



St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs M Tucker BA (Hons), PGCE

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Reception,

Early Years – Early Adopter Status

At the end of the academic year, all children in Reception are assessed against a set of Early Learning Goals in different areas of learning. These goals have been changed and updated by the government and will become statutory from September 2021. The Department for Education have offered schools the chance to adopt these goals a year early from September 2020.

At St Thomas of Canterbury, we are always keen to be at the forefront of any changes in education and we are excited to become an ‘early adoption’ school before the statutory implementation next year. New non-statutory guidance to support learning over the Reception year has been released alongside these new early learning goals, this is called Development Matters. Development Matters is not a checklist of things that your child should do, it is guidance for adults who work with children, to help them to support and facilitate your child’s learning journey.

What does this mean for your child?

Nothing will change for your child. We will continue to offer them the highest quality, experiential learning experiences in school and we will continue to develop the whole child, thinking about how they learn and who they are as individuals. A holistic approach will continue to be fostered to help embed a love of learning in all areas.

What does this mean for parents / carers?

Nothing will change for parents/carers. We will continue to support you to the best of our ability and value your opinions and knowledge of your child. We will still record observations and evidence in your child’s profile which will be shared with you at the end of the year.

The teachers have studied the changes and new guidance closely and are quickly becoming secure in what is expected of your child. At the end of the year your child’s teacher will still use their knowledge of your child, alongside some evidence we have gathered throughout the year, to make judgements about whether they have met their early learning goals. This year the Local Authority will not moderate our judgements.

We would hope that the government will ask our opinion of the changes they have made and that we can help to inform the future of early years education.

You can find the detailed 'EYFS early adopter framework- Development Matters' document by clicking the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/914443/Development_Matters_-_Non-statutory_curriculum_guidance_for_the_early_years_foundation_stage_1_.pdf

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support this half term. It has been amazing to see how well all the children have settled into school life.

Kind Regards,

C. Hodges

Mrs Hodges
Acting Assistant Head Teacher – Early Years