Thorncombe, St. Mary's CE Primary Academy

First Federation Trust

Living, Learning and Growing Together

Autumn Term 26-27 Newsletter Issue: 9 Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to spend time in classes this week and hear about the learning that the children have been doing with their teachers. Little Acorns have really impressed me with their turn taking and communication skills this week. Pippin class have shown fantastic resilience and independence when they've tackled tricky work. Orchard class have been wonderful role models for the rest of the school and have demonstrated our core values at every opportunity.

On Wednesday, we came together as a whole school on the playground to mark Remembrance Day. It was an opportunity to pause, reflect and remember all those who have made sacrifices for others. We shared some thoughtful words, observed two minutes of silence and said a prayer for peace. The children were absolutely wonderful, showing such respect and thoughtfulness throughout. It was a special moment of togetherness and a reminder of the importance of kindness, compassion and peace in our everyday lives.

Today, in school, the children came into school in their non-uniform to raise money for Children in Need. It was lovely to see the school dressed up in such an array of bright colours for such a great cause.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

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

W/B .16.2026

Monday
R/1/2 PE
Pippin and Orchard parents evening

Tuesday
Forest School
R/1/2/3 PE
Orchard parents evening

Wednesday
Music Lessons
Home Learning club
4/5/6 PE
Pippin and Orchard parents evening

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.



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Class News from this Week!

Little Acorns - Claire

This week in EYFS one of our quality texts of the week has been Happy Birthday Winnie. The children have been on welly walks collecting natural materials to create birthday cakes, decorating their own birthday cakes, building party places for Winnie and organising their own birthday parties. The children have shared their own birthday celebrations and it was perfect timing as we actually had a birthday this week to celebrate ourselves!

We enjoyed coming together with Pippin Class on Friday to celebrate Children In Need and listening to why this is important and decorating some pictures.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Pippin Class - Mrs Wheaton

In English, the children have continued their work on predictable and patterned stories, writing their own in the style of 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear.' They have taken pride in their work, and there is clear progress in the consistency of their letter formation since last term.

In Science, the children have been exploring autumn. Last week, they observed seasonal changes, and this week, we described the weather each day and discussed how the days become shorter.

In PE, Monday's fitness session focused on jumping with control and coordination. Tuesday's Mindful Movement session involved copying and remembering a sequence of balances.

Last week in PSHCE, we explored how boys and girls can have lots of things in common, as well as differences. This week, we learnt about stereotypes and how people sometimes think boys and girls should like or do certain things, and also the importance of respecting everyone's differences.

Have a lovely weekend!

Orchard Class - Miss Taylor & Mrs Balcer

Orchard Class have had another great week! In Art, the children got very messy recreating the ancient Egyptian technique of papyrus making! They stained their paper with tea and once it was dry, tore it into strips before layering them like reeds, using watered-down PVA glue. The finished pieces look fabulous!

In History, the children learnt about the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians. They created wonderful illustrations showing the river and the farming systems that developed along its banks, adding informative notes around their artwork. It was lovely to celebrate their fantastic work!

On Wednesday, the children marked Remembrance Day by learning about its significance and creating some beautiful poppy artwork.

In Science, Years 3 and 4 investigated friction by exploring how toy cars travelled across different surfaces. They had lots of fun experimenting with bubble wrap, carpet and the playground! Years 5 and 6 explored gravity by making their own pendulums and investigating how the length of the string affected the number of swings.

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

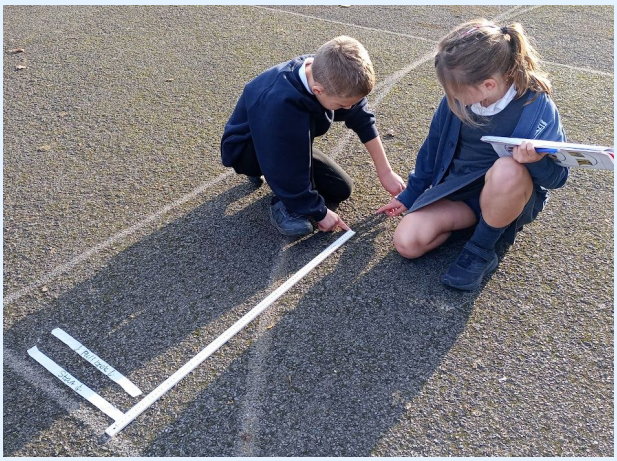
Children learn **4,000 to 12,000 words** per year through reading.

What a lovely week!

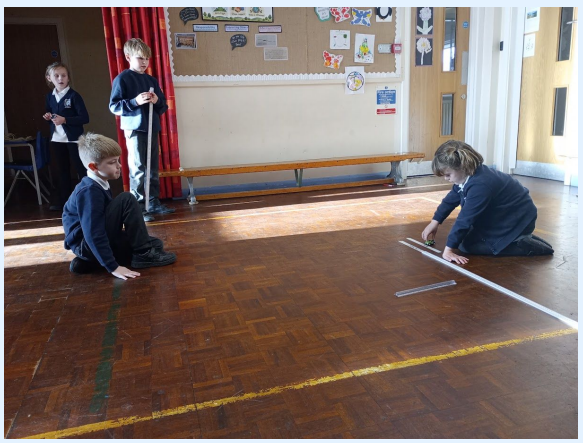








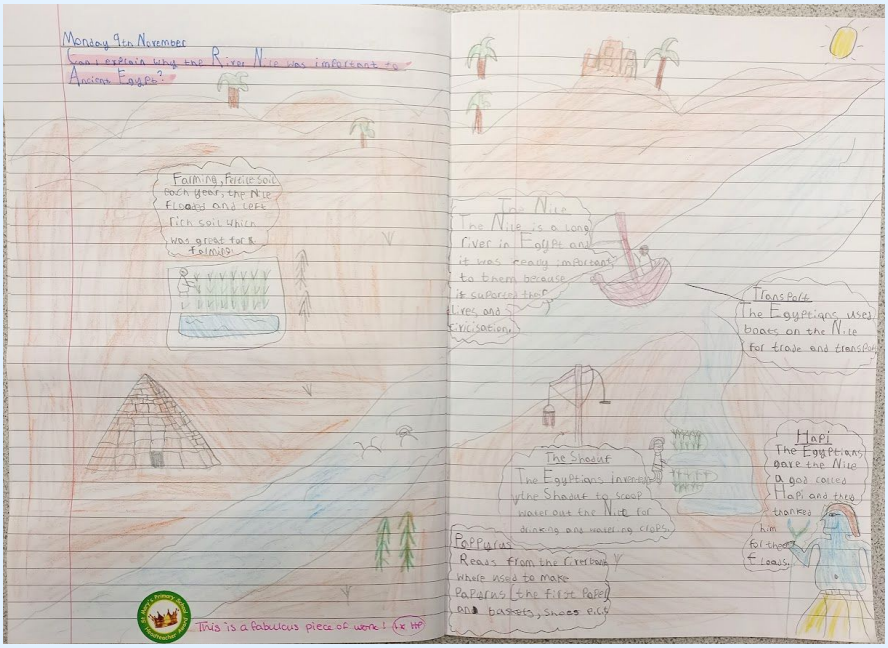








What a lovely week!







It is always lovely to celebrate children's achievements outside school! This child in Orchard Class, represented his rugby club at the weekend by escorting Exeter Chiefs onto their pitch for the Remembrance Game against Bath!







What a lovely week!







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.