

Tuesday 12th September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

I'd like to welcome our new Reception children and their families who are settling in really well. We wish all our new families a special St Thomas' welcome, and we hope they will continue to enjoy their time at St Thomas' School. We look forward to working with you.

I am delighted to be able to write my first letter as Associate Headteacher of St Thomas' Church of England Primary School. All the staff and children have made me feel very welcome and I feel privileged to be joining your school community. Being a mother of two children, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is evident in all areas.

My priority as Associate Headteacher, working alongside Mr Hall, is to ensure that St Thomas' continues to aim to become an outstanding school. Not only do I want to get to know the pupils, staff and school community this term but also begin to build an excellent team to work alongside me. This is to ensure we are able to meet the needs of all our pupils to achieve their full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical, moral and spiritual development.

Within the context of Christian belief and practice, our school has developed a set of core values which will continue to underpin all the work we do. These values will have a huge impact as your child develops. They help to deepen their positive values and in doing so, help them consider the implications of their choices in relation to themselves, the communities from which they are a part and the wider world.

I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is, in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. I strongly believe achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand to ensure each child's excellent progress. I hope you will support our high expectations in all areas, especially in behaviour and achievement.

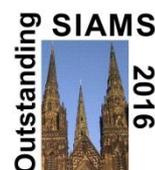
I am sure I will be meeting many parents over the next term. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries, concerns or there is anything I can do to help and support you with your child's learning and school life.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued commitment and support towards the staff and pupils of this school.

Yours sincerely,

L Toach

Mrs L Toach
Associate Headteacher
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New Year Notices and Reminders

Leadership Team

Over the next term I look forward to working closely with Mr Hall (Head of School) to further develop the fantastic work that is taking place within our school community. We are also delighted to announce Mrs Fry, Miss Ackerley and Mrs Ashton (formerly Miss King) will be joining our Leadership Team as Senior Teachers.

New staff

We have recently been joined by a number of new staff across various roles. We wish them every success in their work with our pupils and are delighted to have them joining us.

Miss H Bolton - Year 1 teacher
Mrs C Smith - Receptionist
Mrs L Cotton - 1 to 1 support
Mrs K Howden - 1 to 1 support

School Office

As Mrs Prince begins her new role across both St Thomas' and The King's, she has been joined in the office by Mrs Smith, whom I am sure, over the coming weeks, many of you will get to meet or speak to on the phone. Mrs Smith has worked in a school office for a number of years but it will obviously take a little time for her to get to know all the families here at St Thomas', so it would be helpful if, when you telephone, leave a message, or call in to collect your child, you give your child's full name and class. Thank you.

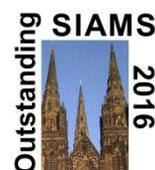
School Uniform

Boys	Girls
Grey Trousers or Shorts	Grey Skirt, Trousers or Pinafore
Red Sweatshirt	Red/White Gingham Dress (Summer)
White Polo Shirt	Red Sweatshirt/Cardigan
Grey or Black Socks	White Polo Shirt
Black Shoes	Red/White/Grey Socks or Tights
	Black Shoes

Your child must wear the correct school uniform, with sensible black school shoes (no markings/colours etc). Please ensure you write your child's name on all uniform and PE kit. The correct PE kit must also be worn – white t-shirt (no sports tops) and plain black shorts (no markings or brand names). We will be strictly enforcing this over the next term.

Car Park

By now you may have noticed that over the summer break we've had a barrier installed at the entrance to the car park. This is to improve both the safety (by slowing down vehicles approaching the school) and security (by restricting access) of the school site. From the end of this week it will be in operation between 8.20am and 3.10pm.



May I take this opportunity to remind you that the car park is for use by staff and visitors to the school only and should **not** be used when dropping off or collecting children at the start or end of the school day, even if you are running late! Exceptions to this rule are:

- Parents using the Breakfast Club and arriving before 8.20am.
- Parents collecting pupils from an after school club.
- Blue badge holders, who need to get out of the car to accompany or collect a child. (It is not available for blue badge holders who have an able bodied person with them who is able to walk to collect/drop off a child). May we politely request that, at the end of the school day, blue badge holders do not arrive until the barrier is raised at 3.10pm.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A vacancy exists on our School Governing body and I am inviting any interested parents to stand for election. Full details of the role of governors can be found on the Department of Education website: www.education.gov.uk under Leadership and Governance where the following brief definition can be found:

School governors are drawn from different parts of the community and can be parents and staff or from the LA, the community and other groups. This helps ensure the governing body has sufficient diversity of views and experience but does not mean governors of a particular category represent that group on the governing body. For example, parent governors do not represent the parents at the school and do not report back to them.

Parent governors are appointed for a period of up to four years, irrespective of whether their child remains in school during that period. Parents who are willing and able to stand for election should obtain a nomination form from the school office which will need to be signed by the candidate and two other parents. For the purposes of election 'parent' includes step parent, guardian or other persons having parental responsibility. Parents employed by the school for more than 500 hours per year are not eligible to apply. All nomination forms should be received by Wednesday 27th September. In the event of two or more nominations being received a parental ballot will be held.

Planners

By now the children will have brought home their brand new planners and we ask that, as soon as possible, you complete and sign the consent pages at the front. This is so important as it gives us consent for photos, website, Facebook, local trips and updates on any allergies etc. Kindly ensure that planners are filled in by Friday 15th September at the latest - it's really time consuming having to chase parents so please do your best on this one! The planners are an important communication channel as well as containing helpful curriculum information for your child. They are expensive so, if they get lost or damaged beyond use, you may be asked to pay for a replacement – currently £4 but we only order a few spares so please look after them!

Other correspondence to look out for this week includes:

- **Class information** – useful information from your child's class teacher regarding class learning and routines.
- **Year Planner** – a diary of school events for the coming year.
- **After School Extra Curricular Clubs** – details of the clubs on offer this term for pupils in Years 1 to 6.
- **Reading @ St Thomas** – an overview of the school's reading scheme.

