

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 8 Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some wonderful news with you all. Mrs Evans, our Head of School currently on maternity leave, has welcomed a healthy baby girl named Lucy. We send our warm congratulations to the family. Mrs Evans is hoping to visit school towards the end of the day on Thursday 13th November to introduce Lucy, and we know everyone will be excited to meet her.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the half-term break. They have settled well and re-engaged positively with their learning. We were also pleased to welcome Mr Snowling, PE teacher from Woodroffe, back into school this week to help support our PE lessons — the children really enjoyed working with him.

As we approach Remembrance Day on Tuesday, poppies are available in school for those who wish to purchase one. On Friday, Pudsey Bear ears will also be on sale to raise funds for Children in Need.

We look forward to sharing your children's learning with you during parent meetings this week. If you haven't yet arranged a time, please speak with your class teacher.

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:

Silver Birch

W/B 10/11/25 At a glance:

ASC = After School Club

Monday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

PE Lessons

Lego+Board games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

Remembrance Day

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:

We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.

John F. Kennedy



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

We have had a wonderful first week back and it had been lovely to hear what the children have been up to over the half term. Little Acorns have enjoyed our story of the week "Goldilocks and the three bears". The children have loved engaging in various activities around the story from exploring oats and making up roleplays to making our very own porridge. Little Acorns enjoyed having a little taste of the porridge, with a little bit of jam. The children told me the porridge was just right right and very yummy!. Little Acorns have also been very creative this week. They have made some amazing firework artwork, using a cardboard tube to create colourful, bright and loud pictures. The children really enjoyed Forest school this week, embracing the wet weather, building dens and making cakes using natural materials. We had a great time!. Have a lovely weekend.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In English this week we started our new fiction unit focusing on Fairy Tales. We have learned the story 'The Gingerbread Man' and have created actions and story maps to help us remember the key parts of the story. We have LOVED acting this out this week and pretending to be the different characters, mimicking their voices.

In Science we are exploring Seasonal Change. We explored different weather" sun, cloud, rain, storm, fog, hail and snow. We will be keeping a weather chart over the next month to see what different weather patterns we experience throughout November.

A reminder - Daily reading at home is an essential part of your child's success. Please make it a non-negotiable part of your family routine, just like brushing teeth or getting enough sleep!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

Orchard Class have started their English fiction unit on 'Twisted Fairy Tales'. The children have had great fun identifying features of fairy tales and how to change the setting, characters or ending to twist the tale. They have used expanded noun phrases to create 'Wanted' posters for their chosen fairy tale characters!

Year 5 and 6 have started an exciting new Science unit on Light. They explored how light travels in straight lines and how mirrors can be used to change its direction. Using torches and mirrors, the children investigated how light reflects and experimented with creating different light paths.

Orchard Class have started a new History unit on the Anglo-Saxons. They have learned who the Anglo-Saxons were, where they came from, and why they settled in Britain after the Roman army left in the early 400s AD. The children enjoyed discovering how life in Britain began to change during this fascinating period.

A gentle reminder to return all home learning packs by **Thursday**. This allows me to prepare the next week and helps children take responsibility for their own learning.

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!



It's wonderful to get down to the children's level and see the world from their perspective. When you sit, look and talk with them you can observe so much rich learning.

Our Reception children built this masterpiece while talking about 2D and 3D shapes, using words like circles, cylinders, cubes and pyramids. They haven't been formally taught this yet but were inspired after overhearing the older children in Pippin learning about shapes.

This is the beauty of mixed-age classes, children learn from each other and explore ideas through play.



What a lovely week!



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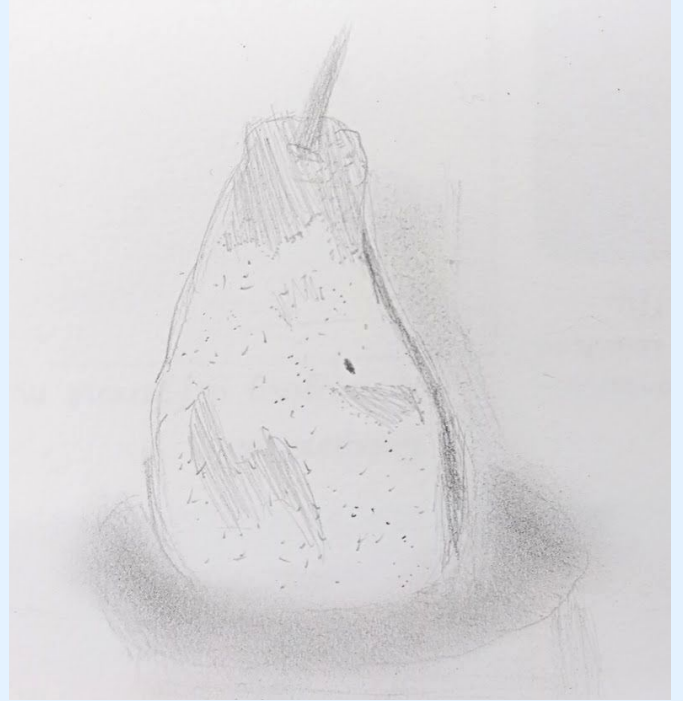


Every child that attends Little Acorns and Reception enjoy cooking sessions each half term. This is a fun way to learn and develop skills across a range of areas!



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This week, Orchard Class have begun their new Art unit: **Drawing: Exploring Tone, Texture and Proportion.** They observed everyday objects under different lighting and experimented with shading techniques to bring out a range of tones and textures. Their artwork is looking fantastic already — we're so proud of their creativity!

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](#).