

# Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Summer Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 27 Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

A quick reminder of our home learning expectations: daily reading remains essential for all pupils, and from Year 1 onwards children should regularly use Numbots or TTRS to build their maths fluency. Thank you for your continued support with this at home.

This week, we introduced our new core value of forgiveness, explored through the parable of the Good Samaritan. The children have responded thoughtfully, reflecting on kindness and compassion. Singing worship has focused on a [vision](#) song, celebrating living, learning and growing together.

We would like to remind parents of the importance of punctuality and attendance. Department for Education guidance recommends a minimum of 97% attendance. Good attendance supports both academic progress and social development, helping children feel secure and confident in school.

As the weather becomes warmer, please be mindful that hayfever may affect some children and ensure any required medication is provided. We also ask that sunscreen is applied before school, with a clearly labelled bottle sent in if needed.

All children should bring a water bottle daily and are encouraged to have a named hat in their bag for outdoor use.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
With best wishes,  
Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

*Forgiveness*

*Our golden apple winners for this week.*



The winning house this week:

*English Oak*

**W/B 27/04/26:**

*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**

**'Growing Together' Dance Day**

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

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

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.



Like the Dorset hedgerows in spring, may we grow with kindness, blossom with forgiveness, and walk each day together in hope and love



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# Class News from this Week!

## Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

What a lovely week back we have had in Little Acorns. It has been wonderful to hear lots of stories of what the children have been upto over the holidays. Little Acorns have had a busy week, they have loved beening outside this week where we had a lovely walk around our field creating our own flower collages. We have been exploring changes in nature and what we can see around us, different plants/flowers and leaves growing. Little Acorns have really enjoyed our story of the week "Monkey Puzzle" and have been excited to predict what animal came next in the story. The children have also created some lovely art work using pipettes and waterpaint. Little Acorns enjoyed their bug hunt in Forest school where they spotted some water bugs in our pond.

## Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

What a great start to Summer term. It has been lovely to welcome lots of new faces in our class this week. We hope you have enjoyed joining our class and have had lots of fun.

Our topic is 'Seas and Coasts' this term. Please see the curriculum maps for what your child will be learning. Please ask them about the things on the maps as we go through the term too, it's great to share learning together and it also helps children remember!

Reception's story of the week has been 'The fish who can wish.' We have learned lots of new words and have spoken in depth about what we would wish for if we could make a wish! It links well to our core value of forgiveness too, as sometimes we have to forgive ourselves when we make mistakes.

I look forward to another week at St Mary's! Have a lovely weekend.

## Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

It has been a lovely, sunny start to the new term, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed being outside on the field for PE. They were fantastic during their athletics training on Monday, especially while practising for the relay!

In Geography, we have begun our new topic, The Amazing Americas. The children used atlases and maps to locate North and South America, as well as identifying key countries and physical features within these continents.

In DT, the children had great fun exploring biscuits! They examined packaging and considered the target audience before taste-testing a variety of biscuits and evaluating their taste and texture.

In English, we are focusing on flashback narratives using our class text, Holes. The children are really enjoying how the story moves between the past and present, and they have been using a range of literary devices to enhance their own writing across different time periods.

Have a wonderful 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.

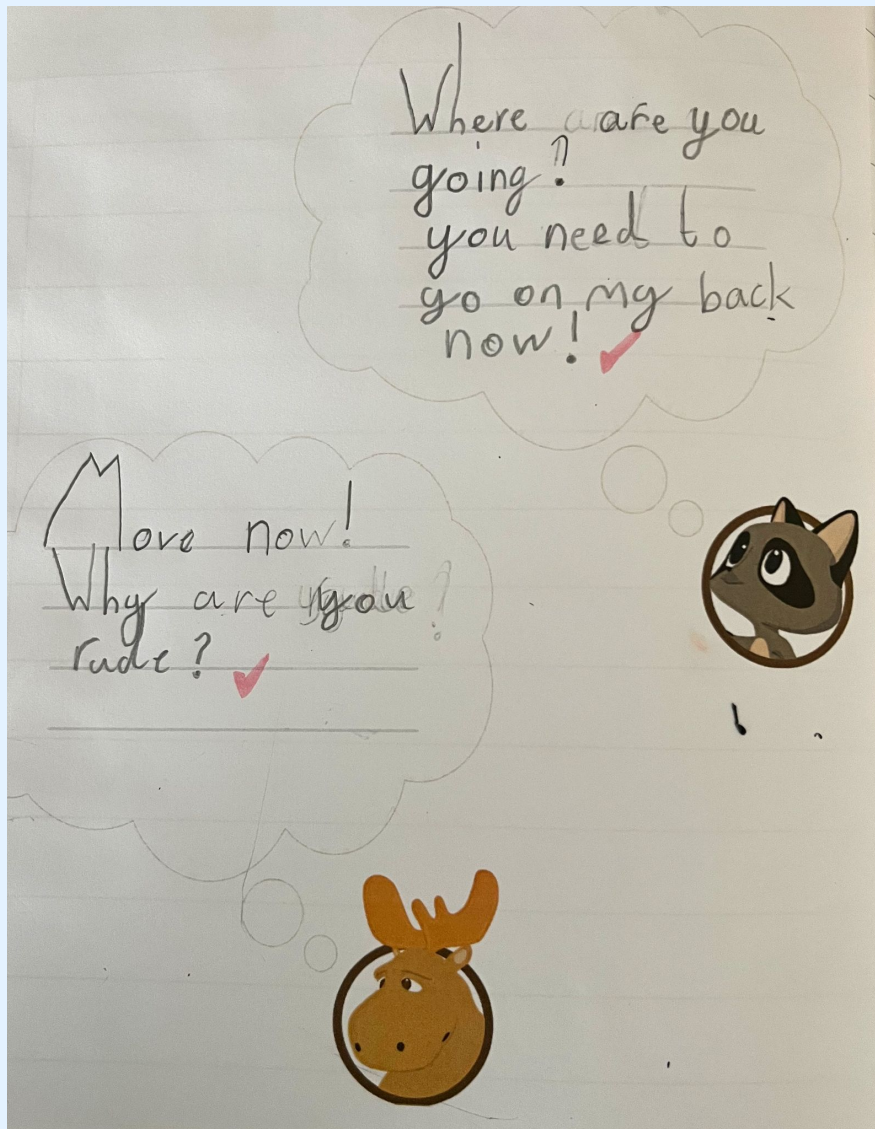
# What a lovely week!



Exploring changes  
in Nature - EYFS  
welly walk



# What a lovely week!



In Pippin's English unit they are learning about Fables, focusing on morals.

We started by watching a short video clip about some animals who were trying to cross a bridge.

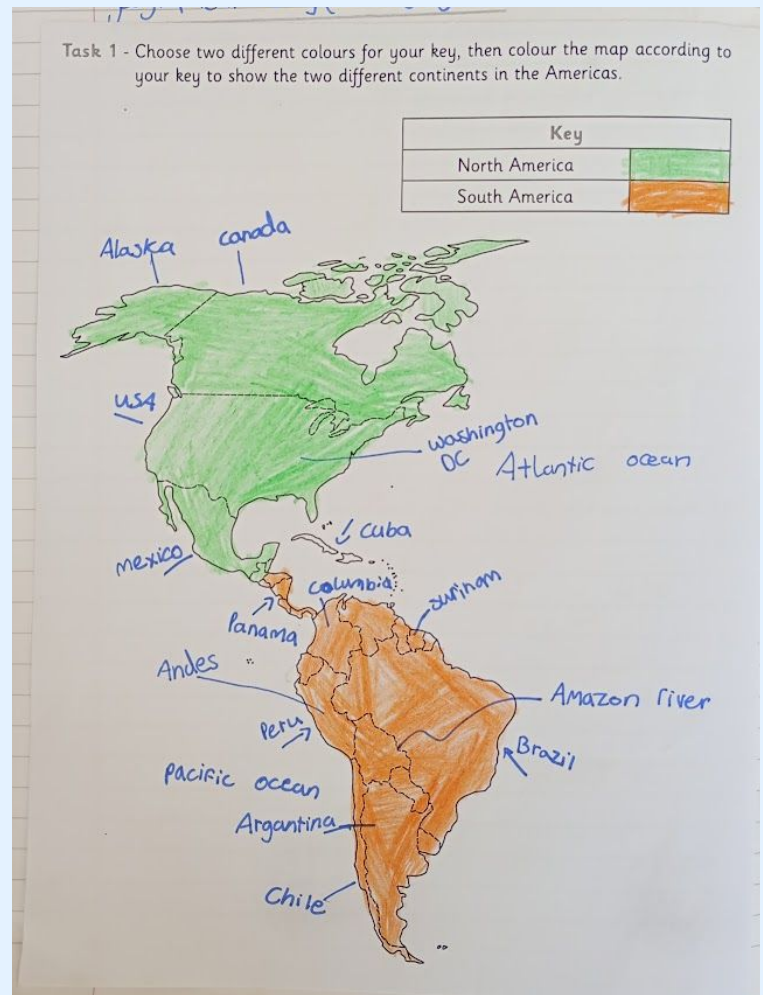
Year 1 firstly sorted sentences into question marks or exclamation marks and then matched them to the characters.

Year 2 then wrote in character using exclamation and question marks for each of the 4 characters. Year 3 had to explain why the characters were feeling a certain way.

Here is an example of some fabulous Year 2 work!



# What a lovely week!



# Additional Information

**56** **What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS** **64**

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- BULLYING**  
Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially in a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.
- EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION**  
This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.
- SHARING GROUP CONTENT**  
It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.
- UNKNOWN MEMBERS**  
Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.
- NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO**  
A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

**74** **Advice for Parents & Carers** **117**

- CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS**  
Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.
- GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT**  
Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.
- BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE**  
If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.
- PRACTISE SAFE SHARING**  
In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.
- AVOID INVITING STRANGERS**  
Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.
- SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS**  
Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Mental Health Support Services:

[Dorset Support](#)

[Somerset Support](#)

[Devon Support](#)

## Safeguarding Information

Mrs Sal 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](#).

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Deputy DSL



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PLEASE COME ALONG, ALL WELCOME TO  
Thorncombe St Mary's CE Primary Academy PFA

## BIG BREAKFAST



JOIN US FOR A  
DELICIOUS  
MORNING & HELP  
RAISE FUNDS FOR  
THORNCOMBE ST  
MARY'S CE  
PRIMARY  
ACADEMY

COOKED  
BREAKFAST,  
CROSSIANTS, FREE  
TEA & COFFEE  
REFILLS, RAFFLE  
PRIZE DRAW

**9-11AM SUNDAY**

**10TH MAY**

THORNCOMBE VILLAGE HALL  
CHARD STREET  
TA20 4NE



# Quiz Night

**FRIDAY 8TH MAY**

**8PM**

**THORNCOMBE  
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**



Raising funds in aid of  
Thorncombe St Mary's CE  
Primary Academy PFA

