

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 10 Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a much more settled week in school following the busyness of last week, and the children have shown great focus and maturity in returning to their learning. As we approach the end of term, staff are beginning to carry out our usual check-ins and assessments. These play an important role in helping us to measure progress and identify any gaps in learning so we can ensure every child continues to be well supported.

Alongside their classroom work, the children have also been working incredibly hard on their singing and dancing for the whole-school nativity. Their enthusiasm and commitment during rehearsals has been wonderful to see, and we are looking forward to sharing their fantastic efforts with you very soon.

This week has certainly brought a noticeable drop in temperatures. Out of a duty of care, please ensure that all children come to school with a warm coat each day so they can enjoy outdoor play safely and comfortably.

I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Georgia McMenemy, who has served as Thorncombe's Parent Council member until her recent move out of the area. We are grateful for the time and care she has given to the role. If you would be interested in learning more about this vacancy, please see the attached flyer—and you are very welcome to come and chat with me if you would like to discuss the position further.

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:

English Oak

W/B 17/11/25 At a glance:

ASC = After School Club

Monday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

8:45 Celebrations

PE Lessons

Flu immunisations

Lego+Board games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

Bikes+Trikes ASC: 3.15-4.30

Nasal vaccines

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

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:

A small act of kindness may seem tiny to us, but it can make a big difference to someone else. This week, try being the reason someone smiles.



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week in Little Acorns I have been working with the children on their fine motor skills and pencil control. I have supported the children with holding the pencil using a tripod grip and doing following and tracing lines activities. The children, as always, are amazing and have worked so hard during these activities. In maths we have explored, making line patterns with sequence. To support this we have either created patterns with the duplo or using tissue paper to create different line patterns during our craft activities. Little Acorns showed great understanding in this, recognising that we need to use objects more than once. For gross motor this week we did some yoga in the hall. The children absolutely loved this and we had so much fun and they all did amazing with following instructions and copying the yoga poses!

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In Computing we have been exploring algorithms which is a set of step-by-step instructions to complete a task. This week we focused on block based coding that got progressively more difficult as the children moved through the programme. There were quite a few challenges within the lessons that the children have shown resilience against and tackled well.

In Art we continued our textiles unit. Year 1 & 2 have used templates to cut out their puppet shape and then used staples to attach their two pieces of fabric. These puppets are going to look BRILLIANT when they are finished! Year 3 started using running stitch to attach the 2 pieces of fabric to make their pouches.

Please can parents ensure jumpers are named, we do our best to send home all their things each day and it is much easier when things are clearly labelled.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

Orchard Class have been working incredibly hard this week! In English, the children have been writing their own twisted fairy tales - changing settings, reinventing characters, and adding surprising endings. Their stories are coming along brilliantly, with everyone using figurative language confidently.

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 have been adding mixed numbers and have used their times tables knowledge well. Year 3 and 4 have focused on the 4 and 8 times tables, using efficient strategies to tackle some tricky problems.

In History, the children explored life in an Anglo-Saxon settlement. They learned about plant dyeing, smoking meat and fish, and what the Saxons looked for when choosing where to live. They especially enjoyed designing their own Anglo-Saxon villages.

In Science, Year 3 and 4 played a food chain game to show the flow of energy then explored real examples around the school grounds. It was lovely to take Science outdoors, and the children really enjoyed it.

A little reminder to make sure all children have coats as it is becoming very cold!

Over the next week...

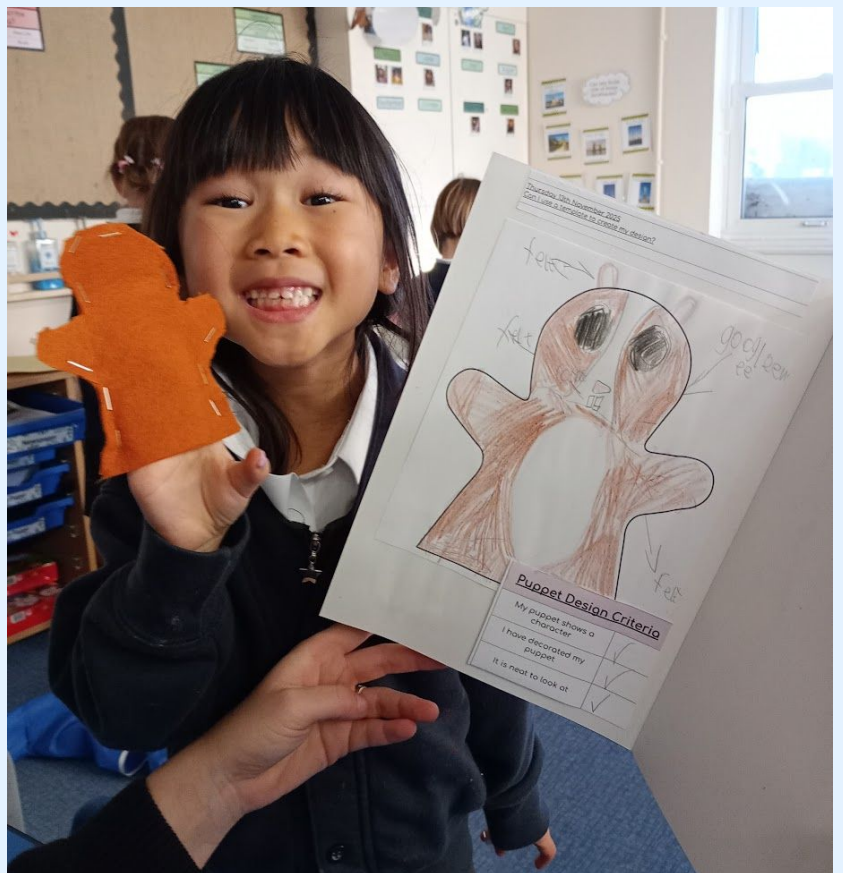
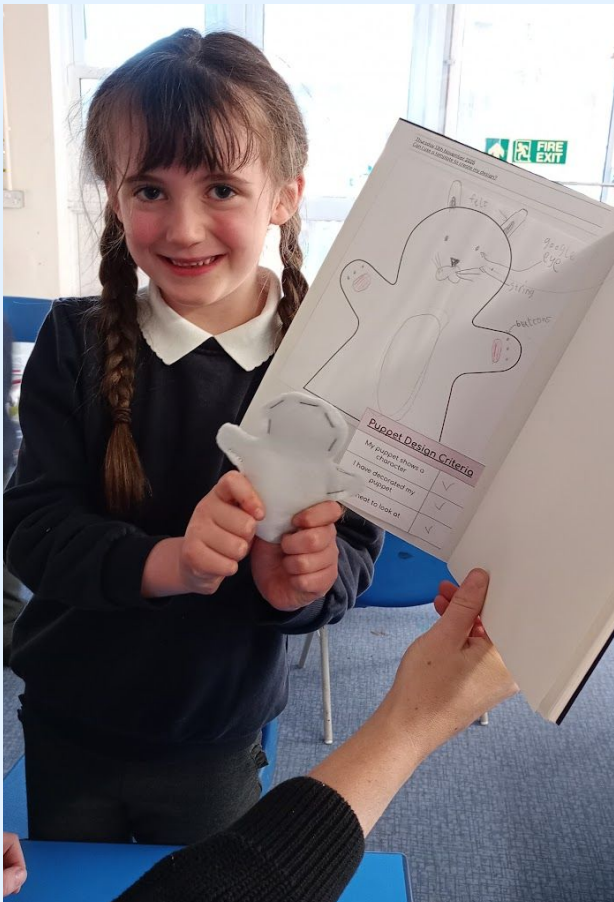
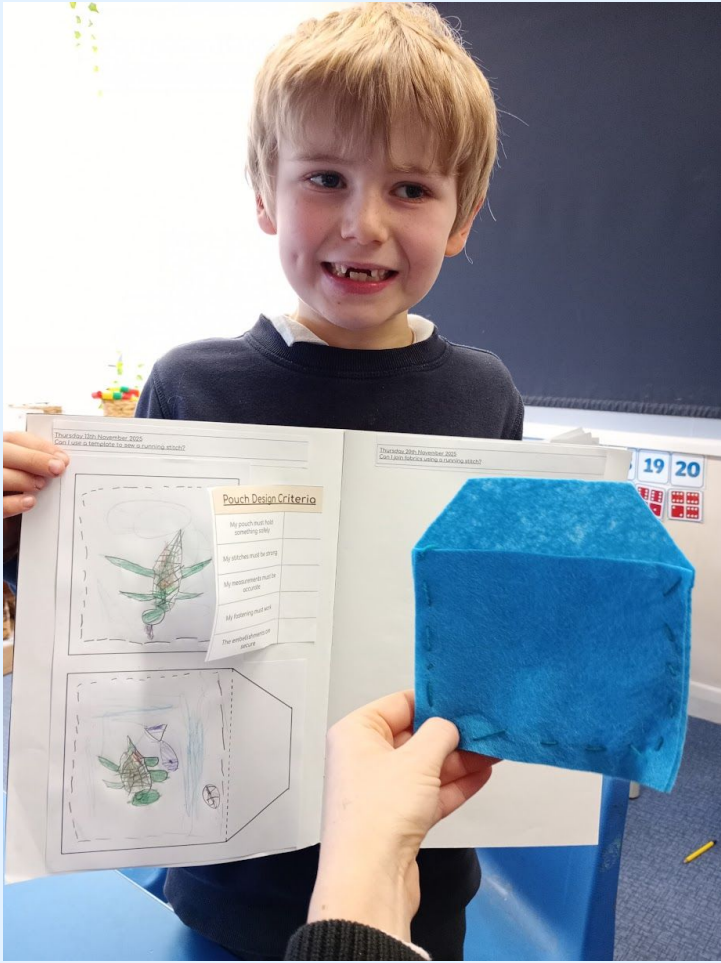
- Hear your child read at least 3 times each week. Please record this in their reading records/BoomReader. Parents - children are never too old to have a story read to them. They gain so much from this special time with you.
- Practise your multiplication and division facts using TTRS or other resources.

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!

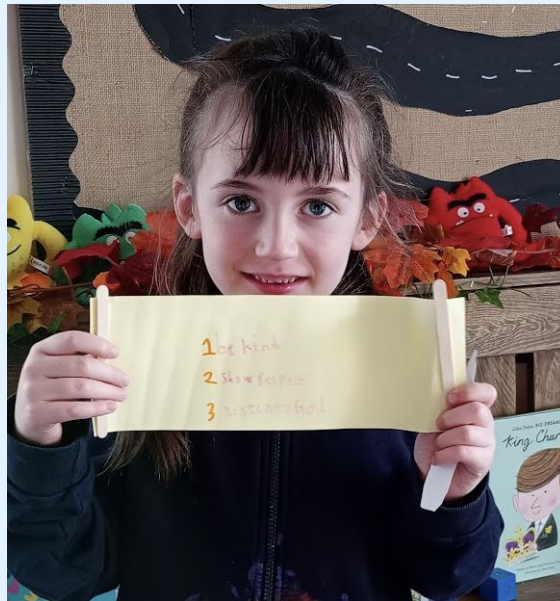
Some incredible textiles work by our fantastic young designers!



What a lovely week!

Children in KS1 have been learning about the Jewish community this term in their RE lessons. This week they explored the Torah and why it is important to the Jewish Community.

The children made their own Torah Scrolls and wrote some of their own important rules inside.



Children in reception very proud of their computing outcomes!



What a lovely week!



Online Safety & Gaming

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com



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](#).