Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy

First Federation Trust

Living, Learning and Growing Together

Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 1 Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great first week back, and I have been so impressed by how well the children have settled into their school routines with enthusiasm and positivity.

Our teachers have completed the Autumn 1 curriculum maps, which are attached to this email and are also available on our school website. These provide an overview of what your children will be learning about.

Our Christian core value this half term is Love and Compassion. During worships this week, the children have heard the Parable of the Good Samaritan which the children then explored how its message can be put into practice in our school community.

We have also revisited our school safety procedures, including fire drills and lockdowns, before thinking about what it means to be ready to learn and make the most of our time at school.

Finally, a very big thank you to all our children, parents, carers and staff for making my return from maternity leave so special. This is my fifth year as Head of School at Thorncombe St Mary's, and I continue to feel incredibly blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.

Mrs Jessica Evans
Head of School

Our core value this term is:

Love & Compassion

Our golden apple winners for this week.





The winning house this week:

English Oak & Silver Birch

W/B 14.09.2026

Monday
R/1/2 PE

Tuesday
Forest School
R/1/2/3 PE

Wednesday
Music Lessons
Y4,5,6 PE

Thursday
Orchard Homelearning to be in

Friday
Y4,5,6 PE

Breakfast Club | 8-8:30am
A relaxed start to the day with breakfast and play.

After School Club | 3:15-4:30pm
Child-led play and activities based on children's interests.

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.



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

It has been wonderful to be back in Little Acorn's. All the children have settled back in so well and it has been wonderful to welcome some new children as well, who have settled in brilliantly. Little Acorn's have loved our new room and have enjoyed exploring around the room, playing with lots of different activities. The children really enjoyed lots of colouring this week and exploring colour and being creative with their drawings. They have also enjoyed exploring and sharing books, making lots of cakes in the mud kitchen, playing with cars, making trains tracks and roleplaying with friends. It has been so lovely to see all the children back and how Little Acorn's have been so welcoming to our new children. We have had amazing first week!

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

It has been great to welcome the children back, including our new friends in Reception! The children have enjoyed having a new classroom and have been getting used to new routines, particularly our youngest children in reception who have had lots to learn! They have been getting to know their new classmates, teachers, learning where everything belongs and most of all - having fun!

Our story of the week has been The Colour Monster and we have all spoken lots about our feelings and how adults at school can help us if we need. Reception enjoyed a colour monster sorting tuff tray, using tweezers to sort colours into their correct place!

Year 1 & 2 have made a great start on their maths and have been trying hard to form their numbers correctly.

We have such a lovely, kind class who have shown lots of respectful behaviours this week. I look forward to the year ahead.

P.S - Please label jumpers! 😀

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

It has been wonderful to welcome Orchard Class back this week! We have all been excited to settle into our new classroom and make the most of our new outside learning area too.

In Science this week, Years 3 and 4 had lots of fun learning about the human skeleton and locating different bones in their own bodies! Years 5 and 6 began their Animals Including Humans unit by learning about the human life cycle.

All the children were excited to start designing lighthouses in DT and had a fabulous lesson exploring electrical circuits.

In RE, we have begun our learning about Hinduism. This week, the children learnt about Brahman and the Aum symbol, including why it is important to Hindus.

It has been a lovely first week back, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling so happily into the new classroom. The calm atmosphere and kindness they have shown have made it a wonderful start to the year!

Over the next week...

- Hear your child read at least 3 times each week. Please record this in their reading records. 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!

Some super teamwork!









What a lovely week!







Orchard Class have had a fabulous start to music this term! They worked in small groups to create rhythmic ostinatos and then put them together to create a whole class ensemble! Miss Taylor was very impressed with their timing!

What a lovely week!



Additional Information



Safeguarding Information





Our child protection policy can be found here.