

# Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Spring Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 26 Friday 2nd April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding half term across the school.

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring the Easter story with the children, thinking carefully about its meaning and the messages it brings to us as a Christian school. The children have engaged thoughtfully in worship and class discussions, showing respect and understanding as they reflected on themes such as hope, forgiveness and new beginnings. It was particularly lovely to finish the term on Maundy Thursday with a range of Easter arts and crafts activities, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

This half term, we have also placed a strong focus on developing presentation as a key foundational skill. Across the school, children have been working hard on areas such as letter formation and sizing, using finger spaces, sitting letters correctly on the line, addressing number and letter reversals, and beginning to use joins to create clear, fluent handwriting. We are very pleased with the progress that has been made and the pride children are beginning to take in their work.

We would really value your continued support at home by encouraging high expectations for presentation and celebrating your child's efforts when they show care and improvement in their work.

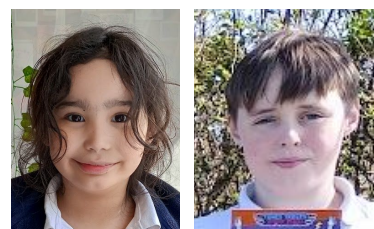
Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support this term. We wish you all a happy and restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming the children back next term.

Best wishes, Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

*Hope*

*Our golden apple winners for this week.*



The winning house this week:

*Copper Beech*

**W/B 20/04/26:**

*ASC = after school club*

**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

**Reception Measurements**

**Thursday**

Last day of term

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

Creative ASC: 3.15-4.30

**Friday**

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

Film 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.

With best wishes  
Schools



**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

We have had such a fun filled week this week celebrating all things Easter! Little Acorns have loved being engaged in various fun Easter themed activities. The children took pride in making their amazing Easter cards. They have loved painting using Easter stencils. We have played games like sleeping bunnies and the bunny hop game, They all really loved this game and had lots of fun hooping around like bunnies! Little Acorns also played a lovely game of pass the egg and in this game they used pegs to pass the egg around to their friends. We made some fantastic bunny ear hats and the children very much enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. What a wonderful week we have had and i hope you all have an amazing Easter and enjoy the break.

## Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

What a lovely week we have had!

Following our assessments last week, we have spent this week consolidating some areas, such as our understanding of nouns and verbs and apostrophe's to contract.

This term in RE, the children have explored how Jewish people remember and thank God through special celebrations, stories from the Jewish Bible, and practices such as Shabbat and Hanukkah.

Reception's focus story has been 'We are going on an egg hunt!' and we have enjoyed doing lots of easter activities linking to this, such as creating easter eggs, 'hopping' like bunnies and thinking of the Easter story and why Easter celebrations take place each year.

Have a great Easter!



## Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

It has been a fantastic week in Orchard! We are so proud of our year 6 children for their hard work and focus during our 6 to SATS sessions!

In English, the children have been writing their Diary assessments, they have been using fronted adverbials of time, frequency and manner and powerful adjectives to expand their nouns.

This week the children also completed their History unit on Vikings by learning about the challenge for the English throne in 1066. It was really interesting and we had lots of thoughtful discussions!

In Art, the fabulous Viking Longships were completed! I have loved teaching this unit with all the mixed media and imaginative colours for mood and seas! We cannot wait to display the beautiful work in school before we send it home!

Have a wonderful Easter!



## 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.

# Celebrating Achievement

## Our End of Term Award Winners

Awarded to children who have consistently aimed high, shown respect and made a difference throughout the last term (12 weeks)



# Easter Egg Hunt



The children worked brilliantly together, supporting one another and sharing clues thoughtfully without giving away the hiding places. Our two eldest School Council members helped to exchange the paper eggs for real chocolate treats. We also took time to recap why Easter is such a special celebration for Christians.



# Forest School Update

## Spring 2

Hi Everyone,

Here at Forest School in St Mary's, we have been very busy this term. Here are some of the few activities we have done.

With Little Acorns, they have started their journey in discovering the first sightings of spring and enjoying all the smells, sounds and discoveries of animal habitats, a badger sett, earthworm kingdoms and mini beasts galore.

Along with Pippin class, together we played some lively games to warm ourselves up before we practised honing our skills, whittling with peelers and using loppers and secateurs, creating some imaginative art designs.

Finally, with Orchard we have continued with using tools and learning different skills in creating designs with hazel wood. They have demonstrated their learning handling and using tools safely, being aware of their workspace.

Of course, we finished with a well deserved fire that the children all participate in making and collecting kindling. We cooked some marshmallows and had the opportunity to talk about Easter and the importance of holiday time with our families.

Many thanks and Happy Easter,

Paloma GW  
Forest Leader



# What a lovely week!



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This term, Pippin Class have been learning about structures. They have explored the strongest 2D shape is a triangle and the strongest 3D shape is a cylinder.



Well done to our TTRS tournament winners!



# What a lovely week!





# PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2026

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](http://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



## ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

## ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

## ASK ITALIAN

2 Kids eat free from 27th March - 19th April 2026

## BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

## BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult

## BILLS

Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Fri 10th April

## BREWDOG

Kids eat free 28th March - 12th April 2026

## CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

## COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Sun 19th April

## CHIQUITO

Kids eat free during all school holidays

## DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch

## FARMHOUSE INNS

Kids eat FREE weekdays 30th March - 17th April

## FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE daily from 30th March - 17th April

## FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

## GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

## IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

## LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

## MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

## MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

## PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

## PIZZA HUT

Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

## PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

## PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

## PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

## SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

## SUBWAY

Kids eat Free from the 6th - 13th April

## SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

## TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

## TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)

## THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

## TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

## TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend

## WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

## YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

## 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](#).