

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 11 Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school has been full of joy this week as the children have been singing and dancing in preparation for our very own school-written nativity. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and the sense of fun and creativity they bring to each rehearsal.

A gentle reminder about the importance of **good attendance**, especially at this busy and exciting time of year. We know it is cold and flu season, but taking simple preventative measures—such as dressing warmly with hats and gloves, practising good handwashing and hygiene, and keeping up to date with flu immunisations—can make a big difference. If your child missed their flu vaccine in school this week but would still like it, please book an appointment with your GP as soon as possible.

Next week, we look forward to beginning our **Advent** celebrations in both our learning and our worship. It promises to be a very special time in school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Thankfulness

Our golden apple winners this week are....



The winning house this week:

Copper Beech

W/B 01/12/25 At a glance:

Monday

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

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
PFA Wreath Making

Friday

Breakfast Club: 8-8.30
Forest School Sessions
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:

"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

This week in Little Acorns we have made a start on some christmas craft by making their christmas cards for their families. We have explored the book "Stickman" this week. This is a firm favourite here in Little Acorns and some of the children can retell this story off by heart!. Little Acorns have loved story sequencing and in our gross motor session we collected lots of different sized sticks to create our very own stickman. The children had lots of fun making their own version of stickman. Little Acorns have loved having the train track out and playing a new game of Tractor Ted farm lotto. In maths this week we have explored: Hear and say number names. To support their learning in this i have modeled counting objects during their play and prompting the children to repeat some of these and begin to say number names in order.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

Reception's story of the week has been 'Happy Birthday, Winnie!' We have explored birthdays as part of our learning on celebrations. The children have enjoyed a range of activities such as counting birthday candles, reading and matching gift tags to presents and designing their own birthday cakes.

Children have been completing their assessments this week. It has been wonderful to see children so confident in answering a range of questions in maths, reading, grammar and spelling.. We spoke about how we may not know everything but we always try our best and it helps us learn by showing what we need to focus on next.

In PSHE we explored what to do if we feel that ourselves or a friend is being bullied. The children in our class are so empathetic and caring and this truly shined during this lesson. We are so lucky to have such kind and caring children in our school.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

This week has been assessment week, and we have been so impressed with how all the children have approached it with confidence and focus. A special well done to Year 3, tackling their very first assessments in KS2 with such enthusiasm and determination. It has been wonderful to see everyone giving their best and showing just how much they've grown and learned.

In Science this week, year 3 and 4 learned all about food webs and solved a tricky set of clues to build their own. Year 5 and 6 investigated refraction and had great fun with disappearing pennies, bending pencils and making their own magnifying lens!

In History this week, we explored Anglo-Saxon skills and treasures, including the fascinating discoveries at Sutton Hoo. The children got creative, using silver foil to replicate the famous artefacts before putting together their own fact files in their books.

Spellings - Week 5

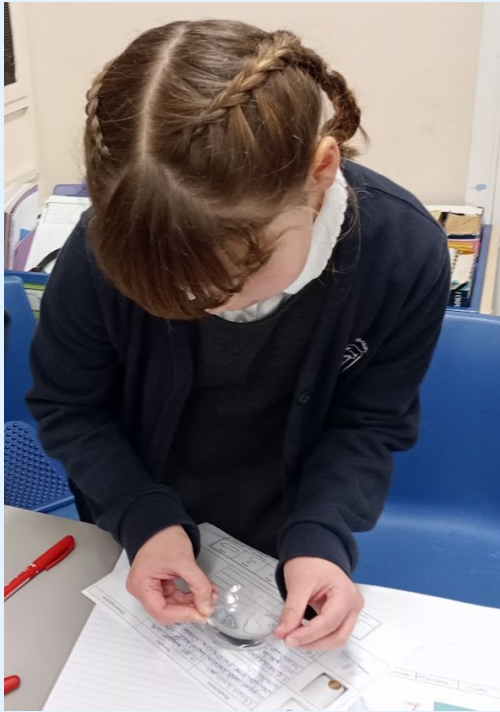
Over the next week...

- 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.

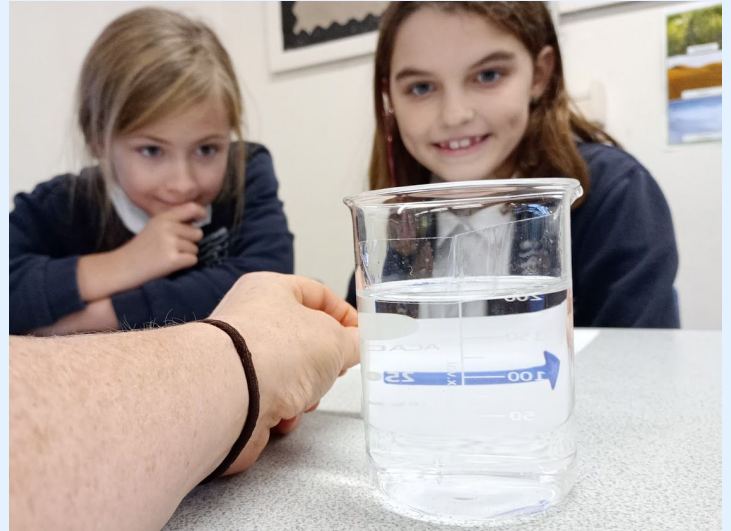
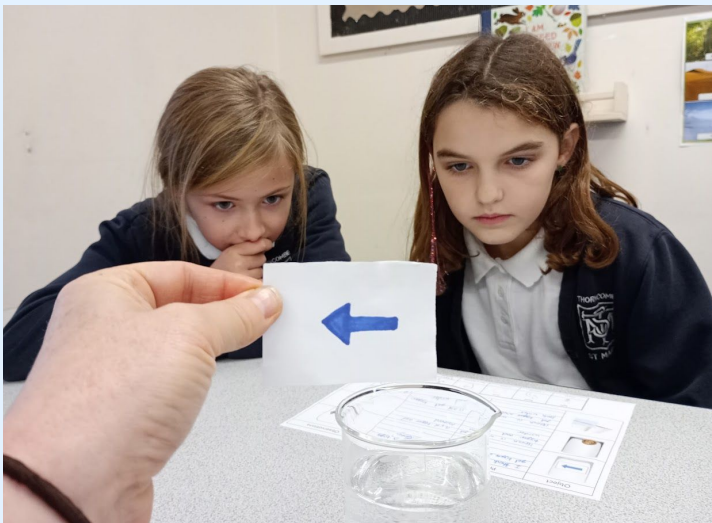
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

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

What a lovely week!



Orchard Class have started designing their maze games in computing. The children are using Scratch to program sprites that move around different obstacles, and they are doing brilliantly!



Monday 24th November
Can I explore the treasures the Anglo-Saxons left behind?

Your Task: Historian's Artefact Analysis

- Choose an artefact from the Examining Artefacts sheet.
- Draw it carefully in your book.
- Use the Historian Questions prompts to answer:
 - What was it for?
 - What does it tell us about belief, trade, or craftsmanship?
- Add one extra fact by researching from the slides/posters.

Checklist:

I have analysed the artefact using clues.	
I have explained what it teaches us about Anglo-Saxon culture.	
I have included one researched fact.	

Artefact 1 - Helmet

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

The Helmet is one of the most famous Anglo-Saxon objects ever found. It was made of iron with a decorative face mask and cheek guards. The designs show warriors, animals and mythical creatures. It protected the warrior in battle but also showed high status. Only one or a very small number of helmets found from this time.

Friday 21st November
Can I explore proportion by drawing an object realistically and with exaggerated proportions?

I used shading to give a shadow on my drawing.

I have given tone to Mr. Jewitts.

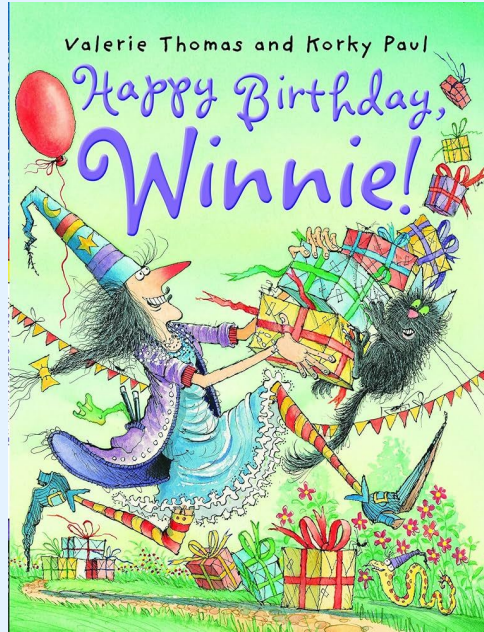
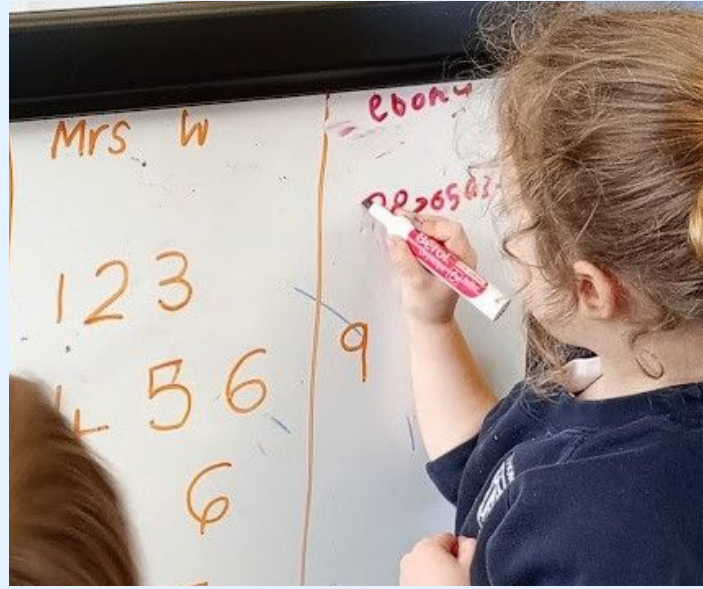
I enlarged the ears to make it look strange.

Next time I think it will be fun to use crosshatching for my shadow.

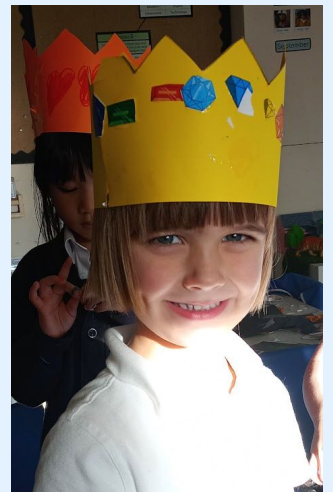
Your Proportion Checklist

- ☐ I drew both versions without templates.
- ☐ I exaggerated two parts in my second drawing.
- ☐ I used shading and tone to add detail.
- ☐ I explained how the proportions changed the balance or stability.
- ☐ I could get at least three key vocabulary words!

What a lovely week!



Children in Reception have enjoyed our book of the week & all the activities linked to it!



What a lovely week!

