

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 25 Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in worship, we explored the importance of encouraging one another. On Tuesday, the children watched a clip from *Finding Nemo*, where Dory supports Marlin and reminds him not to give up. We discussed how we can show the same encouragement to our friends in school. On Thursday, we linked this idea to our school vision of *living, learning and growing together*. Through the parable of *The Mustard Seed*, we reflected on how small acts of support can help everyone reach their full potential.

We are also delighted to share that phonics assessments have now been completed, and all children have made fantastic progress. It is wonderful to see the positive impact that regular reading at home is having—thank you for your continued support.

On Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome our CEO, Paul Walker, to the school. He enjoyed seeing the children's learning in action during a site walk, and seeing the advantageous grounds and facilities that our school has. He remains committed to supporting the school on its continued improvement journey, and we look forward to welcoming him back in future visits.

Reminder: School will close on Thursday 2nd April for the Easter break and will reopen on Monday 20th April.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes,
Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Hope

Our golden apple winners this week are...



The winning house this week:

English Oak

W/B 30/03/26:

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

Last day of term
Breakfast club: 8-8.30
Creative ASC: 3.15-4.30

Friday

School closed

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.



Lent

"Create in me a pure heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me."
— Psalm 51:10



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week we have really enjoyed our story of the week 'What the ladybird heard'. This is such a fun story and the children have shown great enthusiasm and excitement while listening and joining in with the story. We have made a start on some Easter activities and made some yummy Easter nest cake. The children thoroughly enjoyed this, though think their favourite part was having a sneaky taste of some chocolate!

Little Acorn have really enjoyed being creative this week, they have loved mark making, creating some wonderful drawings. It's so lovely to see their imaginations come to life through their drawings. For our gross motor sessions this week the children have made their own requests: going on a bug hunt, balancing beams and jumping apparatus and dancing along to their favourite songs.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

We have completed our phonics assessments this week and the progress has been fantastic. Thank you for reading regularly at home, it really is making a difference. We are so proud that all children have moved up a phonics group!

This is such a special age to teach and I feel privileged to teach them. Watching the children grow from learning their first letters and numbers to becoming confident readers and writers.

In PSHE, we explored how to stay safe when crossing the road, thinking about how roads can look different in our rural area.

In Computing, the children designed their own inventions, focusing on inputs and outputs. We had some brilliant ones such as a necklace you wore that when you pressed the button created a hot chocolate and another device that turns you into a duck when you pull a lever!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

This week, the children have completed their diary writing in English and I have been so impressed with their imagination and use of descriptive language!

Marking their work has been a joy and some even earned Head Teacher stickers!

In Art, the children revealed the results of their cling film and salt textured sea, then carefully tore it into strips to layer onto their final piece. I can not wait to see their Viking longships come to life!

In PE we continued to learn how to roll in gymnastics, we practised barrel, forward, backward, straight and straddle. Children worked hard on keeping their form.

In RE we compared Christianity to Humanism and considered different things that influence how we behave and live our lives. Children made trees depicting good actions and thought about the roots of these whether it be family or school or culture.

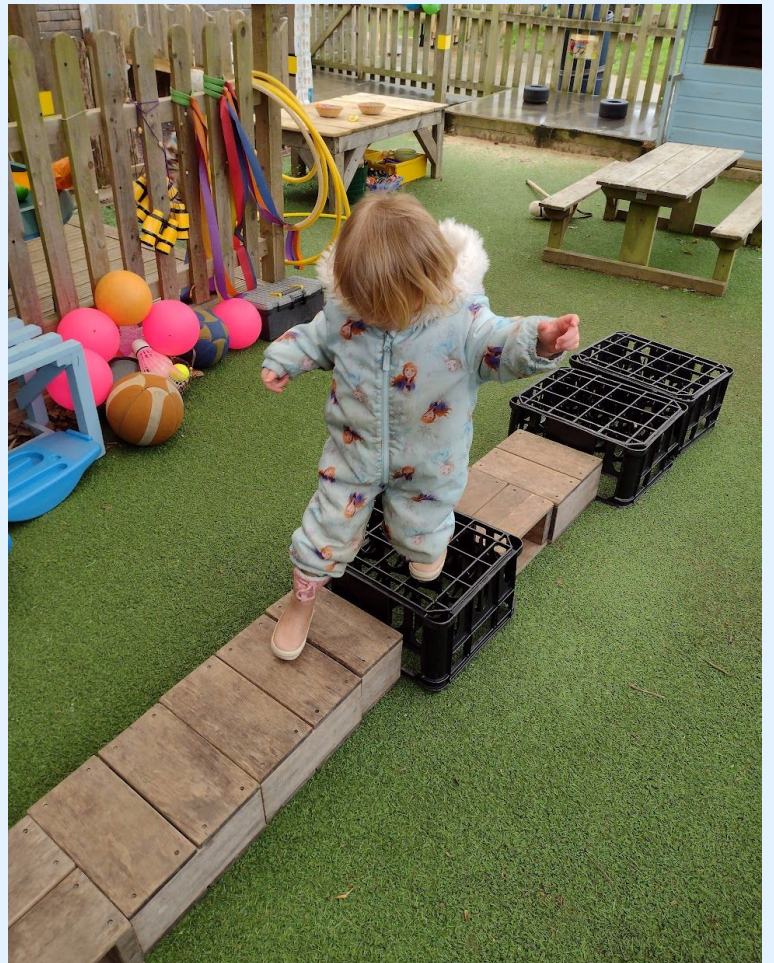
Over the next week...

- 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!



What a lovely week!



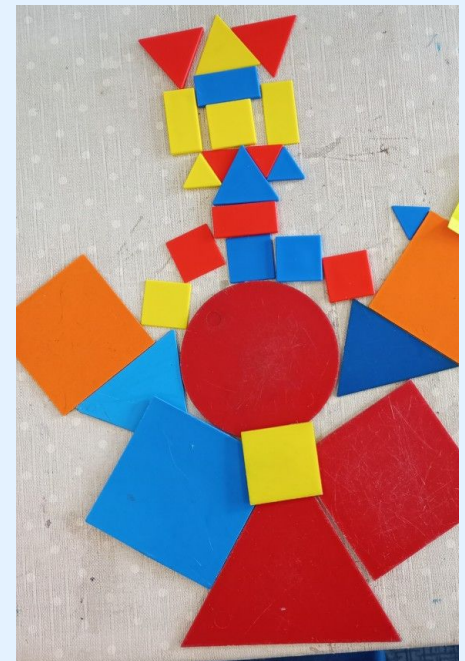
Year 1 and 2 have been learning about Money this week. They were challenged to create amounts of money in varying ways.

It is so interesting to see the different ways we all approach maths!

For example when making 30p. We had different ways such as:

$$\begin{aligned} &10p+10p+10p \\ &5p+5p+5p+5p+5p+5p \\ &20p+10p \end{aligned}$$

Reception's focus story has been 'Astrogirl' this week they have enjoyed a range of activities such as using 2D shapes to build rockets, creating aliens out of playdough, using the junk modelling to create space phones and rockets!



Pippin have been learning about structures in DT and have begun constructing their own churches after the design process.

Some children made their structures more stable by adding cross sections to their frames.

Pippin Class have been learning about and writing acrostic poems. They have written descriptively, picked some words when planning and have beautifully written their poems.

The sluggy, cute bunny is sitting on the smooth grass.

The big, brown chocolate egg is in the smooth big box.

The tiny, smooth chick is standing on the still thin grass.

The small, grassy lamb is standing on the small thin grass.

The tiny, cute blossoms are being still on the big branches.

My Easter Acrostic Poem Plan

<p>E Egg hunt Easter egg</p>	<p>A Amazing egg April sunshine</p>
<p>S Sunny day Smiling faces</p>	<p>T Tasty treats Tiny chocolate</p>
<p>E Easter fun Everyone happy</p>	<p>R Rainbow sky Running bunny</p>

Exited easter Eggs

Amazing april Animal

Sun seeds Spring

Treats tarty Tulips

Enjoy excited egg

Rabbit rainbow run red

Ester is the time to find eggs to eat.

Amazing animals being born right now it

So get ready for the sun on Easter day.

Time for the sun Easter party to have some cheer.

Everyone comes to celebrate the sun of Jesus.

Rapid rabbits run and cheer for Easter day.

Additional Information

⚠ Did You Know?

Many popular child-friendly apps and platforms now include AI chatbots - tools that can answer questions, generate stories, or chat with users.

However, it's important to be aware:

- These chat features are often **not age-restricted**, even if the rest of the app is designed for children.
- Children may believe they are chatting with a real person or a “safe” system, but AI responses are **not always accurate or appropriate**.
- Chatbots can sometimes provide **unexpected or confusing answers**, especially if a child asks complex or sensitive questions.
- Unlike other content filters, AI interactions can be **less predictable**.

👉 What you can do:

- Check if apps your child uses include chat or AI features.
- Turn off chat functions where possible.
- Remind children that not everything online is true—even if it sounds convincing.
- Encourage them to come to you if they see or hear something they don't understand.

💬 A Final Thought

Online safety isn't about removing access—it's about **building confidence, awareness, and good habits**. By staying involved and having regular conversations, you can help your child enjoy the online world safely and responsibly.

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](#).