



St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School

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School Report Overview – April 2026

It has been another exceptionally busy and rewarding academic year at **St Thomas'**. As I move through my second year as Headteacher, I continue to feel immensely privileged to lead such a vibrant, dedicated, and flourishing school community.

Our school has continued its trajectory of growth, and we currently have **148 children on roll**. I am incredibly proud to share that, as of April 2026, we are recognised as one of the **most oversubscribed schools in East Sussex**. This is a clear reflection of the high regard in which our school is held and the hard work of our entire staff team.

We continue to deliver high-quality education through our five mixed-age classes:

- **Rookery:** Reception and Year 1
- **Greyfriars:** Years 1 and 2
- **Armoury:** Years 2 and 3
- **Castle Class:** Years 4 and 5
- **Mariteau:** Years 5 and 6



Spiritual Life and Community

Collective worship remains the heartbeat of our daily life. This year, we have been delighted to welcome our new **Rector, Reverend Nathaneal Hayler**, who has been a regular and inspiring presence in our school. He has led several of our Church services and Collective Worship sessions, strengthening the deep-rooted links between the school and St Thomas' Church.

Our focus value for this term is **Compassion**. In our reflections, the children have been exploring how we can show kindness and understanding to one another, both within our school family and the wider world. We also remain grateful to the residents of Winchelsea who support our **Open the Book** project, continuing to bring Bible stories to life for our pupils in such an engaging way.



Enhancing Our Environment

We are thrilled to report vast improvements to our school building and grounds over the past twelve months. These developments have been designed to provide our pupils with the very best environment for learning and discovery:



- **The New Library:** We have completely transformed our library space into a modern, inviting hub for reading, equipped with a diverse range of new titles to inspire a lifelong love of literature.
- **Outside Areas:** Our outdoor learning spaces have seen significant investment, creating more interactive and engaging environments for play and exploration.
- **Maintenance:** We continue to be supported by the generosity of our community, whose help with gardening and donations has made a tangible difference to the "look and feel" of our school.

Sporting Achievements and Creative Curriculum

As part of the **Hastings Sports Cluster**, our pupils have continued to excel in a variety of disciplines, including Cross Country, Football, Athletics, and Netball. We remain particularly proud of those children who represent the school at the county level.

Our commitment to a broad and creative curriculum remains steadfast:

- **Outdoor Learning:** Every class continues to participate in **Forest School** sessions, with Castle Class enjoying the unique benefits of our **Beach School** programme.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** We have prioritised opportunities for the children to experience the arts, including visits to **Glyndebourne** and performance opportunities at the **De La Warr Pavilion**.



Looking Ahead

As we approach Term 6, we are eager to make full use of our **outdoor swimming pool**. Our goal remains to ensure every child is a confident swimmer before they leave primary school, bolstered by our links with **Rye Swimming Pool** for advanced life-saving skills.

Our **PTA** continues to have a huge impact, raising essential funds that directly support these projects and resources. We thank them, and all our parents and carers, for their unwavering support.

Mr Dale Saxby Headteacher St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School

To keep up to date with daily life at the school, please view our latest newsletters on the school website.

