

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 24 Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the children have been busy planting sunflowers across the school. This has provided a wonderful opportunity to link learning in science, as pupils explore plants and what they need to grow, alongside developing their understanding of measurement in maths as they track and compare growth over time. We are looking forward to seeing how tall they grow in the coming weeks.

In worship, we have been focusing on the importance of making thoughtful and responsible choices. The children have reflected carefully on how their actions can affect others and how they can make positive decisions both in and out of school.

We ended the week on a high with Comic Relief, which brought a real sense of fun and community spirit. Thank you for your support in helping us mark this important event while also raising money for a good cause.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address an important concern that has been affecting some of our pupils. We are increasingly aware that the use of mobile phones and social media outside of school is leading to upset and disagreements being brought into school.

We kindly ask that parents closely monitor their child's use of devices and social media. Many of the apps that children access, such as WhatsApp, Instagram and TikTok, have a minimum age rating of 13. This is because children typically need a certain level of emotional maturity to manage the content they may encounter and to interact responsibly with others online.

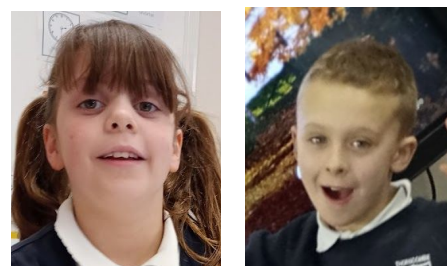
Your support in this area is essential. Please ensure that your child is using age-appropriate platforms and that you are aware of their online activity. Helping children understand how to communicate respectfully and safely online is a shared responsibility, and your guidance at home plays a crucial role in this.

With best wishes, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Hope

Our golden apple winners this week are....



The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

W/B 23/03/26:

Monday

Breakfast club
PE Lessons
Lego & Games ASC: 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Forest School Sessions
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
Chromebooks ASC: 3.15-4.30

PFA Easter Bingo

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.



Hope shines
brightest in the
quiet warmth of a
spring day.



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week in Little Acorns we have been very busy creating some wonderful artwork. The children have explored Gluing and sticking, painting using flower stencils and creating marks using the paint markers. We have explored the book 'Do you love bugs' which has sparked fascinating conversations around bugs and why it's important to take care of them. We went on a bug hunt around the school, first exploring our quiet garden then moving onto our forest school area where we discovered lots of different bugs. Little Acorns have loved water play this week, filling and emptying containers and pouring water down some guttering. They had so much fun! The children very much enjoyed roasting marshmallows on a fire in forest school. Little Acorns once again have impressed me with their learning this week and have all shown great enthusiasm and curiosity in all activities and growing in their confidence.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

We have been enjoying spotting signs of spring and exploring daffodils, as well as the changes that happen during this season, such as new life through life cycles, blooming flowers, and changes in the weather. The children have created some wonderful artwork in response, using materials of their choice.

In their history lessons, Year 1 and 2 have been learning about Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria. This week, we focused on the life of Queen Victoria. If your child is in Year 1 or 2, ask them to share what a monarch is, how someone becomes a monarch, and who the longest-reigning monarch is. I think you'll be very impressed!

In PE with Mr Snowling, the children are focusing on invasion games. It has been great to see their confidence develop, and he has shared some really positive feedback about how they are doing.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

The children have worked incredibly hard this week during their termly assessments. We have been very proud of their positive attitudes and the respect they have shown to one another, helping everyone to do their best.

In English, the children have begun diary recounts based on a monk's account of the Viking attack at Lindisfarne, using descriptive and imaginative language. I

n Science, Year 5 and 6 have been learning about the phases of the moon and enjoyed sharing their fascinating knowledge.

In Art, the children explored different techniques to create the texture of a Viking sea, including watercolour and oil pastel resist, splatter, salt, and cling film. They are looking forward to developing this further next lesson.

It has been lovely to enjoy the sunshine this week, which has brought a real sense of warmth and positivity to the classroom.

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.

Red Nose Day 2026

**RED
NOSE
DAY**



Today we came together to laugh, smile and make a difference as we celebrated Red Nose Day! From wearing something red to sharing lots of giggles throughout the day, it was wonderful to see the children embracing the spirit of kindness and helping others. We even had some fantastic red noses and creative outfits!

What a lovely week!




















What a lovely week!




What a lovely week!

Minibeast Hunt

Tick the minibeasts that you have found!

	spider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		woodlouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	slug	<input type="checkbox"/>		butterfly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	beetle	<input type="checkbox"/>		wasp	<input type="checkbox"/>
	crane fly (daddy-long-legs)	<input type="checkbox"/>		ladybird	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	earwig	<input type="checkbox"/>		dragonfly	<input type="checkbox"/>
	snail	<input type="checkbox"/>		ant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	millipede	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		worm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	fly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		caterpillar	<input type="checkbox"/>
	bee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

 visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)



Additional Information



Can you take a moment to support our lovely village shop and café with their nomination in the Countryside Alliance Awards?

Please help out by adding your vote:

www.research.net/r/CAA26SWCA

Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sol Davies
Acting Head of School
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Merryn Wheaton
EYFS Lead and Pippin
Teacher
Deputy DSL



Our child protection policy can be found [here](#).