

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Summer Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 30 Friday 15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a wonderful reminder that school life is about so much more than tests alone. Whilst SATs have taken place for our Year 6 pupils this week, they have approached them with resilience, determination and many of our school values shining through. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and positivity they have shown, not just this week, but throughout all of their preparation in the lead up to the tests.

Of course, SATs have only been a small part of a busy and exciting week across the school. The children have continued to enjoy a wide range of enriching opportunities including Forest School, sports activities, investigative science and team-building challenges. These experiences are such an important part of learning and help our children to grow in confidence, curiosity and independence.

Reception to Year 2 also enjoyed their visit to Lyme Regis this week as part of their learning. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school, demonstrating our values and behaviour expectations brilliantly throughout the day. We were incredibly proud of them all.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to the staff at Thorncombe for the hard work, care and creativity that goes on behind the scenes every single week to make learning engaging and memorable for our children. Your efforts are hugely appreciated - thank you.

Have an enjoyable weekend!

With best wishes,
Sal Davies

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.



TAKE A DEEP BREATH
YOU ARE AMAZING
you've *totally* got this
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
YOU ARE STRONG
I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON!
you are *totally* capable

Our core value this term is:

Forgiveness

Our golden apple winners for this week.



The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

W/B 18/05/26:

ASC = after school club

Monday

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



St. Mary's CE Primary Academy, Chard Street, Thorncombe, Somerset, TA20 4NE

Phone: [01460 30535](tel:0146030535) Email: office@stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk/>



Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week in Little Acorns we have been exploring friendships, learning about being kind to others, and practising turn-taking games. To support this, we played a game where the children rolled a ball to each other, helping them to develop patience and learn to wait for their turn. The children showed lots of kindness towards one another and demonstrated fantastic turn-taking skills throughout the week. Little Acorns had lots of fun making their own musical instruments using bottles and pasta. We explored how we can make different sounds quiet to loud then loud to quiet. The children loved creating different sounds and very much enjoyed singing along while playing their instruments. We also had a fantastic time at Forest School, where we took part in one of our favourite activities: roasting marshmallows on the fire! It was great to see how the children all remembered the safety rules of being round a fire as well.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

R/1/2 had a wonderful trip to Lyme Regis on Thursday! We were very excited to get onto the bus. We started by visiting the RNLI station to talk about the importance of the lifeboat and water safety. We then made our way to the aquarium and explored the different types of fish they had there. Then we ate our lunch in the shelters before enjoying some time on the beach. We have been learning about the human and physical features of the beach in our Geography lessons so it was great to put this into action and spot the different features in Lyme Regis!

In English this week we have been writing our instructions. The children have done a brilliant job. Year 3 made sure to use conjunctions and adverbs. They were fantastic!

In Science we explored seeds and bulbs. We looked at how they can be different. We had some great questions such as "Do little seeds grow little plants?" and other interesting questions which were really great to discuss.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

Year 6 have had a fantastic SATs week! They have arrived each day with happy smiles and positive attitudes, showing great determination and resilience throughout. The children have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of the mature and confident way they approached their tests this week. A morning enjoying ice creams at the park was a very well-deserved treat!

In Maths, Years 3 and 4 have been learning about unit and non-unit fractions, using their times tables knowledge to help solve problems.

Year 5 have been exploring ratio and proportion, including investigating similar shapes.

In Science, Years 3 and 4 learned about classification keys and created their own based on woodland creatures. I was really impressed with their thoughtful sorting and questioning skills. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 explored the seasons as part of their Earth and Space topic.

The children are very excited about baking their biscuits in DT next week and have created some lovely recipes to follow. Please could all children bring in a plastic container next Thursday so they can safely take their biscuits home?

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.

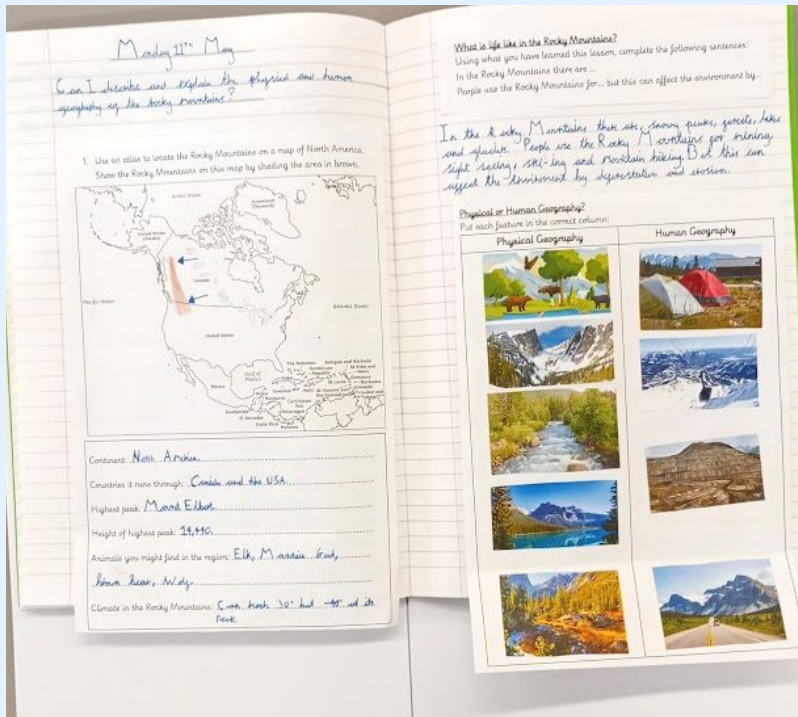
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

Children learn
4,000 to 12,000
words per year
through reading.

What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!

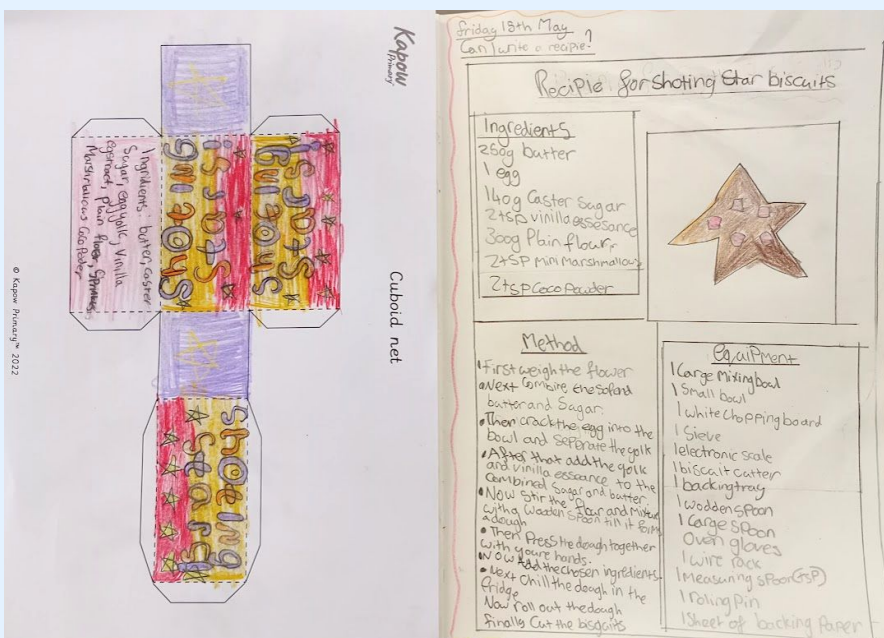
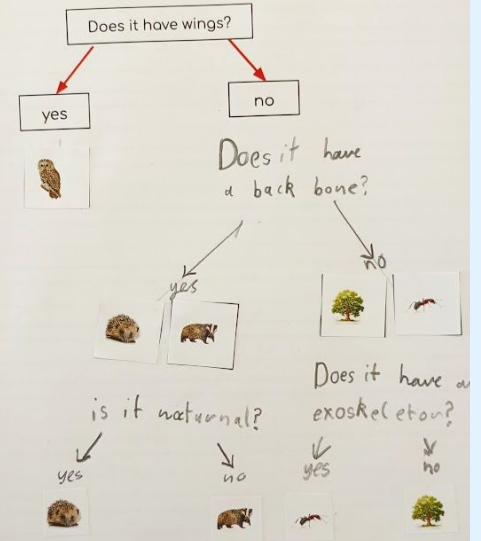


Such beautiful work in Orchard this week, I couldn't resist sharing some of the books!



Can I use classification keys to identify living things?
e your own classification key using the information in your classification chart

Woodland Habitat



SATS Superstars!

Well done to our fabulous year 6 children who have completed their SATS tests! What a great week! They worked hard but had lots of fun! A huge thank you to our **AMAZING PTFA** and parents who came in every morning to make the children a special breakfast!



Pippin Lyme Regis Trip



Identifying the human
& physical features



Visit to the RNLI
about water safety



Aquarium visit



Additional Information



THINGS TO DO IN DORSET & SOMERSET

Make memories this half term!

THIS MAY/JUNE HALF TERM

Lots of fun for all the family, whatever the weather!

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES & NATURE DAYS

- Corfe Castle**
Explore the castle, trails and family events.
- Abbotsbury Swannery**
Beautiful walks, wildlife and seasonal trails.
- Dorset Adventure Park**
Obstacle courses, inflatable fun & more!
- Jurassic Safari**
Guided adventures and fossil-themed fun.
- Fossil Hunting**
Try your hand at finding fossils at Lyme Regis or Charmouth.



ANIMAL & FARM ATTRACTIONS

- Monkey World**
A brilliant day out for all the family.
- Farmer Palmer's Farm Park**
Animals, play areas and fun activities.
- Kingston Maurward Animal Park & Gardens**
Animals, gardens and open spaces.
- Dorset Heavy Horse Farm Park**
Hands-on farm fun and demonstrations.
- Foxdown Children's Farm**
A smaller farm with a friendly, relaxed feel.



RAINY DAY IDEAS

- Lemur Landings**
Indoor soft play for younger children.
- Seal's Cove Adventure Centre**
Indoor climbing, soft play & adventure activities.
- Nothe Fort**
Step back in time and explore the tunnels and interactive exhibits.



SPECIAL HALF TERM EVENTS

- Swanage Pirate Festival 23-24 May**
Parades, pirate fun and re-enactments!
- Sherborne Castle Country Fair**
Displays, activities and family fun.
- Family Fest in Wimborne 29-31 May**
Music, camping and fantastic family entertainment.



FREE OR LOW-COST IDEAS

- Beach days at Lyme Regis, Weymouth, Swanage or West Bay**
- Jurassic Coast walks and nature trails**
- Cycling and woodland walks around Moors Valley or local country parks**
- Dorset Wildlife Trust trails and scavenger hunts**



WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO DO, HAVE FUN, BE KIND AND STAY SAFE!

PLAN AHEAD & CHECK ONLINE!

Opening times and events can change, so please check websites or social media pages for the latest information.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- www.visit-dorset.com
- www.dorsetmums.co.uk
- www.daysoutwithkids.co.uk
- Local attraction websites & social media



MAKE THE MOST OF MAY/JUNE HALF TERM IN DORSET & SOMERSET!

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](#).