

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 4 Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School,

This week has been full of energy, gratitude and learning. We began with a lovely Harvest reflection, giving thanks for God's Creation and thinking about how we can share with others.

Our annual calendar of events is now available to help families plan for the year ahead, we hope it helps everyone stay organised and connected.

Looking ahead, parents' evenings will take place in the second week of November. Teachers will be in touch soon to arrange appointments.

During my learning walks, I was delighted to see the children's enthusiasm, especially in phonics and science, a credit to both pupils and staff.

We ended the week with Hello Yellow Day, celebrating positive mental health and community spirit.

Wishing everyone a restful weekend and a great week ahead.

Warm regards,
Sal Davies
Acting Headteacher

Our core value this term is:

Love and Compassion

Our golden apple winners this week are....



The winning house this week:

Copper Beech!

W/B 13/10/25 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 (forest clothes in bag)

Forest school sessions

Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30

School Disco

Upcoming Dates

17th October	PFA School Disco
20th October	KS2 Dance Workshop @ Woodroffe <i>Letters have been sent home to children who are interested</i>

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.



Thorncombe Village Community Poll are raising money for essential building work.

Click [here](#) to be taken to the gofundme page if you would like to donate

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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week we have repeated our story of the week 'We're going on a bear hunt' as this story is a firm favourite of ours. Little Acorns have very much enjoyed arts and crafts activities over the last couple weeks. Creating some amazing art work, which I have proudly displayed in our room. The mud kitchen has been thoroughly enjoyed this week, we have spent countless hours making so many wonderful recipes, I have lost count how many hot chocolate, cakes and soup I have tasted! It has been wonderful to see how their imaginations come to life. Little Acorns did something really exciting this week: we made our own apple crumble, starting with picking fresh apples straight from our very own apple tree! They absolutely loved being a part of the whole process, from cutting up the apples to mixing all the ingredients together. This was the highlight of our week!

Pippin Class - Miss Chestney

We have been planning and writing our own stories with a familiar setting this week based on the style of 'The Little Red Hen'

The children have thought of some fantastic ideas and I have really enjoyed reading these over the week as they have been writing them!

A request - if anyone has any clean containers the size of a butter/margarine/chinese tub please send these into school. Children will need 1 of these each for their music lesson next week.



In PSHE this term the children have been learning about emotions, friendships, rules, consequences and how to solve problems independently. During these sessions we discuss scenarios and the children come up with solutions together. It's great to see these solutions happening in real life as they arise.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

Orchard class completed their persuasive writing in English today. All children wrote a letter to their MP to persuade him to help stop the destruction of Bickam Nature Reserve for a train track! They used fabulous emotive language and a great imagination!

In Science, Year 3 and 4 are investigating different liquids can do to our teeth, using boiled eggs to represent tooth enamel. Over the course of the week, they observed how the eggs changed and carefully recorded their observations in their Science books.

In Geography, Orchard Class became rainforest researchers. They investigated how plants and animals have adapted to survive in the tropical rainforest climate and their work was beautiful, we have put one piece on our WOW wall!

All children enjoyed coming into school wearing yellow today and our fabulous Mental Health Ambassadors led a wonderful worship this morning! Well done to all the children who worked hard to present to the school and collect resources for the packs!

Have a fabulous weekend!

Over the next week...

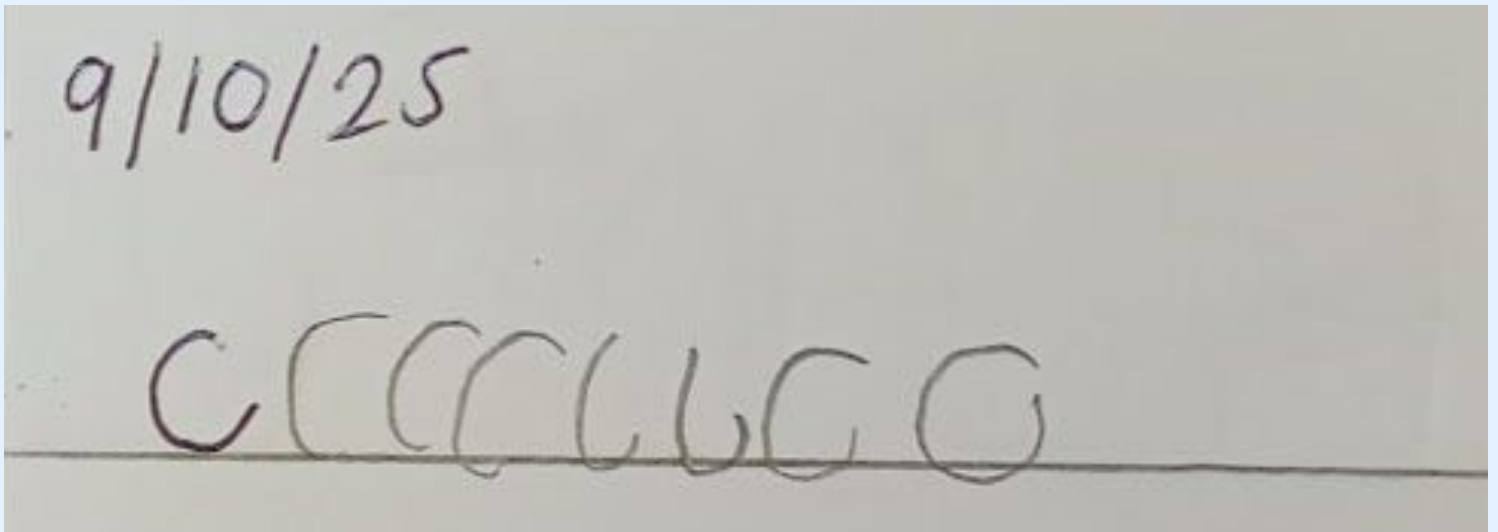
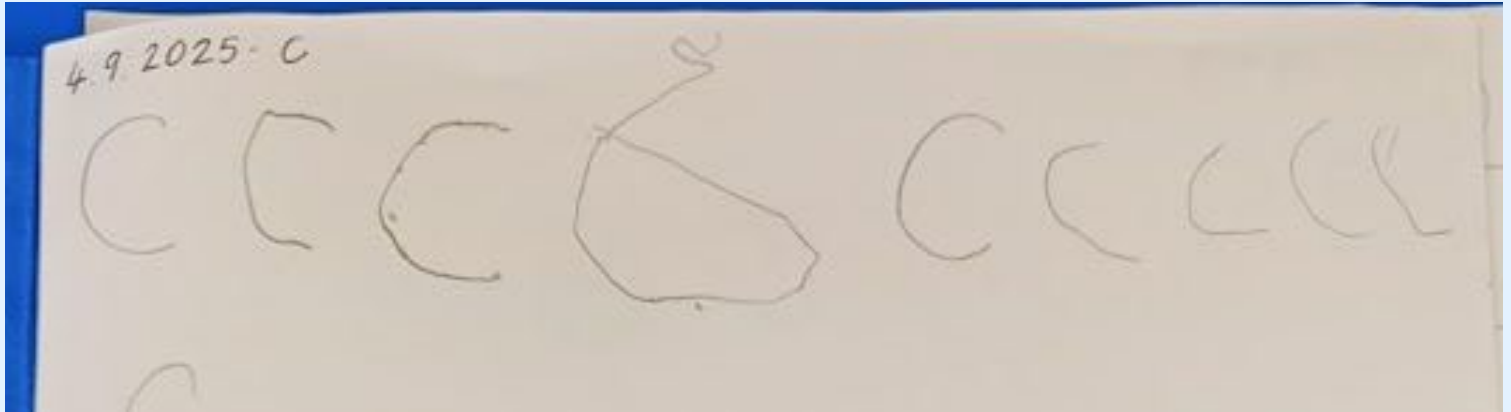
- Hear your child read at least 3 times each week. Please record this in their reading records/BoomReader. Parents - children are never too old to have a story read to them. They gain so much from this special time with you.
- Practise your multiplication and division facts using TTRS or other resources.

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 letter formation progress from a child in our reception year group in 4 weeks.. Look at the fine motor control development! ★



What a lovely week!



Year 2 have worked on fact families in maths this week. Here is an example of the fantastic work they have completed.



2.

11

6 5

$6 + 5 = 11$

$5 + 6 = 11$

$11 = 6 + 5$

$11 = 5 + 6$

$11 - 6 = 5$

$11 - 5 = 6$

$6 = 11 - 5$

$5 = 11 - 6$

What a lovely week!

Tuesday 7th October

Can I explore the diversity of plant and animal life in the rainforest and how they are adapted to their environment?



Toucan
Toucans only eat fruits that all other animals can't get access to. This allows Toucans to eat as much of that fruit as they want. Toucans have long and narrow beaks that allow them to break into the fruit to eat it.



Snakes
Snakes are actually the exception to the rule as they grow longer in tropical rainforests. They are able to twist and allow them to take up space in unique ways like getting in the shrubs.



Lianas
These are thin, woody vines that plant their roots in the ground and then use them as support to climb higher to reach the sunlight.



Pitcher plant
The pitcher plant has developed a unique way to catch insects. The soil in the rainforest can be poor so the pitcher plant uses its long curled leaves.

What happens to insects when they are attracted to the plant? They approach the plant and get into the base of the plant, where they become trapped and dissolve in the poisonous liquid made by the plant.

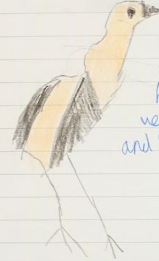
EXHP This is fantastic work Rosie!



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Southern Cassary



Southern cassary chicks are born with distinctive brown and cream stripes. Adult ones have a protective head like a shield from vegetation. It also has powerful legs and long claws for defence and movement.

Jaguar



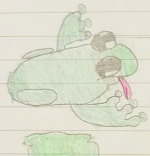
The jaguar is the largest species of cat in the world. It is a tropical rainforest the jaguar only grows around six feet long. It weighs and only weighs 200 pounds.

Tuesday 7th October

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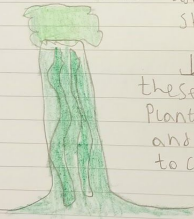


Leaf Cutter ants
These ants actually grow their own food. Leaf Cutter ants can carry objects that are several times heavier than their own body.



The Green-eyed tree frogs

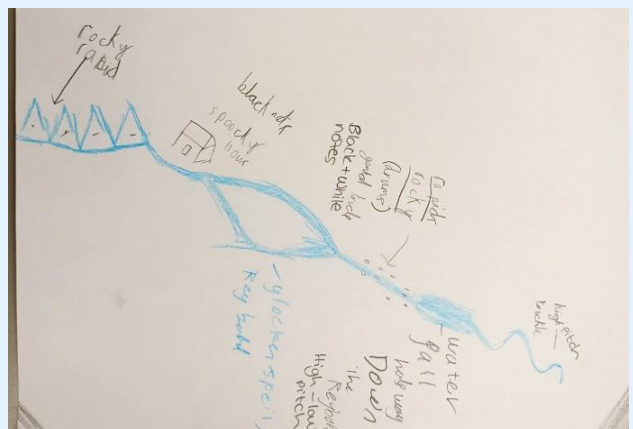
Green-eyed tree frog has many adaptations, such as sticky toe pads for climbing and toxic skin to kill predators.



Lianas

these are thin, woody vines that plant their roots in the ground and then use them as support to climb higher to reach the sunlight.

Well done Joey! This is wonderful work! (2xHP)



What a lovely week!



Our Mental Health Ambassadors leading assembly to show support for young people's mental health .

Thank you to all who donated and participated in wearing yellow.





SCHOOL Disco

FRIDAY 17TH OCT
5.30-6.30PM

£1 ENTRY

PLUS SPENDING MONEY FOR...
TUCK SHOP • GLOWSTICKS • GLITTER TATTOOS •
HAIR TINSEL/BRAIDS • HOMEMADE CANDY-FLOSS

LITTLE ACORNS AND RECEPTION
PARENTS TO STAY PLEASE



Christmas Wreath Workshop

Thursday 4th December
From 7pm
At Thorncombe St Marys School Hall
(raising funds for the school PFA)

→→→

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING
SECATEURS, GLOVES ARE OPTIONAL

£25
LIMITED SPACES
TO BOOK CALL 07919105289
OR EMAIL ThorncombePFA@gmail.com

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](#).