

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 4 Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in worship, we explored the story of Jesus Calms the Storm. We thought about how the storm in the story can represent the challenges and barriers we sometimes face, and considered what we can do when things feel difficult or get in the way of our learning. We talked about the importance of recognising these barriers and finding ways to feel calm, focused and ready to learn.

We were delighted to welcome our School Improvement Officer this week, who spent time in lessons with me. It was wonderful to reflect on how well our children are doing and to see first-hand that our learning behaviours and routines are exceptional. Our children are proud of their learning environments, and it was fabulous to see how settled and happy they are in school. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitudes they continue to show each day.

Could you become a Parent Council Member?

We are inviting parents and carers to consider becoming a Parent Council Member for our school. This is a great opportunity to have a voice in the wider governance of the First Federation Trust, help support our school and contribute to discussions about education across the Trust. You do not need any previous experience in education or governance, and training and support will be provided. Full details about the role will be shared separately.

Mrs Jessica Evans
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:

Love & Compassion

Our golden apple winners for this week.



The winning house this week:

Copper Beech

W/B 05.10.2026

Monday

R/1/2 PE

Tempest school photos

Tuesday

Flu Vaccines

Forest School

R/1/2/3 PE

Wednesday

Music Lessons

Home Learning club

4/5/6 PE

Thursday

Orchard Home Learning due

Friday

Hello Yellow!

4/5/6 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.*



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire Stockford

Little Acorns' Book of the Week has been The Colour Monster. The children have explored key vocabulary such as happy, sad, worried, calm, excited and angry, talking about the different things that can make us feel these emotions and beginning to recognise and express their own feelings. They have also been enjoying lots of stories, songs and rhymes together, including favourites such as If You're Happy and You Know It and Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes. These are a lovely way to develop children's listening, communication and language skills while having lots of fun! It has been wonderful to see the children becoming much more familiar with our Little Acorns routines and increasingly confident within their learning environment.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In maths, we started looking at systematic number bonds - which is a very fancy way of saying we start with the smallest part with the biggest and move through in order. For example if making number bonds to 5 we would start with 0+5, 1+4, 2+3, 3+2, 4+1, 5+0.

We used counters to help us visualise this.

In PE on Tuesdays we have focused on Team Building. We have been developing teamwork and communication skills by working cooperatively with others, listening carefully, and giving / following clear instructions

In Computing we have been using rodocodo tov input and debug algorithms, working through the different levels. Since our first lesson on this, the children have become much more confident. Ask your child to tell you what an algorithm is - hopefully they will tell you it's a set of instructions that a computer follows! Reception have been working on their drag and drop skills.

In Music we have been learning about what 'beat' and 'tempo' means.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

In DT this week, the children were really excited to start constructing their lighthouses! They thought carefully about their designs and how they would need to allow access for their circuits. Next week, we will continue constructing, including adding the lantern house and any decorations. They are looking great so far!

In English, we completed our mystery narrative writing. The children have worked incredibly hard to add fabulous description to their writing, while also exploring sentence length to slow the action down and create tension. I have really loved reading their work this week - there has been such fabulous imagination!

In Science, Year 3 and 4 explored how muscles help our bodies move and made their own models of an arm, including a working bicep. Year 5 and 6 had fun aging themselves as part of their lesson identifying the changes we experience as we become senior.

In Geography, the class explored the different regions of the UK and a range of topographical features, including coasts, cliffs and beaches, as well as different types of farming such as arable and hill farming.

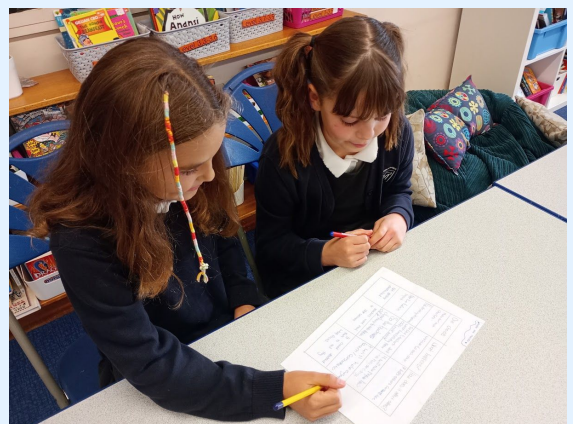
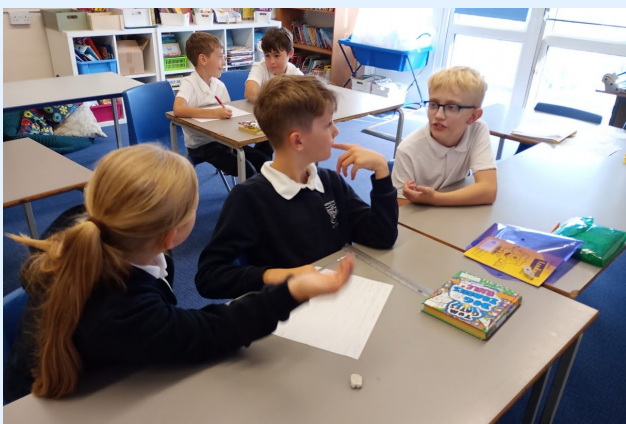
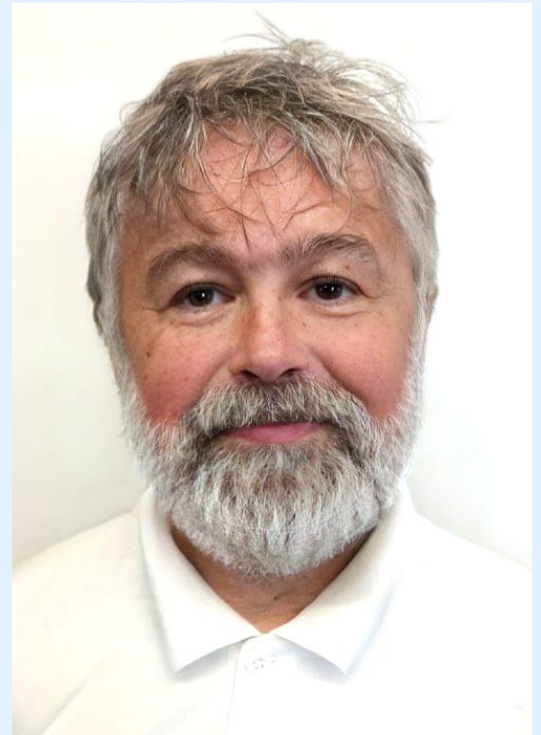
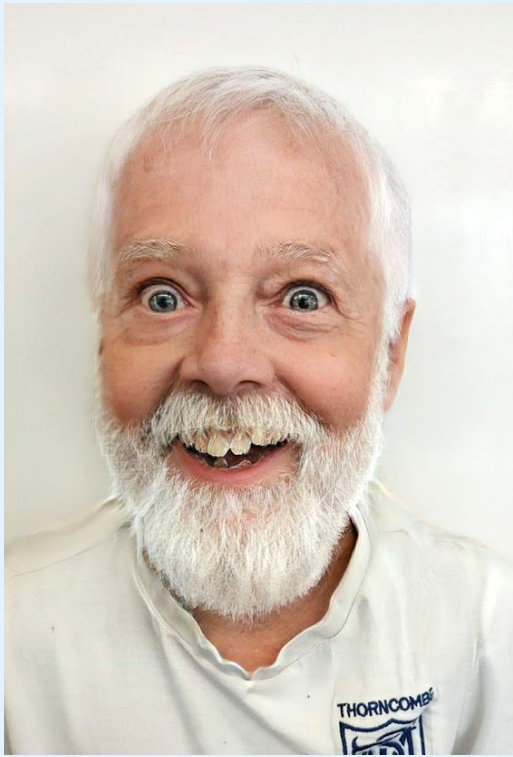
Over the next week...

- 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.

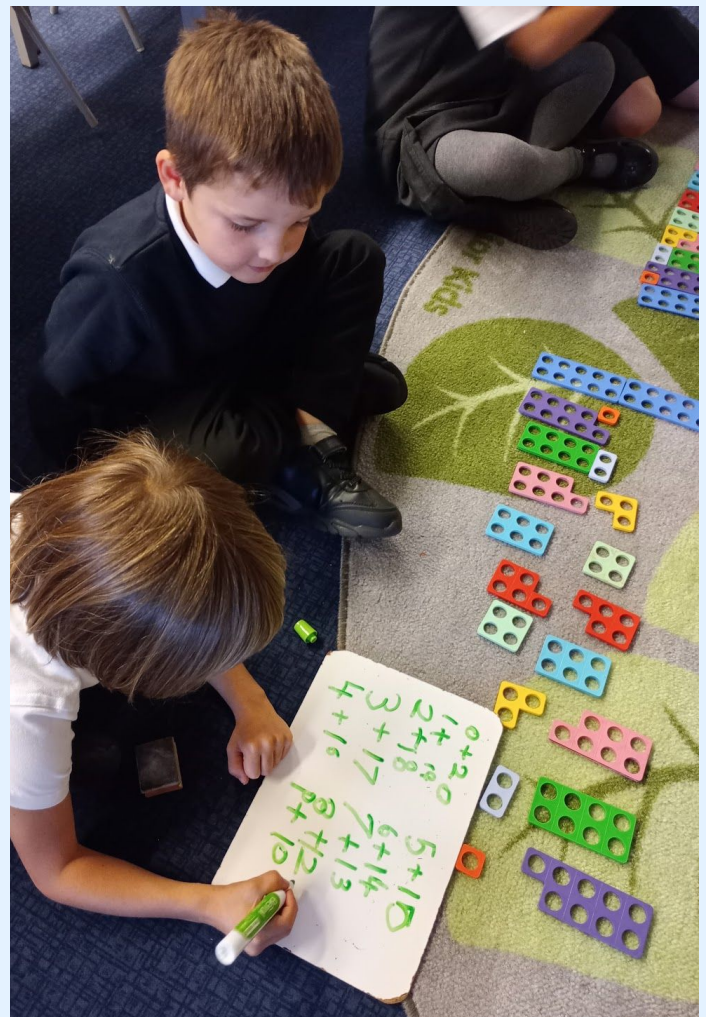
Year 1	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 2	2s, 5s, 10s
Year 3	3s, 4s, 8s
Year 4, 5 and 6	all multiplication tables up to 12x12

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

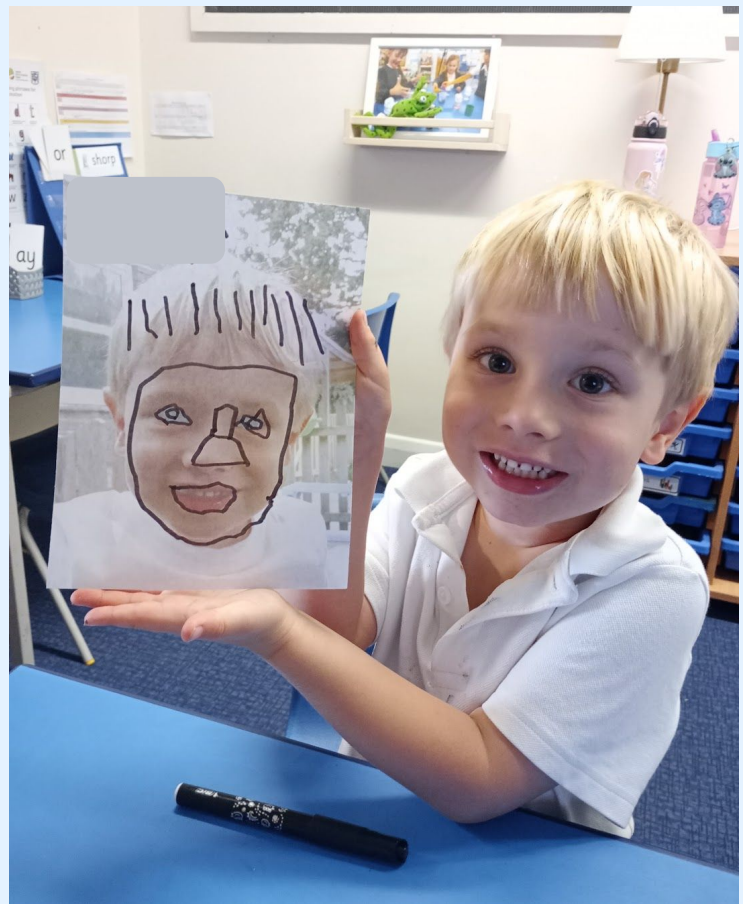
What a lovely week!



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What a lovely week!



Additional Information



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](#).