

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 9 Friday 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and memorable week it has been at Thorncombe!

We were honoured to welcome Dave, a former army medic, who spoke to KS1 and KS2 about Remembrance and the importance of the two-minute silence. The children listened beautifully and showed great respect as we laid our handmade poppy wreaths at Thorncombe Church. It was a truly special moment of reflection.

The children have also begun rehearsing for our whole-school Nativity — excitement is already building! A reminder that it takes place on Thursday 18th December (2pm arrival for an expected 2:15pm start). It will be a ticketed event to help manage numbers in the hall.

We ended the week with a brilliant Children in Need day — pupils and staff wore pyjamas and Pudsey ears with pride, raising funds for a great cause.

Thank you to all who attended Parents' Evening. We really value our home-school partnership and our open-door policy means you're always welcome to get in touch before the next meetings in February.

Finally, don't forget the Big Breakfast this Sunday at the Village Hall (9-11am), organised by our fantastic PFA — everyone is very welcome!

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Warm Wishes,
Sal Davies, Acting Head of School.

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

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

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:

"Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is."



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



Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week we have had lots of celebrating different events. We started the week with celebrating Remembrance day. Little Acorns decorated some lovely Poppy pictures and we decorated biscuits to represent a Poppy. Little Acorns also did amazingly well when we had a visitor in to talk to us about Remembrance day. We finished the week off by celebrating Children in need, engaging in lots of different activities like making Pudsey masks and colouring Pudsey pictures. The children have all taken an interest in drawing this week, they have loved drawing lots of pictures and being creative. It's been lovely to see how much pride they take in their artwork. This week, Little Acorns have shown such kindness towards one another and are very much enjoying spending time together. It has been lovely to see how much they enjoy role-playing, working together, and using their imaginations during play.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In History Year 3 explored the Anglo Saxons and their invasion. We explored how the Romans stopped defending Britain and that the Anglo Saxons wanted better land for farming and crops. Year 1 and 2 have been exploring how toys have changed over time. We explored toys from the 1950s this week. If anyone has any toys from this era we would absolutely love to see them and share them with the children!

In English we have been planning our own versions of the gingerbread man story, using the structure to support us. We have had a range of ideas: fairies who run away and their wings get stuck in mud, garden gnomes that escape and sink to the bottom of a river and Christmas pies who skid away on ice! They are very creative and I can't wait to read them next week once they have finished writing them.

We have also started practicing our... NATIVITY! The children are so excited and the enthusiasm has been wonderful. More details will be sent closer to the time but we have enjoyed learning our songs so far.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

In History this week, the children explored how the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain and formed their early kingdoms. We also looked at Northern Britain in the early 400s, learning about the Scots who migrated from Ireland to Dál Riata and the Picts who lived across the Grampians.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 investigated how reflective different materials are by building light boxes and testing angles of incidence and reflection.

Year 3 and 4 have been creating food chains as part of their Animals Including Humans unit.

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 compared and simplified fractions using models and times-table knowledge.

Year 3 and 4 continued their work on multiplication and division, practising grouping, sharing, and using arrays.

All children were very excited to start rehearsing for the Nativity! We will be singing and performing music as a class ensemble!

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.

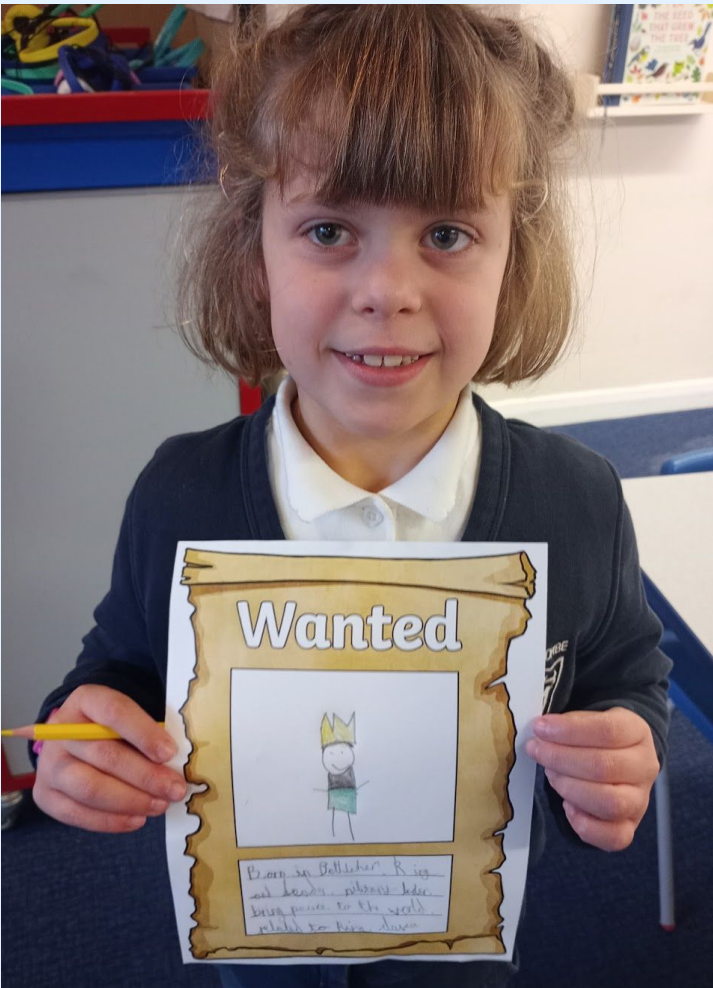
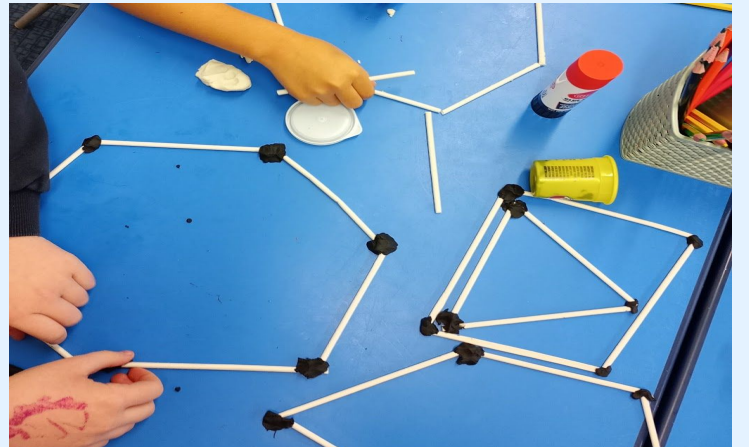
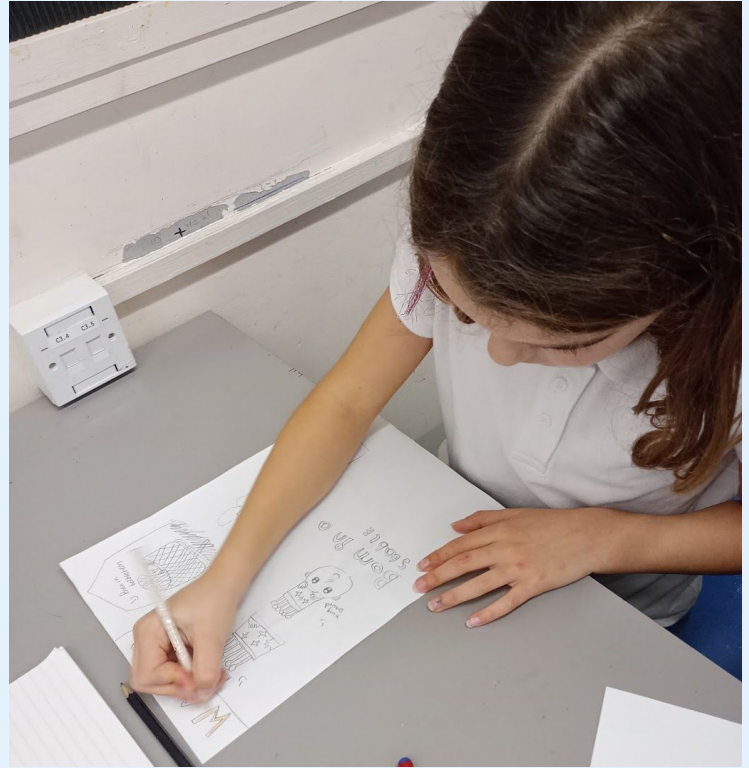
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

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

What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!



Forest School

Forest School Reminder

As we head into the colder, wetter, and muddier months, please remember to send your child to Forest School with waterproofs and wellies. A warm coat, hat, and gloves are also helpful to keep everyone comfortable while exploring outdoors.

Thank you for helping us make sure the children can enjoy their sessions - rain or shine! 🌧️🌿



Remembrance 2025



"The inquisitive mind of a child" A Poem for Remembrance

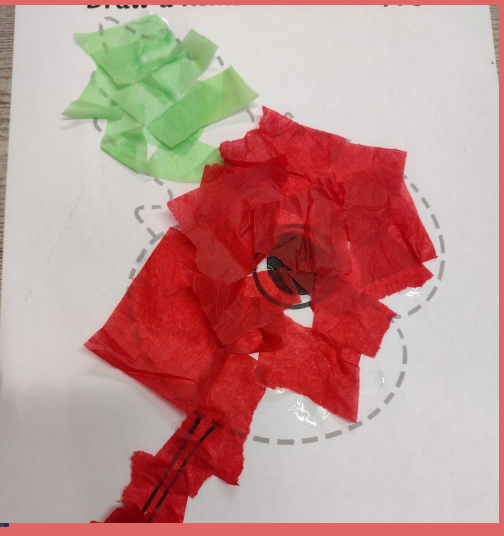
Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?
Selling poppies in town today.
The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?
Why not a beautiful rose?
Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.

But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.



Children In Need 2025

A big thank you to everyone who participated and donated towards Children In Need 2025. A very worthy cause. We raised £58! A big thank you to our wonderful children in need helpers who helped deliver our pudsey ears on Thursday.



What a lovely week!

PLEASE COME ALONG, ALL WELCOME TO
Thorncombe St Mary's School PFA

BIG BREAKFAST



JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS MORNING & HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR A NEW SCHOOL OVEN

COOKED BREAKFAST, CROSSIANTS, FREE TEA & COFFEE REFILLS, RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW

9-11AM SUNDAY

16TH NOV

THORNCOMBE VILLAGE HALL
CHARD STREET
TA20 4NE



The PFA are looking for volunteers to help with this event.

If you can and would like to help, please contact them:

thorncombepfa@gmail.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](#).