



# St Thomas à Becket C of E (Aided) Primary School

With faith and nurture we flourish

## Core values

Friendship, Respect, Truth, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Perseverance

### Welcome back!

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we rapidly approach the start of the new school year, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself.

I am absolutely delighted to be taking up the position of Interim Headteacher at St Thomas à Becket Primary School and I look forward to working with you all as we begin a new chapter in this wonderful school's journey. Whilst the announcement of Mrs Meredith stepping down at the end of last year will have come as a surprise to many of you, I can assure you that myself and Mrs Scaplehorn have been working behind the scenes this summer so we are ready to hit the ground running. I will be on site on Mondays and Tuesdays and I am very much looking forward to greeting you on the gate come rain or shine on 6th September!

We are all really looking forward to having the children back in school and we are all praying for an uninterrupted year! I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new starters to the school who I'm sure will settle very quickly into our lovely school.

Kind regards

Mr Chris Light

### Chough class update

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Elsdon has been appointed to be the teacher in Choughs class every morning. Choughs and Kestrels will be taught by a combination of Mrs Elsdon and Mrs Scaplehorn in the afternoons. Mrs Elsdon comes with a wealth of experience, including mixed age ranges and smaller schools. She will be updating the Choughs class page to introduce herself properly but I know she can't wait to get started.

### The School Day

Please can we remind parents that in order for the school day to start promptly at 8.50am, children need to be in their seats ready to learn. Classroom doors open at 8.40am to give pupils the time they need to come and get settled. We also offer Early Birds provision from 8am in Chough Class at the cost of £1 per session.

The school day finishes at 3.15pm.

The school day will work slightly differently as Covid restrictions have been relaxed. There is no longer a need to check temperatures before entering the school however parents are still required to wait outside the gates. The following arrangements will now be in place at drop off time:

Skylarks: to be met at the gate by Mrs Priddin or Miss Stobbart

Choughs: to come in through the main school door

Kestrels: to go straight to their classroom via the playground

### Covid-19

In line with the latest guidance, we will be writing a new risk assessment and “outbreak management plan” which will be made available on the school website as soon as possible.

As you will be aware, the guidance around self isolation changed on 16th August. Full guidance can be found [here](#).

With case numbers rising across Wiltshire, I'd like to please remain vigilant and keep your child off school if there have any of the following symptoms until the return of a negative PCR test:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### PE

PH Sports will continue to teach PE to all classes on Wednesday afternoons. Kestrel Class will also have Dauntsey's Outreach on Monday mornings. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school at all times.

### Uniform

Please make sure that each item of your child's school uniform is named.

### Dates for the diary (further key dates to follow)

**Wednesday 20th October** – last day of term 1

**Monday 1st November** – start of Term 2

### 2020/2021 TD Days

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Friday 17th December 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 25th April 2022

Monday 6th June 2022

### Forest School

Choughs and Kestrels will have Forest School this term on Thursday afternoons. **They will be having their first session on the first day back (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September).** The children will go out whatever the weather so please can you ensure your child has a suitable change of clothes with waterproof coat, wellies or waterproof shoes, long sleeved top and trousers. There is a strong possibility the children will get dirty so don't send them in anything nice!

We will need parent helpers for each session so please can you email Mrs Scorgie [admin@st-thomas-a-becket.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-thomas-a-becket.wilts.sch.uk) if you can help.

### Homework

We are looking to review our homework policy this term so for the first few weeks we would like pupils to focus on reading and times table fluency. For the time being, we will continue to use EdShed to practise times tables and number bonds, however, spelling will now be taught in school in line with our new scheme. During the first week, class teachers will check that each child has a suitable book to read and it is expected that they read daily. Children will also be given a new homework project to complete.

