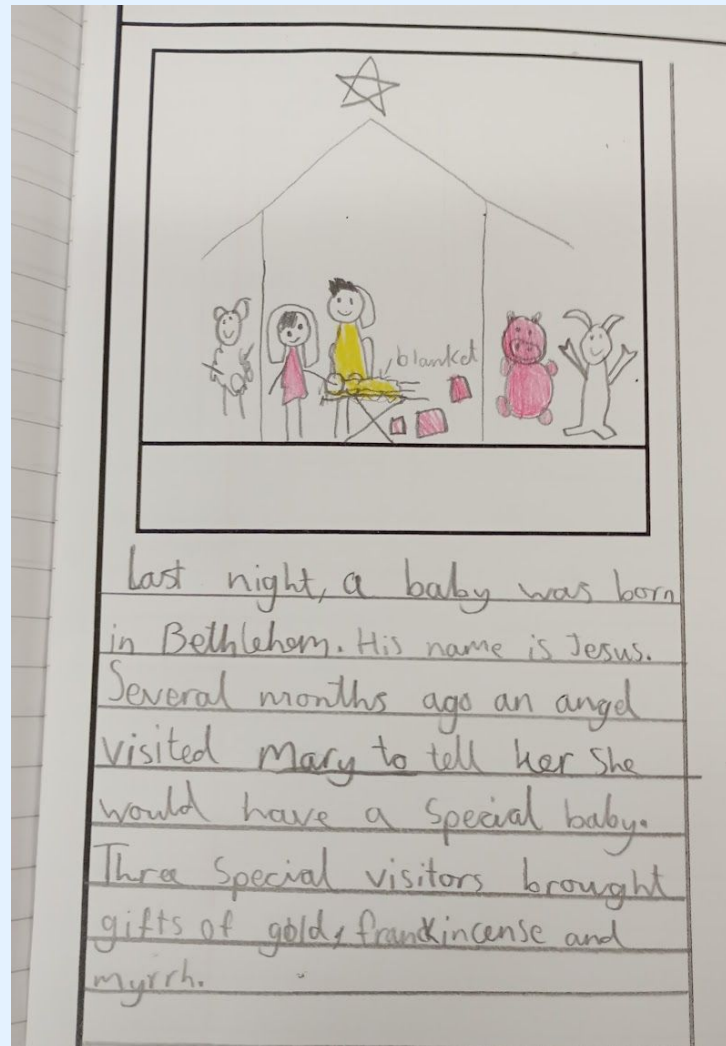
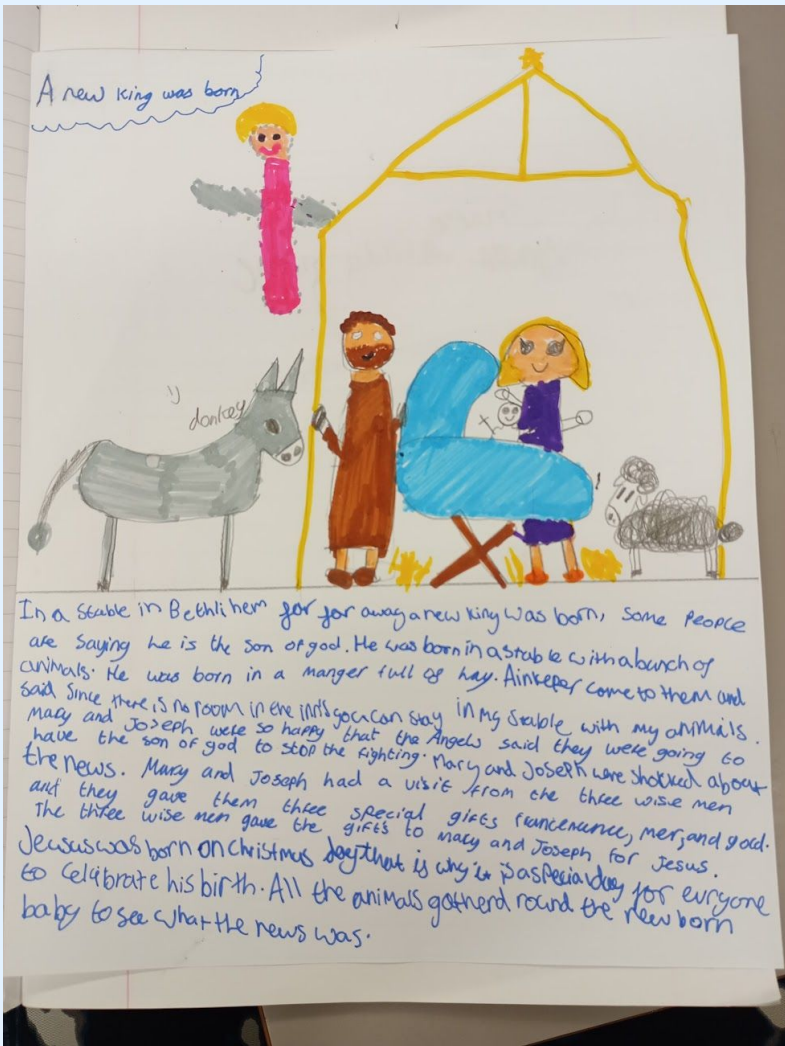




# What a lovely week!



In Science this week, children in Y3/4 investigated how shadows are formed. They made shadow puppets and used torches to observe how a shadow changes size when the light source moves closer or further away, linking to our work on light and shadows.



# Tree Dressing Day 2025

Tree Dressing Day celebrations encourage communities to reflect on the cultural significance of trees and to appreciate them by decorating them with eco-friendly ornaments and messages of gratitude. In today's Forest School session, both classes came up with brilliant reasons why trees are so important - from producing oxygen to cleaning the air and providing homes for creatures great and small. They saw pictures of tree dressing from North America to Australia before getting crafty and making decorations, ready to create a Gratitude Tree next week when the weather improves!



# What a lovely week!

**THORNCOMBE ST MARY'S CE  
PRIMARY ACADEMY**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER  
DAY**

**THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DEC**



Donation of £1 optional  
In aid of 'Save the Children'



Support our school on the road to completing the Go Green in 15 Challenge by choosing pre-loved over new Christmas jumpers  
Share your 'pre-loved' stories with #Green15



**Christmas  
Film Night**

£3 per child

Sweets, popcorn  
and juice provided

Christmas Jumper  
if you wish

**Friday 12th Dec**  
**3.15pm - 5pm**



## Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

## Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sal 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](#).