

Our plans for 2018-19

Quality of Teaching

We are constantly striving to improve and this year is no different. We remind the children in class that every moment is precious and do all we can to ensure that no learning time is wasted.

But, the teachers are learning too. In staff training this year we are focusing on how to make sure that children are given helpful and precise feedback on all their learning, so that the children are clear on their next steps and make all the progress they can.

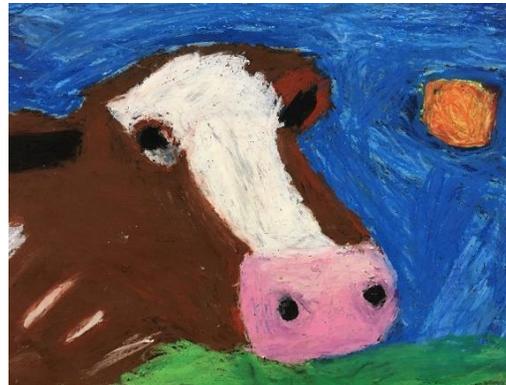
Our new school values

As a Church of England school, we want to ensure that the children learn and grow with good values. We have decided that respect, forgiveness, friendship and perseverance should be at the core of our curriculum and underpin all we do at school. We will teach children what these values mean during lessons, collective worship and weekly prayer circle discussions.

Reading

When we talk to the children, some of them still believe that reading is purely a way of learning new vocabulary. As adults, we all know how important reading is. It's crucial for so many reasons; being able to read sign posts and road signs, reading recipes and following instructions, reading labels on food products or medicines, or just to help us communicate with each other on our various modern day electrical devices.

However, at St Thomas', our aim is more than just to teach children to learn to read. We want to develop a love of reading; a passion, where children enjoy the simple pleasure of reading purely for enjoyment.

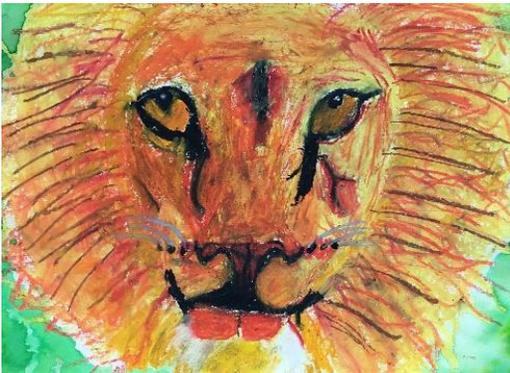


St Thomas' Governors School Improvement Report 2018-19



Our successes in 2017-18

The Carnival of the Animals project was such a success. The music, dance, writing and art all came together in an extravaganza at the end of spring term. It was so much fun and a real celebration of the children's hard work. We're sure you'll agree that the displays in the school's entrance hall exemplify the high standards we set and the quality of the children's outcomes. All our visitors comment on the wonderful work children produce at St Thomas', with art, continuing to be a real passion of ours.



Results: In the Year 1 phonics assessment, 85% of the children reached the expected standard. This is above the national average score of 81%. Year 2's annual data comes from the teacher's assessments throughout the year. In Reading, 74% reached the expected standard. In writing, it was 71% and in Mathematics 71%. This is similar to the national picture. Year 6 did extremely well in their SAT tests. In Reading 90% reached the expected standard; Writing it was 93% and Mathematics 93%. Year 6's progress, since they were in Year 2, was also significantly above the national average in reading and mathematics, so well done everyone.

Learning together

What parents say

Thank you to all the parents who responded to our questionnaire last summer. Governors are pleased to see how positive the responses were and that parents feel that they are well informed about their child's progress at school. Parents also strongly agree that their children are:

- *safe and happy at school*
- *offered a wide range of learning experiences*
- *making good progress at this school*
- *being taught well*
- *developing their self confidence*

As always, we read all your comments on the questionnaires and will strive to ensure that we make communication as good as we can.

Some parents have specifically asked for us to consider a new approach to home learning. We are no longer expecting children to use online Maths programs in an attempt to make home learning activities more accessible and easier for parents to be involved.

Many of you agreed with us that the school's values needed updating and re-launching. We now have just four values; perseverance, respect, forgiveness and friendship and they will underpin all we do and stand for at St Thomas'.

Please continue to read the school newsletter each week as it contains all the important news you need, as well as key dates for assemblies and trips

Praying together

What children say

In June 2018, we surveyed all the children from Y1 to Y6. Again, the children were overwhelmingly positive about all aspects of school life. Here are some of their comments:

- *The teachers work really hard for us. Y2*
- *We go on lots of amazing trips. Y2*
- *I love the new experiences we have. Y3*
- *We have a great learning community. Y4*
- *The opportunities we get. Y6*
- *My learning is really fun. I love all my friends I have. Y5*
- *The way we share ideas. Y6*
- *Our school is unique. Y4*
- *The teachers respect us and care about us all. Y6*

Lots of children love the art and the more practical subjects we do. We hope that science, in particular, will be more practical this year and that children will enjoy the investigations we plan.



Playing together