Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy

First Federation Trust

Living, Learning and Growing Together

Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 8 Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back To Autumn 2! The children have once again settled into their routines so well. If you would like to see the wonderful things your children will be learning about in their classes this half term, please click here to be taken to our curriculum maps page.

We had an unexpected sad end to one of our beautiful school trees this week following damage to it during a recent storm that had left a large crack going down the centre of it. This meant that children were moved out of two of our classrooms today and completed their learning in the school hall whilst the tree was safely taken down. I want to extend such a huge thank you to the whole staff team for their flexibility in this, as well as the time taken to make school safe for our children. Learning will return to our normal classrooms again on Monday.

As we enter the new half term, please can I remind parents of the importance of strong attendance. For each absence a child has, they miss chunks of their learning that are not always possible to catch up on. Overtime, this can have a significant impact. The school gate closes at 8.45 each day so please ensure children are present on site before this time.

Last half term, Silver Birch were awarded with the most house points across the school term. On Monday, these children can come into school in non school uniform as a reward for their hard work.

Mrs Jessica Evans
Head of School

Our core value this term is:

Thankfulness

Our golden apple winners for this week.





The winning house this week:

Silver Birch

Have a wonderful half term!

W/B .11.2026

Monday
R/1/2 PE

Tuesday
Forest School
R/1/2/3 PE

Wednesday
Remembrance Day
Music Lessons
Home Learning club
4/5/6 PE

Thursday
Orchard Home Learning due

Friday
YR Library Books

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 Email: office@stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk
Website: https://www.stmarysthorncombe.dorset.sch.uk/

Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire

It has been wonderful to be back in Little Acorns this week after sadly being off for a while being unwell. It was so lovely to hear that Little Acorns were amazing and adapted so well. They make me so proud! We have started the week off celebrating bonfire night by exploring and creating beautiful firework artwork. They have used painting, cardboard tubes and sponges to created their firework shapes. Little Acorns have also been exploring firework patterns by copying different lines and drawing their own fireworks. I have proudly displayed their work on our art wall. While creating their amazing artwork we explored what words we could use to describe a firework. We use language like, bright, colourful, big, loud and noisy! We have had a wonderful week.

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

Celebrations is a big focus this term for Reception children. During snack & chat, the children have looked at different types of celebrations and how they can look different and we discussed the celebrations we have been a part of ourselves.

We have started our learning on The Great Fire of London this week which has sparked interest in the children. We learned about the fire and what happened, how it started in a bakery on Pudding Lane in 1666 - a key date to help your child remember!

In RE we are learning about the Nativity story. This week we explored who Jesus is and why he is special to Christians. We listened to the Christmas story.

In DT we explored fruit. We learned that you can tell that something is a fruit as it will have seeds. The children enjoyed exploring different types of fruit and seeing how seeds can be different, on the inside and outside. They then enjoyed eating the fruit! Banana seeds were a tricky one to spot!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

We have started our learning about Ancient Egypt this week, which has been very exciting! The children have explored Ancient Egyptian artwork, patterns and colours and experimented with different styles, textures and techniques in their sketchbooks.

In English, we have been learning about the discovery of Tutankhamun and have started to explore the features of newspaper writing, including the 5Ws and fronted adverbials.

All children in Orchard are learning about forces in Science. Year 5 and 6 were fabulous when investigating the weight and mass of different classroom objects, using a Newton meter to measure weight and comparing this with mass.

In RE, we have started to learn about how Christians view the Creation story. We explored what the Bible says God created over six days and discussed how this might influence the way Christians look after the world.

In PE, the children had great fun learning how to pass a rugby ball as part of our Autumn Tag Rugby unit.

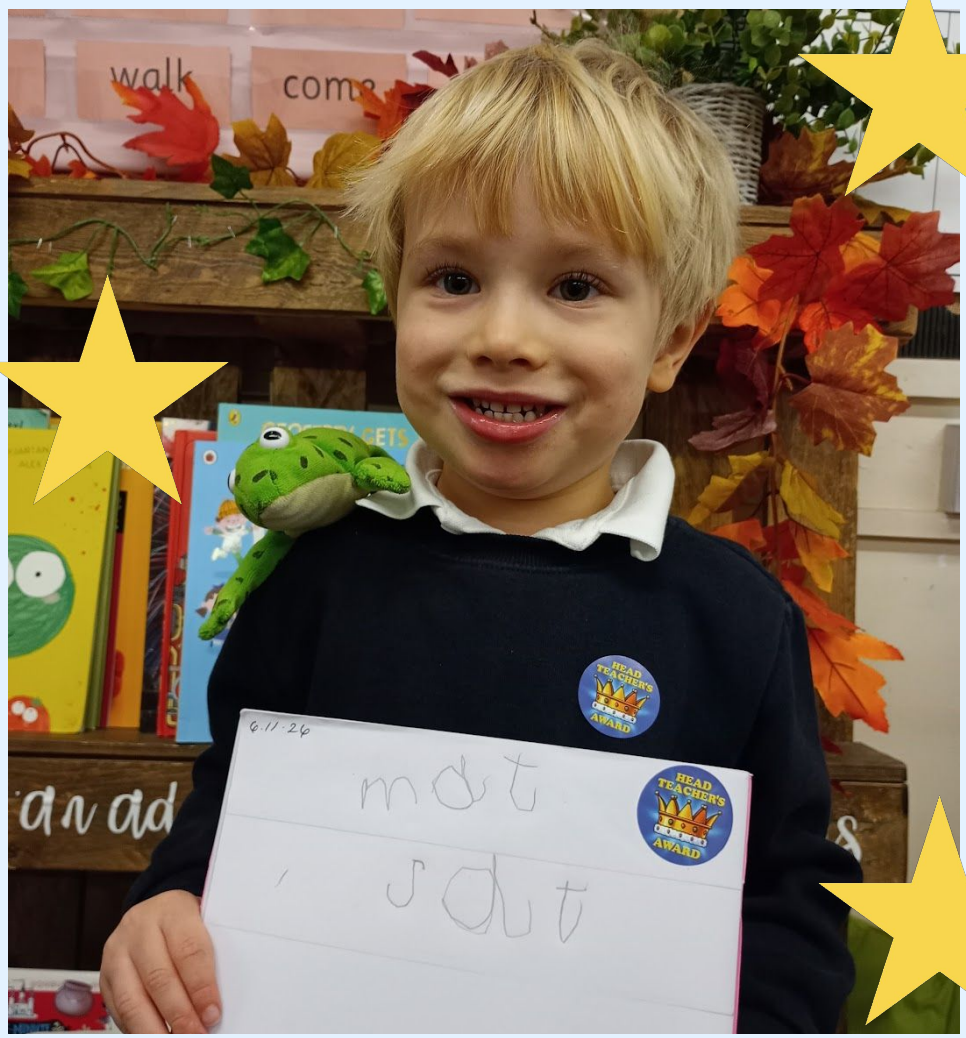
Over the next week...

- 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

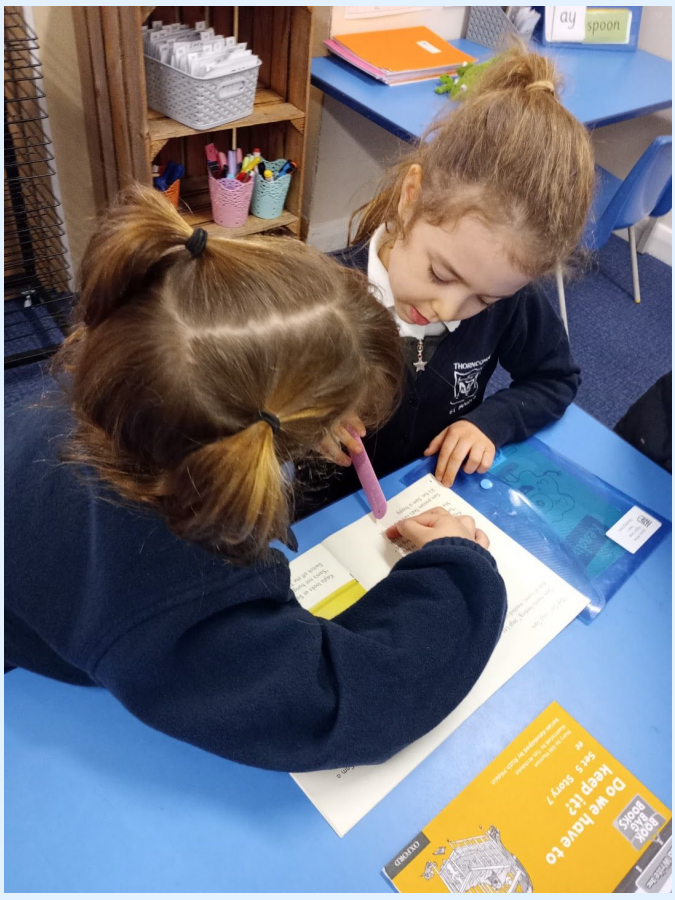
Children learn **4,000 to 12,000 words** per year through reading.

What a lovely week!



Reception children have been working so hard in phonics to learn their single letter sounds. They have had a very exciting week!

They all now know their single letter sounds
They have written their first word!
They are taking their first book home!
INCREDIBLE achievement for all!





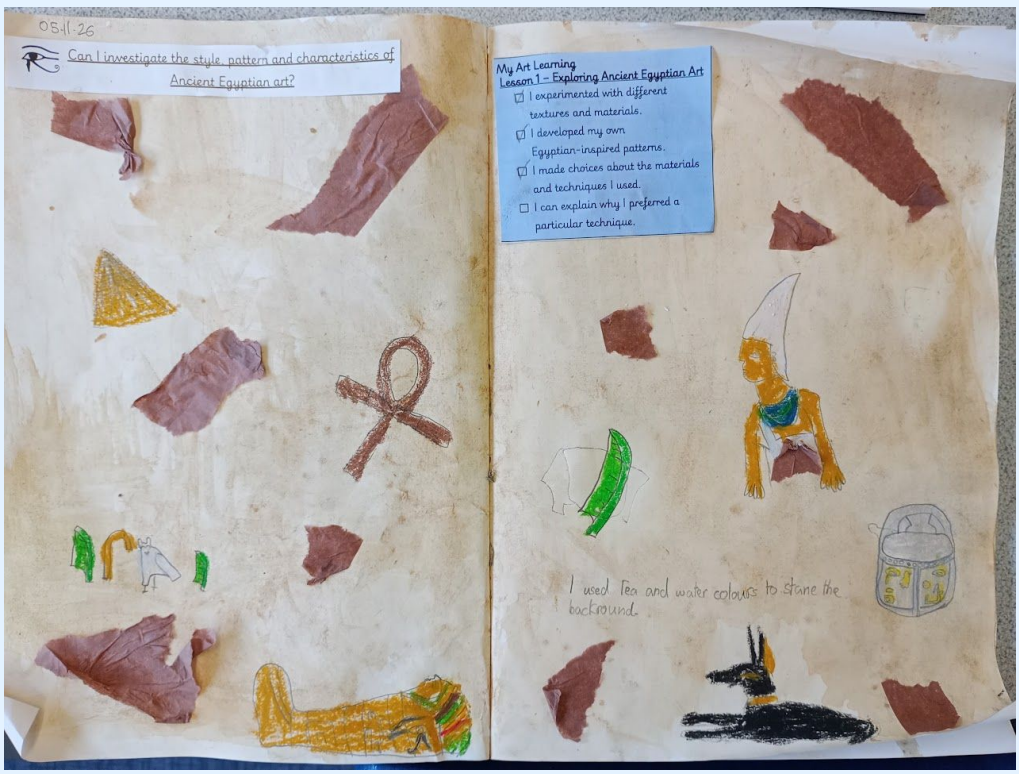
What a lovely week!

Pippin have started their English unit on predictable and patterned stories. On day 1, we learned the story 'Brown bear, brown bear, working together to make actions to help us remember it! We had so much fun doing this. Knowing the structure of the story really well will help us when it comes to planning and writing our own!





What a lovely week!



What a lovely week!

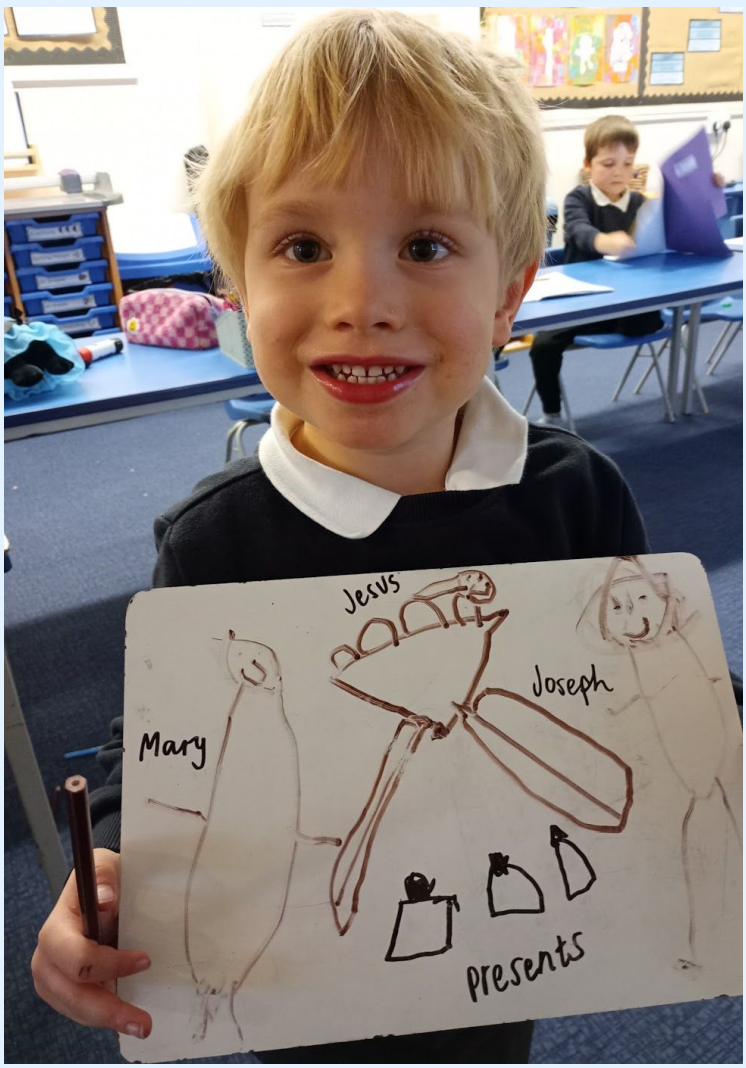






What a lovely week!







Upcoming helpful dates

Please refer to our website for the most current updates throughout the school year.

November 2026

UK Disability Awareness Month

- 2nd - First day of Autumn 2
- 11th - Remembrance Day
- 13th - Children in Need
- 16th - Anti Bullying Week

December 2026

Advent

- 3rd - PFA Wreath Making Workshop
- 10th - Christmas Jumper Day (please give pre-loved Jumpers to PFA before!)
- 11th - PFA Film Night
- **15th - Nativity (whole school)**
- 17th - Pantomime
- 18th – Final day of Autumn term

Safeguarding Information

Mrs Jessica Evans
Head of School
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Merryn Wheaton
Senior Teacher
Deputy DSL



Our child protection policy can be found here.