

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Summer Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 31 Friday 22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term seems to have flown by and I would like to thank all of the children for the positivity and resilience they have shown in embracing the busy pace that the term has brought. From Forest School and trips, to sports, investigations and outdoor learning, the children have continued to approach school life with enthusiasm and energy.

It has been particularly lovely to see so much learning taking place outdoors each day as the weather has improved. As we move into the warmer summer weeks next half term, please can we remind families that children are encouraged to bring a named sun hat/cap and sun cream into school to help keep them safe and comfortable whilst learning and playing outside.

As always, safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. If you have an immediate safeguarding concern during the holiday, please contact emergency services on 999. For non-emergency safeguarding concerns regarding a child, please contact:

- Dorset MASH: 01202 228866
- Somerset Children's Social Care: 0300 123 2224

Please also take a look at the final page of this newsletter where you will find a flyer full of family activities happening locally and across the wider area during the half term break. A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 1st June for a Non-Pupil Day. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 2nd June.

Have an enjoyable half term!
With best wishes,
Sal Davies

Our core value this term is:

Forgiveness

Our golden apple winners for this week.



The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

W/B 01/06/26

ASC = after school club

Monday

INSET DAY

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

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.



Time together as a family is a gift.

JOANNA GAINES

Southern Living



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

This week in L.A. we have been exploring the story Jasper's Beanstalk. The children have really enjoyed listening to the story and, by the end of the week, they were able to retell the story.

Little Acorns also enjoyed sensory exploration through playing with soil and roleplaying planting beans, just like Jasper. We created our own beanstalks using tyres, seeing how tall we could build them and even going on a hunt to find giants! In maths, Little Acorns have been learning about making actions while counting. We used hula hoops to support this learning, encouraging the children to count as they jumped from hoop to hoop. We also made fruit salad this week, which was a massive hit with the children! They absolutely loved taking part and showed amazing skills while carefully chopping up the fruit. It looked delicious, and the children thoroughly enjoyed tasting what they had made afterwards.

Hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

We are incredibly proud of the children's progress in phonics this half term following their assessments. Every child has moved up a group, meaning they are recognising more sounds, reading more words, or becoming more fluent readers. It is wonderful to see their confidence continue to grow.

The children have completed their independently written stories, which they carefully planned and wrote themselves.

These pieces are added to our special 'Writing Through the Years' books that follow the children as they move through the school.

In maths, Year 1 and Year 2 children have been learning to tell the time, including o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. Any extra practice at home would really help. With so much digital technology around us, wearing an analogue watch can be a fantastic way to build confidence and practise telling the time in everyday situations.

Have a wonderful half term!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

This week for PE the children finished the OAA unit (Outdoor Adventurous Activities) by navigating their way around cone courses, they had to give instructions using words like turn 90 degrees, north, south, east or west etc, it was wonderful to see such great teamwork..

In RE the children thought about how the story of Moses could help inspire hope and faith in Christians today.

In DT, the children had a fabulous Thursday baking their biscuits and creating their packaging from nets before inviting Pippin Class in to taste and evaluate their creations! I was so proud of their enthusiasm and creativity!

All children completed their independent writing assessments in English, they worked really hard to write a newspaper report, based on our class novel. They included direct and indirect speech and had some fabulous ideas for snappy headlines!

Year 3 and 4 started their learning on time in Maths this week, why not challenge them over the next week to tell time to 5 minutes!

Have an amazing half term!

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!



This week in DT, Orchard Class loved baking their own biscuits! They had so much fun measuring, mixing and adding their chosen ingredients. It was such a lovely afternoon and we were very proud of their enthusiasm and finished creations - especially when Pippin children came to taste and evaluate them!



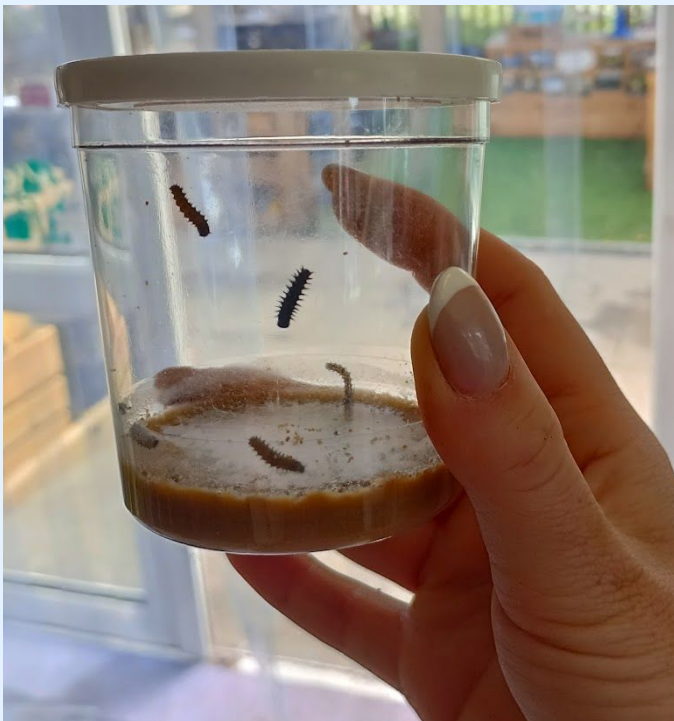
What a lovely week!



Amber the tortoise came to visit!



What a lovely week!



Forest School Update

Summer 1



Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to the Forest School newsletter! Here's a snapshot of what the children have been enjoying this term.

Little Acorns explored insect habitats, enjoyed scavenger hunts and developed their digging and mixing skills in the mud kitchen. They also celebrated with a campfire, toasted marshmallows and practising with fire strikers.

Pippin and Orchard classes explored Hapa Zome printing using flowers and leaves to create natural artwork. The children also enjoyed den building in challenging weather, learning knots and testing waterproof shelters.

We finished the term with campfires, popcorn cooking and mini fire-building, where the children showed fantastic focus, teamwork and fire safety skills.

It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and confidence grow during Forest School this term.

Best wishes,
Paloma GW



Sporting Achievements

Well done to these children! Their dedication and hard work in their sporting activities outside of school have been recognised - some fantastic achievements!



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](#).