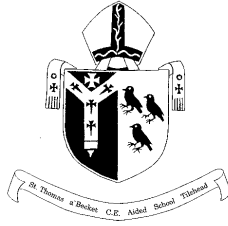


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St Thomas à Becket CE (Aided) School
Tilshead
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP3 4RZ
4th March 2010

2010 Report to the Parish Council from St Thomas à Becket School

Numbers on role and classes

At present we have 52 children on role. In September this is predicted to rise to 57, there are only 3 year 6 children leaving and 8 due to start in the Foundation year. Since September 2009 we have been running 3 classes every morning and 2 afternoons;

Class 1 – Foundation and Year 1, 16 children, teacher Miss Fanner

Class 2 – Years 2 and 3, 17 children, teacher Mrs Trickey

Class 3 – Years 4,5 &6. 19 children, teacher Mrs Meredith

On the other 3 afternoons we return to 2 classes. If the budget allows we are hoping to increase the amount of time we run 3 classes in September 2010

Standards

We continue to focus on raising standards which is monitored by Wiltshire and nationally. We aim to be able to show that all children make good progress whilst at the school. Not only do we aim for better than average results we also want children to make good progress from what ever level they start at. Having analysed the last set of assessments I am confident that we would be judged good by the latest OFSTED criteria in standards of achievement and teaching and learning.

Buildings

I am aware that whilst we are able to provide high quality teaching and learning and benefit from a caring and safe environment we desperately need to improve the learning environment, especially the separate building which is now used as a classroom, diner hall, assembly room and occasional PE space for the younger children. The environment is not up to the standard of the rest of the school. Unfortunately our bid

for funding to build a new classroom and much needed hall was not successful, so we have to review our options.

Staffing and Governors

The school now runs under "Shared Headship." I wish to thank the governors for their support in facilitating the change. In September 2010 I started a phased retirement, relinquishing my teaching commitment of 2 days a week; this enables me to focus on the role of headteacher on the remaining 3 days when I am in school. My teaching commitment of 2 days a week is now covered by other teachers. Mrs Trickey became full time and is acting head on the days when I am not working (usually Monday and Wednesday). The change is working well as the children benefit from having the same teacher every morning when they focus on learning to read, write and be numerate. We have benefited from Mrs Trickey gaining leadership skills and focussed input on moving the school forward. We welcome Deirdre Shannon who is working across the school, covering teacher's PPA time (planning preparation and assessment) and taking class 3 for science. We have lost several Governors over the last year. I would like to say thank you to them all, Carol Mellow, Silke Nerger and especially George Smith who was our LEA and finance governor for many years. Welcome to Rob Mockridge, Deborah Stainer and Lieutenant Ritchie who have joined us as Foundation Governors. We still have vacancies for an LEA Governor and a Foundation Governor.

PTFA

Siobhan Ridley (Chair) and her team are continuing to work hard to raise funds to raise money for the school. Thank you to all the villagers who support the wide range of events that the PTFA organise over the year including regular bingo evenings, the summer fete, autumn craft fair and sponsored bike ride. This year they have paid for a fantastic new play house/shed for Class 1, a portable full size keyboard and a digital camera and are planning to fund some new outdoor play equipment for the playground.

Community Cohesion

This is one of the latest OFSTED criteria, we very much feel part of the local community and value all the support you give the school and hope that the school, along with the church, is at the heart of the village. We welcome visits from local people, if anyone feels they have a skill to offer we will find a way to use it to enhance the school community.

Diana Bowley