



# St Thomas' RC Primary Arbroath

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(Please contact the school office)

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## CONTACT DETAILS

<b>School Name</b>	St Thomas RC Primary School
<b>Address</b>	Abbey View Campus, Hayshead Road, Arbroath, DD11 5FE
<b>Telephone Number</b>	01241 465428
<b>Website</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	st-thomas@angusschools.org.uk
<b>Head Teacher's name</b>	Mrs Sarah Reid
<b>Class Stages</b>	ELC, P1/2, P2/3, P3/4, P5/6, P6/7
<b>Present Roll</b>	116
<b>Denominational Status</b>	Roman Catholic

Does the school teach by means of the Gaelic Language: No

St Thomas RC Primary School 8:45am – 15:05pm

St Thomas ELC – 8:45am – 14.45pm

## VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2010/11/10093528/0>

Once your child has been allocated a place we will invite you to meet the staff and children, find out more about the curriculum and share information about your child.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Children at St Thomas' are encouraged to wear the school uniform, which can be purchased from local stockists. The recommended uniform is:-

**Girls** White Blouse, School Tie, Grey Skirt/Trousers, Wine Sweatshirt, and Black school shoes.

**Boys** White Shirt, School Tie, Grey Trousers, Wine Sweatshirt, and Black School Shoes.

\* Sweatshirts, Pinafore's, Fleece's, School Jackets can be purchased online from Border-Embroideries - [www.border-embroideries.co.uk](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk)



PE Kit: White T-shirt, black shorts and gym shoes in a bag with pupil's name.

**All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way. It is difficult for children to distinguish their clothing from others.**

## **PARENTAL CONCERNS**

Contact the school immediately if you have a concern. We want to deal with all matters as early as possible. Contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team contact:

- **Mrs Sarah Reid, Head Teacher - 01241465428**

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up with a telephone call approximately one week later. This is to ensure all matters have been resolved.

## **THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/complaints\\_and\\_comments/make\\_a\\_complaint\\_about\\_a\\_council\\_service](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/complaints_and_comments/make_a_complaint_about_a_council_service)

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

### **BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL**

We value the important part parents play in their children's education. We see partnership with parents as way to enhance children's achievements and promote better school ethos and communication.

*Opportunities for Parental Involvement:*

*During the school day:*

- *Helping in the nursery class*
- *Art/Craft activities*
- *Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspect of the curriculum, e.g. topic talk, history, science, health*
- *Practical activities in science, maths, social subjects, health education (e.g. first aid) or technology*
- *Reading stories to groups of children, playing reading/phonics games*
- *Supervising board games*
- *Teaching playground games*
- *Golden Time activities e.g. board games, art and craft in small groups*
- *Running or assisting to run a Lunch Club*
- *Supporting educational visits/trips*
- *School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children*
- *Road safety – Cycle Training*

Outwith the school day:

- Fundraising events
- Trips e.g. sporting events, concerts
- Extra-curricular activities e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/country dancing/school grounds – maintenance of garden/allotment areas

**If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.**

Parents are invited to attend two Parents Evenings during the school year. There you will meet your child's class teacher for a ten minute interview and hear about your child's progress. It's also an opportunity to hear how you can best support your child's learning.

We would encourage you to look at your child's learning log with them on a daily or weekly basis.

Support as appropriate the completion of homework as advised by the school.

## SCHOOL ETHOS

We are committed to developing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. We do this through the ethos and the curriculum. We do this in partnership with parents and take account of the needs of pupils and the views of parents.

We welcome and encourage diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others and compassion and justice. All who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement council policy on equal opportunities and racial equality. All pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.



School life is more than merely learning to spell correctly or be able to work out the answer to a sum. It is about understanding self-worth and respecting the value of those around us. Here at St Thomas', our staff believe the strongest method of teaching is leading by example. The embedded spirit of fellowship is the underpinning message which pupils and their families experience as part of our school family.

Each member of staff has their own unique talent which they share, enhancing the experience and functionality of our 'wee community' – we demonstrate for the children the benefits of respect and co-operation. Having the genuine confidence to be an effective contributor and a respected, respectful member of our world is key to a successful life. This ideal is our vocation and your child's right and responsibility.

From Pre-School through to Primary 7 (and often back to Nursery as the next generations return), the journey of life's learning is built upon the well balanced foundations we offer. Together, we present to the world, hope for the future – our children.

### Our Vision, Values and Aims



## St Thomas RC School Aims

- ✓ **Ethos**  
In St Thomas RC Primary, we create a happy, inclusive and safe environment, where children, staff and community can celebrate their faith and diversity.
- ✓ **Learning and Teaching**  
In St Thomas RC Primary we are committed to providing all children with learning experiences which support and challenge them to reach their full potential.
- ✓ **Health and Wellbeing**  
In St Thomas RC Primary, we strive to provide a nurturing and caring environment where learners are supported in all areas of their wellbeing.
- ✓ **Partnership**  
In St Thomas RC Primary we collaborate with pupils, families, our church and the wider community to establish partnerships which meet the needs of all learners.

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Any School is an integral part of the community of Any Town. Children develop skills and learn to be better citizens as they engage with and support the work of the local community. Our pupils participate in community events and competitions organized by the churches, Inner Wheel and Rotary Club. They visit the elderly at Harvest Time and take part in sporting and cultural events.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools\\_and\\_young\\_people/parent\\_and\\_pupil\\_guidance/anti\\_bullying\\_policy](https://www.angus.gov.uk/schools_and_young_people/parent_and_pupil_guidance/anti_bullying_policy)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in this. The rules of the school are of a common sense nature, bearing in mind the interest and safety of all concerned.

They are very much based around the Rights and Responsibilities of the UNCRC and the children are presently developing school and classroom charters.

The charters below were made by different classes. All pupils discussed and agreed how they should behave and work in class and then put together their charter. Each pupil and staff member have signed the agreement to share the responsibility of promoting a positive learning environment.

We implement the Class Dojo award points programme throughout the school and in all classes where the children are rewarded for consistent good behaviour.



## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children work hardest when they know their work will be appreciated and praised. Staff encourage pupils at all times and in all activities to give their best. Their effort may be rewarded verbally by praise, or non-verbally by a smiley face or sticker.

Assemblies are held weekly and during them individual awards are given for successful learners, effective contributors, responsible citizens, confident individuals, group, class and individual out of school achievements are also celebrated.

Class teachers reward children for effort as well as achievement through Dojo, an

electronic programme tracking learning and behaviour, and this is communicated to parents on a daily basis.

The school has developed a 4 house system of Abbey, Bellrock, Condor and Declaration which supports healthy competition and teamwork amongst the children and adult helpers. Each house has a House Captain and a Vice-captain. The House captains represent the children in the form of a pupil voice which is working very well.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Extra curricular clubs will run throughout the year, examples of these would be;

- Scottish Country Dancing
- Basketball
- Netball
- Football
- Cricket
- Dodgeball
- Glow Football

The above opportunities will be shared with your child during an assembly. If they are interested they should ask for an application form from the school office. The form should be completed and signed by a responsible adult in the family home and returned to school.

## **PUPIL COUNCIL**

There is an active Pupil Council at Any school. It includes representatives from all classes. The Pupil Council members are elected by their class peers at the beginning of session. They hold office for one year. Throughout the year they will meet regularly with a member of the management team. They will be involved in taking forward school improvement priorities and addressing issues as they occur.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-op Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of development. This will be shared with parents through the termly overview, homework diary and Dojo and parents will be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home or visit the school to share a talk.

Parents will be invited to share and comment regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to feedback their comments at any time through their child's homework diary or dojo.



## **THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE**

We encourage feedback from our pupils and parents on how we can improve outcomes for all our children, in the school and Early Learning Centre. Class teachers will regularly share learning and news from their classrooms on Class Dojo and we encourage comments or questions from home. In our Early Learning Centre, all children have an online Learning Journal which tracks their progress in learning throughout their time with us. Parents can access this from home and share learning that is taking place at home also.

## **THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL**

The school Twitter page, Dojo and the Parent Council Facebook page is a source of considerable information, illustrating the work of all classes across the school. We also hold regular open afternoons, which give parents/carers and friends the opportunity to join the classes and look at the work the children do in school. Parents/carers are also regularly invited to events in the school and parish, where children share their learning with everyone.

More local information can be found through the link above and national information from the numerous sources listed at the back of the handbook.

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE**

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers sessions between XX, X days a week, over XX weeks of the year. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at [www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears](http://www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears).

## **LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The school maintains close links with *Arbroath Academy and Arbroath High School* and other Primary Schools within the Angus Area. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (School Specific)**

### **MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**

Having recently moved in to a new school building, the staff and children have enjoyed settling in this session. We are happy to be in a shared campus and look forward to the joint working that will take place with Hayshead Primary. The schools vision statement of

'Strive to Thrive' is becoming embedded across the school and we have reviewed our values and aims. We have a close relationship with the Parish of St Thomas, and Fr Andrew is regularly in school to support the spiritual development of the children.

(refer to School Standards and Quality Report)

## **IMPROVING STANDARDS**

We have worked hard this session to focus on the Health and Wellbeing of our children returning to school. Staff are focussed on developing resilience and supporting improved outcomes for mental health. We have a nurturing approach in St Thomas which helps the children to feel supported when facing challenges.

Raising attainment across Literacy and Numeracy continues to be a focus in St Thomas. With a high percentage of children who have English as an additional language, we have worked hard to ensure staff have a good understanding of the development of language acquisition, through training and development.

We have been developing Digital Learning within St Thomas. Each class has a set of iPads, and our P5-7 children all have Chromebooks to enhance their learning and independence in school.

(refer to School Standards and Quality Report)

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

At St Thomas we aim to work with parents, pupils and staff to ensure our improvement priorities meet the needs of our school community. We will continue to work together to raise attainment in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Ensuring all staff have relevant and up to date training to support the children.

Children in St Thomas will be developing their skills for Learning, Life and, engaging with 'My World of Work' and tracking achievements outside of school. We will be developing our Eco Schools group and taking part in Laudato Si, recently launched by Pope Francis.

Children in St Thomas' will be developing their skills in talking about their learning. They will be learning how to better assess their own learning and link to feedback given from teachers. The pupil learning council will meet regularly to talk about the learning in classes and ensure consistent learning experiences for all.

(refer to School Improvement Plan)

## HEALTH CARE

**You can contact your school health staff at: -**

Abbey Health Centre

East Abbey Street

Arbroath

DD11 1EN

St Thomas School Nurse – Kirsty-Louise Firth Telephone: 01241430303

## DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for assistance dogs) are not brought into school grounds.

And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

## CHILD PROTECTION COORDINATOR

If we think a child has come to harm as a consequence of possible abuse, we need to report it.

At least one member of staff in each school is responsible for child protection matters. They will have had special training in this area.

**In our school the Child Protection Coordinator(s) are:** Sarah Reid, Head Teacher, Elaine Gallon, Acting Principal Teacher & Julie Cuthill, Class Teacher

If you want to know more about child protection and the safety of children, contact the school. There is also information about child protection on the Angus Council website.

As a school we have good contacts with health professionals, social workers and the police. Any or all of them may offer support, or become involved, if concerns of abuse arise.

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council  
Angus House  
Orchardbank Business Park  
FORFAR  
DD8 1AN  
Tel: 03452 777 778  
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

## ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit [angus.gov.uk/schools](https://angus.gov.uk/schools) for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

## OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at [angus.gov.uk/linksforparents](https://angus.gov.uk/linksforparents)