

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 3 Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday, the Open the Book team visited us for our collective worship. Will and John shared the story of the paralysed man, and the children listened beautifully. We had lots of keen volunteers ready to take part in their next visit! A special well done to our fantastic volunteers from Years 1, 3 and 4, who gave us some wonderfully loud and enthusiastic performances this time!

On Wednesday, we joined over 9,000 children from schools across Somerset for Bishop's Worship. We explored the theme of how we grow, thinking about how a farmer plants seeds and provides everything they need, but ultimately leaves the growing to God. Just like seeds, we need love, care and encouragement to help us grow and flourish. It was a lovely opportunity for us to join with so many other children across Somerset.

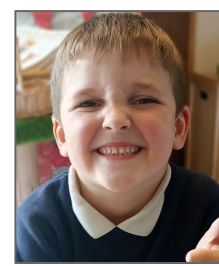
Today, we were incredibly proud to celebrate receiving our Platinum OPAL Award, recognising the fantastic journey we have been on over the last three years. It all began when Mrs Wheaton approached me with an idea about how we could transform our break times, and what a journey it has been since then! With Kate from OPAL and the Mayor joining us today, it was wonderful to celebrate what we have achieved together as staff, children, parents, carers and the wider community came together to make it the best it could be. Break times make up around 20% of a child's school day, so we place huge importance on making this time as enjoyable, active and meaningful as possible

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:

Silver Birch

W/B 28.09.2026

Monday

R/1/2 PE

Tuesday

Forest School

R/1/2/3 PE

Wednesday

Music Lessons

Homelearning club

Y4,5,6 PE

Thursday

Professional School Photos

Orchard Home Learning due

Friday

Y4,5,6 PE

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

*Daily 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.



if we all do
**one random act of
kindness daily**
we just might set
the world in the
right direction



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

We have had such a fun week here in Little Acorns! The children have thoroughly enjoyed our story of the week 'We're going on a bear hunt'. This is definitely a firm favourite of ours and Little Acorns have loved exploring and taking part in many activities based around the story. They have become so familiar with it that most of them know the story off by heart! It has been wonderful to see the children retell the story through sensory tuff trays, movement, in their imaginative play and of course going on many many bear hunts!. Little Acorns have been using their creative skills through painting bear masks, making marks with the large paint markers and doing some wonderful drawings on the playground using chalk.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

This week the children have been starting to plan their own story, based on 'Going on a Bear Hunt.' I am really excited to read these stories as we have some fantastic ideas that the children have been sharing with one another in our class discussions. Lots of great oracy!

In Science this week we went on a minibeast hunt, recorded our findings and represented the patterns we found on a bar chart.

In RE, we have been learning about the Muslim community and their beliefs. We have learned that Muslims believe in one God, Allah, and that there are 99 beautiful names that describe Allah's qualities. We also learned how some Muslims use prayer beads to help them remember these names.

In Geography we have been learning about our world. Last week the children learned about the continents, this week they learned about the oceans. Ask them to tell you which continent/ocean is the biggest - you will be impressed!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

This week, in English, children have been exploring character description. They have listened to our class novel, The Nowhere Emporium, and discussed what they can tell about the characters' physical appearance and personality. They then drew and described their own character for their mystery narrative.

In DT, children compared lighthouses and explored their important features before designing their own lighthouse, which they will begin to build next lesson. If you happen to have any Pringles tubes at home, they are very useful!

In Science, Year 3 and 4 carried out an investigation into whether people with longer femurs can jump further! They measured the length of their femurs before heading outside to measure their jumps.

In Geography, children explored the physical, topographical and human features of the UK. They identified important landmarks before describing their location on a map.

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!



What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!

Bishop collective worship

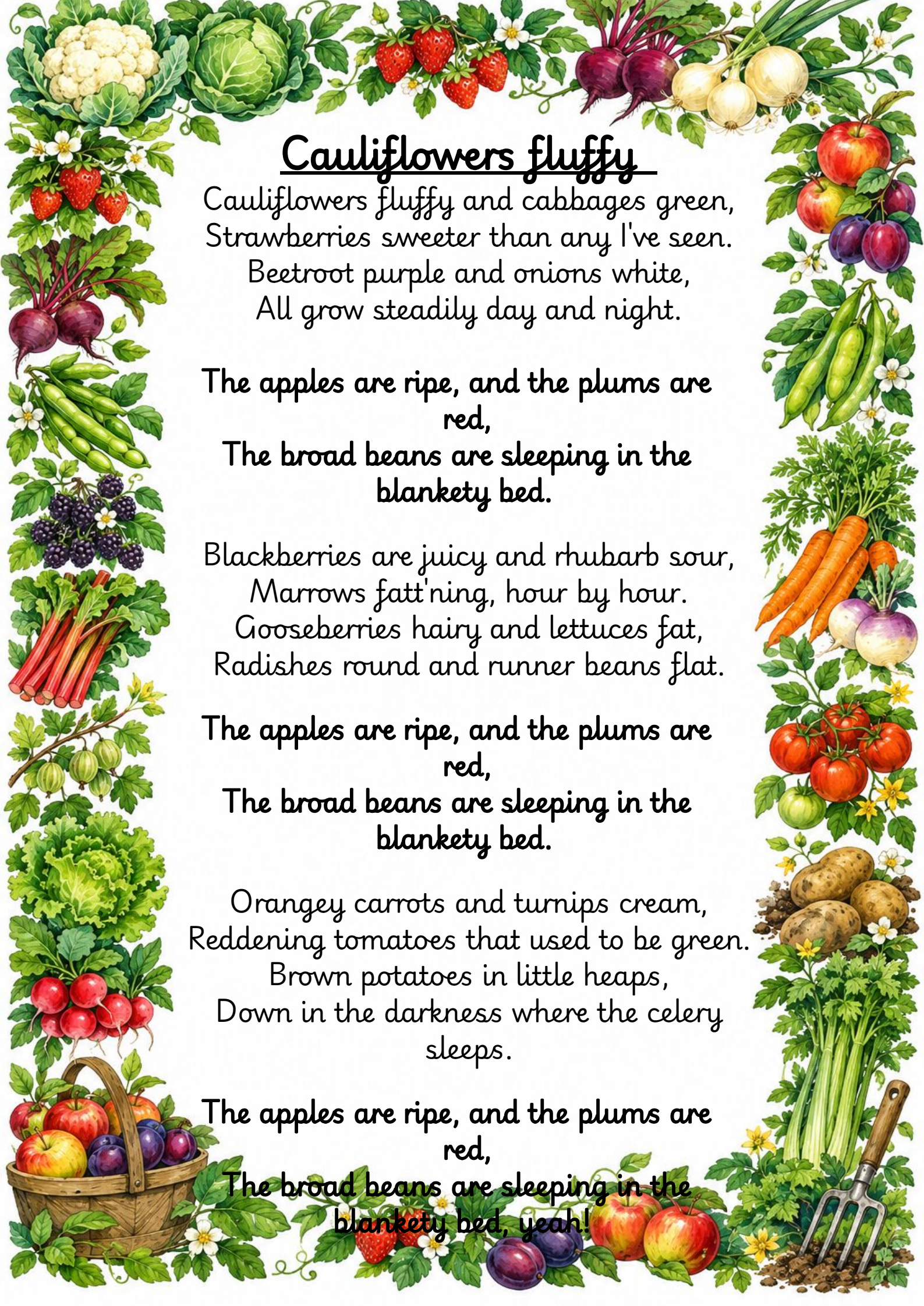


Open the book



OPAL PLATINUM CELEBRATIONS!





Cauliflowers fluffy

Cauliflowers fluffy and cabbages green,
Strawberries sweeter than any I've seen.
Beetroot purple and onions white,
All grow steadily day and night.

The apples are ripe, and the plums are
red,

The broad beans are sleeping in the
blankety bed.

Blackberries are juicy and rhubarb sour,
Marrows fatt'ning, hour by hour.
Gooseberries hairy and lettuces fat,
Radishes round and runner beans flat.

The apples are ripe, and the plums are
red,

The broad beans are sleeping in the
blankety bed.

Orangey carrots and turnips cream,
Reddening tomatoes that used to be green.
Brown potatoes in little heaps,
Down in the darkness where the celery
sleeps.

The apples are ripe, and the plums are
red,

The broad beans are sleeping in the
blankety bed, yeah!



Autumn days

Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell.
Jetplanes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these things I love so well

So I mustn't forget
No, I mustn't forget.
To say a great big Thank You
I mustn't forget



Clouds that look like familiar faces
And the winter's moon with frosted rings.
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces
And the song the milkman sings

CHORUS

Whipped-up spray that is
rainbow-scattered
And a swallow curving in the sky
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out
and they're battered
And the taste of apple pie.

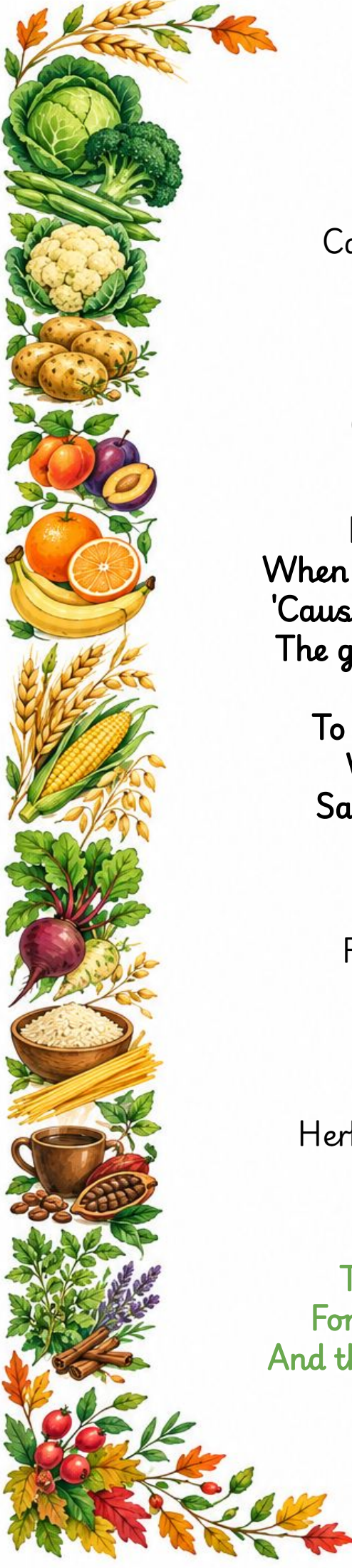
CHORUS



Scent of gardens when the rain's
been falling
And a minnow darting down a stream
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering
and stalling
And a win for my home team.

CHORUS





Harvest Samba

Cabbages and greens
Broccoli and beans
Cauliflower and roasted potatoes
Taste so good to me

Apricots and plums
Ripened in the sun
Oranges and yellow bananas
Good for everyone

It's another Harvest Festival
When we bring our fruit and vegetables
'Cause we want to share the best of all
The good things that we've been given
It's another opportunity
To be grateful for the food we eat
With a samba celebration to
Say thank You to God the Father

Golden corn and wheat
Oats and sugar beet
Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti
Wonderful to eat

Coffee cocoa tea
Growing nat'rally
Herbal plants and all kinds of spices
Very nice indeed

Thank You for the harvest
Thank You for Your goodness
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that grow X2

CHORUS
God the Father



Additional Information

Just to let you know that the

Local Church's Harvest Festival

is on Sunday 28th Sept.



If the children want to be involved – we are leaving baskets at the back of church to collect food items for the **Lord's Larder**,

and will be decorating the church on **Saturday 27th** – there will be buckets and jars inside the door to leave flowers.



Thorncombe St Mary's Church
Harvest Festival

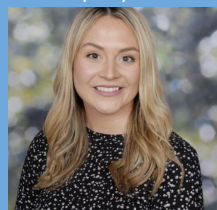


Safeguarding Information

Mrs Jessica Evans
Head of School
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Merryn Wheaton
EYFS Lead and Pippin
Teacher
Deputy DSL



Our child protection policy can be found [here](#).