

Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy



Living, Learning and Growing Together



Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 6 Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in worship, we have been thinking about how we can develop a positive growth mindset and make small changes to the way we think so that we feel more confident, motivated and ready to learn.

We have also continued our work around British Values. The children remember these so well, and this week we took our discussions a little further by exploring why we have British Values and why they are so important in helping us to live and learn together as a community.

It has been lovely to spend time in Little Acorns this week and see first-hand how beautifully our youngest pupils interact with one another. I am so proud to see that our school ethos of 'Aim High, Show Respect and Make a Difference' can be seen right across our school. It is wonderful to see these values being lived out in the everyday moments that make school a special place.

While the children enjoy their extra day at home, our teachers will be coming together for a day of professional development. We will be focusing on critical thinking, creating cognitively challenging classrooms and exploring how we can best support children to develop their voices, share their ideas and become confident, independent thinkers.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back next week!

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

W/B 19.10.2026

Monday

R/1/2 PE

Tuesday

Forest School

R/1/2/3 PE

Wednesday

Music Lessons

Home Learning club

4/5/6 PE

Thursday

Orchard Home Learning due

PFA Cake Sale 3:15-3:30pm

Friday

INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED

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.



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 - Mrs Wheaton (In Claire's absence for this week!)

Little Acorns have been brilliant this week! I have loved how they have shown us their classroom whilst we have stepped in with them. I have enjoyed every minute - they are so sweet! They have loved the gingerbread man! We have been threading using laces, some children needing extra support and others doing this independently. We have also enjoyed a subitising game - using a dice to roll and match amounts and trying to 'know' the numbers without counting. We have discussed Autumnal things, such as hedgehogs, squirrels and how the leaves are changing on the trees. The children have enjoyed stories, songs and rhymes such as Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Wind the Bobbin Up and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

All children enjoyed learning about Piet Mondrian in Art this week and creating some artwork inspired by his work, Y1/2 used primary colours to complete this.

In English, Y1/2 children have been writing non-chronological reports about their chosen animals. It has been lovely to see their progress this term, particularly in handwriting. Letters that were incorrectly formed in September are now being formed correctly, and Year 3 are beginning to apply their joins within their writing.

All children have completed their phonics assessments this week, showing pleasing progress and identifying next steps. Where needed, I will share short phonics videos via QR codes for home practice. Just one a day, alongside reading their story books will help children learn and retain their sounds, which are essential for developing their writing.

In maths, Y1/2 children have worked hard on addition and subtraction, showing particular confidence with fact families. We have also been consolidating number bonds to 10 to strengthen their understanding.

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

Orchard Class have had a lovely week creating their non-chronological reports for their Autumn Writing Assessments. It has been wonderful to see the children using so much of their Geography knowledge in their writing!

In Maths, Years 3 and 4 have been working hard on subtraction, tackling some tricky questions involving partitioning. Years 5 and 6 have been using their times tables knowledge to identify common multiples.

In Science, Years 5 and 6 have been exploring how humans change as they age. They investigated physical changes to our skin and hair and came up with their own thoughtful questions to ask.

Thursday afternoon was full of creativity as the children designed their Christmas cards using paint, collage and pastels. We cannot wait to see their wonderful designs in print!

Please encourage all children to practise on TTRS as often as possible. Regular practice really helps to build speed and confidence with times tables!

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!



We really enjoyed reading one Orchard child's fantastic book about animals and their habitats! He put lots of thought and creativity into both the writing and the design. Well done, Cameron, for sharing your love of animals with us!



PE was great fun this week, the children worked in pairs and teams to challenge themselves with skipping and balancing skills.

What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!



BE SMART ONLINE



S

SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



M

MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK
U
KNOW

A

ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.



R

RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.



T

TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.



WWW.CHILDNET.COM

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](#).