



St Thomas' CE Primary Academy
Wyberton Low Road
Boston
Lincs
PE21 7RZ

Tel: 01205 362860

Email: BSTEnquiries@infinityacademies.co.uk

Web: www.stthomasacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss J Sharples

Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2024

A warm welcome back to the start of the new academic year! I have been very impressed with how beautifully the children have settled into their new classes engaging in their new routines seamlessly and demonstrating our core values and vision of, **'Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope'**. There is a real sense of 'family' across the school with lots of smiles and pupils enjoying their learning. I know that I speak on behalf of all the staff team- that we are so excited for the year ahead with lots of opportunities and experiences to allow your child to flourish!

Positive Behaviour here at St Thomas'

It is important that we share with parents/carers how we recognise, celebrate and reward pupils at St Thomas' for all of the wonderful things that they achieve! There are lots and lots of opportunities for all of our children to shine and we want you to be part of this celebration.

Rewards

To reward the children, they are given house points/stickers on a daily and lesson by lesson basis by all of the school community. This can be for a variety of reasons from behaviour and attitude to effort and improvement with tasks. The children collect their house points and are then awarded with Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum certificates when they have achieved a certain amount over the year. Classes are rewarded with an end of term activity of the class's choice for all those that achieved the term's certificate. I regularly award Head Teacher stickers to children who are chosen to share and explain their fantastic piece of work. You will spot an extra sticker by the piece of work in their book too!

On Friday, we have opportunities for celebration, rewarding children with our Values in Action certificate, Reader of the week with a certificate and book and Star of the Week with a certificate and golden star cushion. We will continue to send St. Thomas' celebration post cards home. This will be to congratulate your child on something special.

Expectations of Behaviour

We want all our children to learn in a calm and safe environment at St Thomas' Primary Academy and we also teach learning behaviours through our Behaviour Curriculum with children following our STAR behaviour approach. Here is a reminder of the expectations that are set out in the policy that can also be found on the website. As parents and carers, you agreed these when signing the home school agreement when you joined the school. Good behaviour means that staff, pupils, visitors and parents:

- have a caring attitude towards themselves and respect others
- are polite, friendly and kind to others
- move and play safely -violence is not tolerated



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- work hard
- listen to others, adopt our restorative approaches
- look after our academy and everything in it
- use appropriate language
- abide by our academy/class rules

On the rare occasion that the right choices have not been made a variety of sanctions may be given. This very much depends on the severity of the situation. Reminders, loss of break times, loss of clubs, completing work at a different time or in a different classroom to a fixed term suspension for more serious breaches. Any sanction is shared with parents. A restorative approach is used at every situation with the pupil to help and support them in reflection, sharing feelings and getting to the heart of any issue. As a school we work alongside the local authority and use the Lincolnshire Ladder of Behavioural Intervention. Our effective practice has been recognised with the 'Caring to Learn Gold Award'.

School Site Times and Reminders

The school gates to be opened at 8:30am and they will close at 8:40am.

Registration is at 8:45am.

Academy end time is 3:15pm for all classes.

Please ensure that adults and children are not riding bikes or scooters on the playground so to avoid accidents.

For safety reasons we also ask that children including pre-school pupils do not climb on or play on any of the outdoor equipment.

A polite reminder that as much as we love dogs, they are not permitted onsite without prior permission!

Curriculum Offer

At St Thomas' we are committed in ensuring that your child receives the best education possible. We provide a broad, balanced and full of opportunity, experience and hope which shapes their character and develops knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live in.

We take great pride in knowing our children, knowing our families and the context of our locality. We are passionate that we teach our children the things that are going to help them flourish both socially, academically, emotionally and spiritually. We have created four Key Drivers (below) which underpin not just our academic curriculum but also our enhanced curriculum.



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Part of our school culture is to not only educate our children but to also involve our parents and the wider community. To this end we will endeavour to send you specific information around our key drivers throughout the year; Health Education, Relationship Education, E-Safety and of course our separate subject disciplines and the knowledge and skills which accompany them.

Over the upcoming term and throughout the year I will be sharing all our Curriculum thinking, what we teach and how we teach it! I truly believe this is invaluable for you as parents to know the process and pedagogy that we follow so that you too can support your child with their learning.

School Vision

It is hugely important for us to have the opportunity to share our school vision at every opportunity so that all of our community flourishes. Please find below our vision statement,

Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope: Here in our welcoming and caring school community, we recognise and value everyone, and seek to encourage each other (Hebrews 10.25) so that all know they can be overflowing with hope for future (Romans 15.13). Like Saint Thomas, we ask questions, build our knowledge and learn the value of trust in our lives. We journey together as a school family, igniting curiosity, seeking wisdom, embracing challenge and showing compassion to ensure that we are all empowered to make the world a better place.

During our school day you will not only hear the phrase 'Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope' being used by children and staff alike but also see it in action in many, many ways. I would like to encourage all of our school community, including our parents to reflect on our vision and enjoy talking about what it means with your child! Reverend Sue and the wider clergy will continue with the phenomenal support that they give our school in the upcoming year and we cannot wait to visit t St Botolph's and St Thomas' throughout the year.... watch this space!

Come and Speak to us!

We have been really encouraged by the strength of our home-school partnership and how this has flourished. If you would like to share your ideas, thoughts, achievements or have a worry then please share this with us. We have a team that really care and are here to help.

***In the first instance your child's class teacher** is the best person to speak to as they have the best knowledge of your child.



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***The phase leaders Mrs Harris (R, Y1 and Y2), Mrs Smith (Y3, Y4, Y5) and Mrs Shaw (Y6) are the next people to have a chat to.**

***Our AHT's Mrs Morris and Mrs Shaw are available for any concerns or worries that you feel require a senior leader.**

If you feel that you have not resolved any concerns, then contact with me would be a last resort. I can often be found at the gates in the morning and after school. It is important that you do work through the above staff in the first instance as they have the most relevant information.

*Miss Ampson our Learning Mentor is available to assist you with any pastoral concerns and is passionate about supporting our families. Please call the office and leave a message and Miss Ampson will go above and beyond to help.

We do ask that you contact the school office to make an appointment with our teachers as they are teaching between 8:45am and 3:15pm; however, will endeavour to call you as soon as they can. Any urgent messages can be passed to members of staff on the door each day.

Class Information and Calendar Dates

You will soon receive a class newsletter; this will contain lots of useful information relevant to your child's learning. It will include information such as: what days PE are on, Homework and other exciting updates! In the meantime, please check out our school website which can be found at www.Stthomasacademy.co.uk and of course our new Parent Hub app where many reminders and updates will be posted.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support and value your contributions as to how we can further improve our school. I look forward to meeting and speaking to you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely

Miss J Sharples
Headteacher



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