St Thomas à Becket
Church of England
Primary School

WELCOME PACK

ROOTS TO GROW, WINGS TO FLY.

EQUA Mead
Learning Trust



INTRODUCTION

We will always offer you the warmest of welcomes at our happy and successful Church of England primary school. "Roots to grow, wings to fly" is a motto that we like to remember every time we enter the school gates. Planting the seeds for success through a spiritual and caring learning environment, our children spend their days enjoying a varied and happy education.

We are a loving and active school community founded on core Christian values. Working together, the parents, governors and parish support the children in becoming the best they can be.

As our children grow, we ensure that they develop into confident and responsible individuals who are well equipped with transferable skills that are required to succeed in everyday life.

We are situated in the village of Tilshead which is a beautiful rural location in the middle of Salisbury Plain. We are a Church of England school based within the Salisbury Diocese with a net capacity of 70 children. We are also part of Equa Mead Learning Trust.

If you would like to know more about our school then you are very welcome to come and visit. Please book an appointment by contacting the school office on 01980 620435 or admin@stthomas.equamead.org

Miss Chloe Stobbart, Headteacher



OUR VISION AND VALUES

ROOTS TO GROW, WINGS TO FLY.

With faith as small as a mustard seed nothing is impossible for you.

Rooted in the scripture of Matthew 17:2

You only have one life, one childhood, one opportunity. School is one of the most important experiences you will ever have. At St Thomas à Becket we will stop at nothing to ensure that you are given every chance to succeed. Through our faith and wisdom, we will give you strong roots to grow into resilient, respectful and ambitious citizens. We will open doors so that you can imagine endless possibilities and a life without limits. We will give you wings to fly.

Friendship | Respect | Truth | Forgiveness | Thankfulness | Perseverance



OUR SCHOOL DAY

Our school day starts at 8.45am though children may arrive from 8.35am. School finishes at 3.15pm. It is imperative that children arrive to school punctually so that they are in class and ready to learn for the start of the school day. If children arrive late (after 8.45am), parents should report to the school office to sign their children in.

Breaktime is from 10.30 to 10.45am. Lunchtime is from 12.15 to 1.15pm.

The children are taken to the school gates to be met by parents at the end of the school day. Please let us know if they are being collected by someone other than a parent. We have a safe password system; if someone unknown to the school is collecting your child please let the teacher know your chosen password and the name of the person collecting. If you are unavoidably late, we will take your child to after school club until you arrive. Please note that there may be a charge for this. There is an opportunity to have a brief word with teachers at the end of the school day once they have handed all the children over or an appointment can be made for a longer meeting.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At St Thomas à Becket, collective worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Collective worship in our Church school aims to enable every child and adult to flourish and "to live life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

We aim for collective worship to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and based upon Christian teaching and values. It aims to give opportunities for all present to grow spiritually, whatever their personal philosophy, or whether or not they come from a faith background.

Through collective worship, children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. This will include being invited to participate in prayer, reading and reflection from the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in our six core Christian values of friendship, respect, truth, forgiveness, thankfulness and perseverance. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and world faiths) calendar. All present will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Monday: Picture News Worship
Tuesday: Singing Worship
Wednesday: Whole School Worship
Thursday: Church Worship
Friday: Celebration Worship

OUR STAFF

Headteacher: Mrs Chloe Stobbart
Admin & Finance Officer: Mrs Vicki Morris
Y 4/5/6 Class Teacher: Mrs Natasha Erscott
Y2/3 Class Teacher: Mrs Erin Webb
N/R/1 Class Teacher: Mrs Sara Jackson
SENCO: Mrs Steph Baggaley (Thursday AM)

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Leanne Blake
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Elka Priddin
Teaching Assistant & Nursery Keyworker: Mrs Carlie Ward
Teaching Assistant & ELSA: Mrs Rachel Negus-Skelton
MDSA & Club Supervisor: Ms Becky Stone
MDSA: Mrs Saadia Izem







UNIFORM

School Uniform

- Grey trousers or skirt (Summer – grey shorts or blue checked dress)
- Yellow Polo shirt (school logo optional)
- Blue sweatshirt or sweat cardigan with the school logo
- Grey socks or tights or white socks
- Black shoes (Velcro, buckle or lace up)
- In summer – supportive sandals may be worn please note at no time should heels, flip-flops or backless shoes be worn
- A pair of wellingtons to be kept in school for outdoor play
- Blue Book Bag (will contain your child's reading book and record)
- A named water bottle

PE Kit

- Blue sports hoodie with school badge or plain black/navy/blue jumper
- Black or navy shorts/jogging bottoms
- Plain t-shirt in white or house colour (t-shirt with school badge optional)
- Daps or trainers (YR/Y1) Trainers
- Please note that branded items are not accepted as school uniform.

Forest School

- Wellies
- Old clothes
- Waterproof coat

Swimming

- swimming costume
- towel
- goggles (if they use them)
- Swimming bag

To order branded school uniform go to https://www.gooddies.co.uk/product-category/schools/st-thomas-a-beckett-primary-school-salisbury/



FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School is a child-led approach to learning that incorporates children's right to play, to access the outdoor environment and to feel success. It consists of regular outdoor sessions in natural environments to enable children to develop confidence through hands-on learning. Forest School is an important part of our curriculum at St Thomas à Becket and something in which we believe every child is entitled. Every child has Forest School every Friday, with the whole school together. These sessions are led by Mrs Jackson, our Forest School Leader, on our dedicated Forest School site.

Forest School has been shown to:

- increase self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improve co-operation, communication skills and awareness of others
- Increase motivation, self-discovery and positive attitude towards learning
- Encourage ownership and pride in the local environment
- Encourage a better understanding of the outdoors
- Increase the skills and knowledge.
- Children are encouraged to work out problems for themselves and take the lead, whether through identifying safe trees to climb or discovering and mapping ant nests. They go out whatever the weather, snow, hail or sunshine.



INFORMATION

SEND

If you have concerns about your child's learning please do come in and speak to us. If a child has special educational needs we will arrange extra meetings with parents and professionals when required.

If we have concerns about any additional educational needs the child will be monitored, concerns will be shared with parents and possibly outside agencies if needed.
Our SENCO is Mrs Stephanie Baggaley and she is in school on Thursday mornings.

Safeguarding

St Thomas à Becket CE (Aided) Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

If you have about concerns about the health and safety or well-being of a child at this school, or feel that something may be troubling them, you should share this information with an appropriate member of school staff immediately.

Do not worry that you may be reporting small matters – we would rather you tell us things that turn out to be small than have us miss a worrying situation.

If you think the matter is very serious and may be related to a child protection concern for example, physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect, you must talk to one of the people below immediately.



Miss Chloe Stobbart
DSL



Mrs Elka Priddin
D/DSL

Ms Nicki Boast
DSL



SCHOOL MEALS

Lunches

Children in Years R to year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch and children in other years may order lunch at a cost of £2.60 per day. Our lunches are freshly made each day at another local primary school.

If your child is not having a hot lunch, he/she will need to bring a packed lunch in a named lunch bag or box. All the children eat their lunch in our Woodpecker room. We encourage healthy packed lunches. If your child is not eating all their lunch or finishing their drink, please do let their teacher know and we can ask the lunch supervisors to encourage them to do so.

Snacks

Free fruit is provided for children at break time until the end of Year 2. Key Stage 2 children may bring fruit to or an extra sandwich to eat at break. We are a healthy school and children are not allowed to eat sweets, biscuits or crisps at break time.
The children have regular access to drinking water either in their classroom or from the outside water fountain.

Free milk is available until your child reaches their fifth birthday.

We are a nut free school. Please do not send in food items which include nuts (e.g. peanut butter, cereal bars with nuts).



WRAP AROUND CARE

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club opens at 7.30am and includes a delicious breakfast of cereals, toast and juice. You do not need to book and will be charged at the end of the term via Arbor.
7.30am-8.35am £5
7.45am-8.35am £4
8.25am-8.35am £1

After School Clubs

We offer a wide range of after school clubs from fashion and carpentry to ukulele. Please see the website for the current term's offer or look for the posters in school. If you would like to book a club then please do so through School Comms or speak to Mrs Morris in the office.

Wrap Around Care

As well as after our club provision which finishes at 4.15pm, we also offer extended care on a tiered payment system until 5.30pm. Please book via Arbor.

- Extended Care Monday to Thursday
- Option A: 3.15pm - 4.15pm £5.00 per child (club)
- Option B: 3.15pm-5.00pm £7.50 per child
- Option C: 3.15pm - 5.30pm £9.50 per child





ILLNESS

If your child is unwell and not able to come to school, please let us know by ringing the school before 8.45am on **01980 620435.** There is an answerphone, if you need to leave a message.

Please make sure we always have your correct contact telephone numbers (especially mobile phones) just in case your child is unwell during the school day and we need to contact you.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep him/her at home until he/she has been clear of all symptoms for 48 hours. This is to stop infections spreading through the class and school.
Please ensure that we are informed about any medical conditions (asthma, allergies etc).

Medication in school

If your child has prescribed medication e.g. asthma inhaler or antibiotics that is prescribed for four times or more a day, please complete a medication form available from the school office. We will need a completed form and the medication in its original bottle with prescription label in order to prescribe it.



INFORMATION

Individual Music Tuition

We currently offer individual music tuition in:

- singing
- keyboard

If you would like your child to start music lessons, please enquire at the school office. . If you are interested in your child learning an instrument that is not listed above then please do ask as we are looking to expand our lesson provision.e.

The Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA)

All parents are automatically members of the PTFA.

We have a dedicated band of parents who organise various events throughout the year and raise much-needed funds for the school. All help, however small, is welcome. The PTFA hold meetings to which all are welcome and if you would like to assist or join the committee please speak to any committee member or ask at the school office.

Over the past few years the PFTA have done fantastic work purchasing everyday essentials for the school such as books for the library, educational games, ICT programmes, design technology and art resources as well as some larger items such as the portable staging used in both school & the church, laptops and our play trail. They also help support the cost of school trips and the school Christmas party with gifts for all the children



INFORMATION

Keeping you informed

School website: www.st-thomas-a-becket.wilts.sch.uk the website is regularly updated with news and events in school. It also contains copies of newsletters, term dates, school information and all the key policies as well as curriculum information and performance data.

Newsletters: We have a regular newsletter which we try and send out at least once a month. This will contain dates of events and other information.

Noticeboard: Copies of notices and key dates are put into the outside notice board by the gate.

Facebook: The school has a closed Facebook group which keeps parents up to date with notices and events but cannot be seen by general members of the public. If you wish to join please speak to a member of staff. We also have a public Facebook page.

Letters: We send letters home when we need to let you know about an event which means the children will be off the school site – e.g. sports or educational visits and we need written permission. To save the cost of paper and photocopying we do, subject to your agreement, send as much information as possible via email. If a letter needs a written response we will send a paper copy.

Information on progress: The teachers make continued Assessments for Learning while they are teaching to monitor the children's progress and more formal termly assessments take place three times a year. In Terms 2 and 4 there are parents' evenings to discuss your child's achievement and progress. In Term 6 end of year reports are sent home and there is an opportunity to book an appointment with the teacher if you wish.

If anything arises during the school year we will contact you to discuss these. Likewise please let us know if you have anything you would like to talk to us about.



INFORMATION

Payments to School

All payments for clubs, trips etc. have to be made electronically via Arbor.

We, as do all schools, rely on parents making voluntary contributions towards swimming and school trips. Swimming in particular is a large cost to the school and whilst we realise that it is a statutory requirement, we do not receive any funding from the government to cover the cost of transport, pool fees, lifeguards and swimming teachers.

Payment methods (We are now a cash-free school):

- Via Arbor
- Childcare vouchers.(Before and After school clubs only)

Contact

Admin & Finance Officer Mrs Vicki Morris
admin@stthomas.equamead.org
Headteacher/DSL Miss Chloe Stobbart
head@stthomas.equamead.org
SENCO Mrs Steph Baggaley
sbaggaley@stthomas.equamead.org
Chair of Governors Mr Keith Ratcliffe
kratcliffe@stthomas.equamead.org

Please find our parent/pupil/carer privacy notice on our website here www.st-thomas-a-becket.wilts.sch.uk/GDPR .