

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Summer Term 25-26 Newsletter Issue: 34 Friday 19th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Like many of you, we were disappointed to postpone our class photographs on Thursday. However, we hope you will agree that taking them outdoors, making the most of our wonderful school grounds, is the best way to capture our children and showcase the beautiful environment in which they learn and play. The new date is Tuesday 23rd June and we hope the photographs will be worth the wait, and thankfully, the weather forecast looks good!

In Values Worship this week, we continued to focus on the value of Endurance through the Bible story of The House on the Rock (Matthew 7:24-27). The children reflected thoughtfully on times when they had needed patience and resilience when facing challenges. It was wonderful to see such enthusiastic engagement and maturity in their responses.

On Friday morning, we welcomed Richard from GB Railfreight, who spoke to the children about the importance of rail safety. Coincidentally, his visit took place during National Rail Safety Week, making the message particularly timely and relevant.

We are looking forward to welcoming families to Sports Day on Monday. A reminder that parents and carers of children in Pippin and Orchard Classes should arrive from 1:30pm, while families of children in Little Acorns should join us from 2:30pm.

We are also currently recruiting for a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to join our team from September. This is an exciting opportunity to work within our wonderful school and support learning across the curriculum. If you know someone who may be interested, please do share the vacancy with them. Further details can be found on the Devon Jobs website.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes, Sal Davies, Head of School

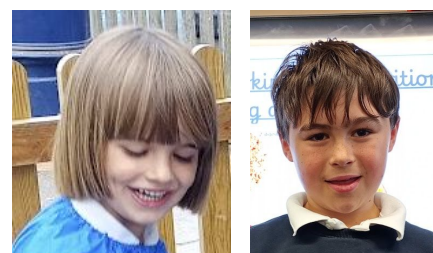
Please like, comment and share on our social media posts to spread the word of our wonderful school. Click below to be taken to them.



Our core value this term is:

Endurance

Our golden apple winners for this week.



The winning house this week:

Copper Beech

W/B 22/06/26

Monday

Sports Day (1:30pm)

Breakfast club: 8-8.30

Lego/games: ASC 3.15-4.30

Tuesday

Class photos

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

Woodroffe Transition Day

Reception vision screening

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 Little Acorns have thoroughly enjoyed our story of the week 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. This is definitely a firm favourite of ours and the children have all enjoyed activities based around the story. Little Acorns have loved learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly using a cutting and sticking activity. They have also created beautiful butterfly symmetry paintings which I have proudly displayed in the room. We also loved being involved in releasing our class butterflies which we have been observing over the last few weeks. It was wonderful to see the excitement in Little Acorns as they watched the butterflies fly away. We have also enjoyed lots of cooking this week where we have made shortbread biscuits and butterfly cupcakes.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In Computing we have been developing our typing skills. Year 1 & 2 have been familiarising themselves with the keyboard and Year 3 have been writing word documents, exploring the size, font and colour.

In PE we enjoyed having a practice at the sports day activities that will take place on Monday. We are very excited!

In Science we explored the senses smell, touch and hearing. We had different pots such as lemon, coffee, mint, soap. We then had feely bags with different objects such as pine cones, cotton wool, sponges and toy animals. Then we thought about our hearing sense and had to guess what was making a noise (keys, foil, paper being torn)

We released our butterflies this week. We really enjoyed watching their transformation over time!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor

In history this week, the children learned how Britain's railway network grew and changed over time. They explored key events from the first railways to nationalisation and privatisation, and discussed why these changes happened and which had the greatest impact.

In Science, Year 3 and 4 investigated how materials change when they are cooled! They had lots of fun making their own ice cream and learned that adding salt to ice lowers its freezing point. Year 5 and 6 learned about adaptation by exploring Darwin's finches. The children enjoyed a hands-on investigation using pegs, pliers and tweezers as different "beaks" to pick up food items, discovering how adaptations help animals survive in their environments.

In maths, year 3 and 4 have been exploring tenths and hundredths as decimals. They have been amazing! Year 5 and 6 have been using protractors to calculate angles and have learned about angles around a point, on a straight line and vertically opposite angles.

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!





Butterfly Releasing



Little Acorns & Pippin came together to release their butterflies in the quiet garden. We think they quite enjoyed their time with us as they wanted to stay! We thought of some wonderful names for them and then used a wheel picker to choose them for us. We had: Stunny, Cheetah, Spotty and Dotty!



What a lovely week!

In Computing, Pippin Class have been developing their keyboard and word-processing skills. Year 1 have been learning to recognise and locate keys on a keyboard. Year 2 have been using a keyboard to type and edit simple sentences. Year 3 have been learning to use word-processing software to create and present their work. This week, they explored how to format text by changing its appearance and had their first experience of searching for suitable images and inserting them into a document.



Hello my name is . I am years old. I go to thorncombe school. My favourite animal is a penguin. My favourite food is sausages. I have 4 pets, 2 cats, 1 tortoise and 1 rabbit. I have lots of friends at school. I love school because I love seeing my friends and my teacher. I do lots of sports like gymnastics, trampoline, football and swimming. I have a sister called . She is the beest so is mummy and daddy. At school I go in Orchard and Pippin. My favourite ice cream is strawberry. When I am older I want to be a footballer.



Additional Information



Junior Race

Wednesday 25 June
6.15pm start @ Forde Abbey

- 1500m off-road race
- Under 11s
- Team and individual prizes
- Medals for all participants
- Refreshments available
- FREE entry on the day

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](#).