

Dear Parents and Carers,

12th February 2018

You may be aware that the Ofsted report of the January 16th School Inspection of St Thomas’ is now on the school website so available for you to read. We were very pleased that school retained its ‘good school’ status despite the higher requirements needed to secure that judgement.

I wanted to highlight some features from the inspector’s letter and draw attention to what the inspector thought about the children and adults who make up St. Thomas’.

Messages from Ofsted about the children in St Thomas’

The inspector reported that children at St Thomas’ are full of pride for their school and

* embody the Christian ethos through their respect for each other
* consistently display good manners and are polite
* are keen to speak with visitors about their learning
* have a voice in the school and make a positive contribution to school systems and procedures
* appreciate the opportunities and responsibilities they are given
* are making strong progress, including those with SEN and disabilities
* work well together, supporting each other’s learning through quality discussions
* feel very safe in the school and know adults will respond effectively to any concerns they might have
* understand about different types of bullying that exist and say there are few such incidents in the school
* know how to stay safe on the internet
* receive quality teaching that develops their knowledge and skills

The inspector reported that the staff at St Thomas’ create a welcoming environment that encourages pupils to attend regularly and

* embody the Christian ethos by the way they conduct themselves
* receive regular and detailed training to ensure they have a thorough and up-to-date understanding of safeguarding issues
* give children quality teaching and plan work for boys and girls that provides engagement and the right level of challenge
* adapt their planning to meet individual needs
* demonstrate high expectations of what children with SEN/disabilities can achieve and set challenging targets

The inspector reported that the leadership team is highly effective and

* Has not only maintained a good quality of education in the school over the past four years but has improved outcomes for children
* Has ensured consistency of provision over the Infant and Junior sites
* Has an effective programme of checks on the quality of teaching and learning
* Is reflective and proactive when change is needed
* Has fine-tuned the school’s assessment system and can precisely track progress in English and mathematics
* Responds promptly to safeguarding concerns and records them thoroughly ensuring all procedures are fit for purpose
* Has ensured boys and girls achieve equally well
* Has revised provision for SEN pupils and correctly identified where improvements were needed
* Regularly review the quality of SEN provision and assess its effectiveness
* Has developed new and effective systems for monitoring attendance and effectively follow up pupils’ absence and hold parents to account.

I think these lists speak volumes about the qualities of the people who make up St Thomas’ CE Primary School. The children come to school ready and eager to learn, the staff have the expertise to help them all progress and the Headteacher and leadership team, during a period of no little turbulence with school building work and increased numbers, have improved the outcomes for children as well as maintaining that close knit and caring community that is essential to any primary school.

On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in not only maintaining but improving the high standards expected of the school.

Thank you again for your support



Richard Bates

Chair of Governors

**St Thomas’ CE Primary School**

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