

Our plans for 2019-20

Quality of Teaching

We are excited about working closely with our colleagues in the federation between St Thomas' and St Clement & St James schools. Our aim is to ensure the children benefit as much as possible from this new partnership, and through sharing good practice and learning from the strengths at both schools, we believe we will become stronger, together.

LEARN

We recognise that there are some commonalities that all children and classrooms show when the children are making great progress in their learning:

- Loud, clear voices
- Everyone contributes respectfully
- Active listening
- Neat presentation
- Resilience and perseverance

We will be actively looking for children who are consistently showing these attributes and celebrating their achievements as they make progress.

Reading

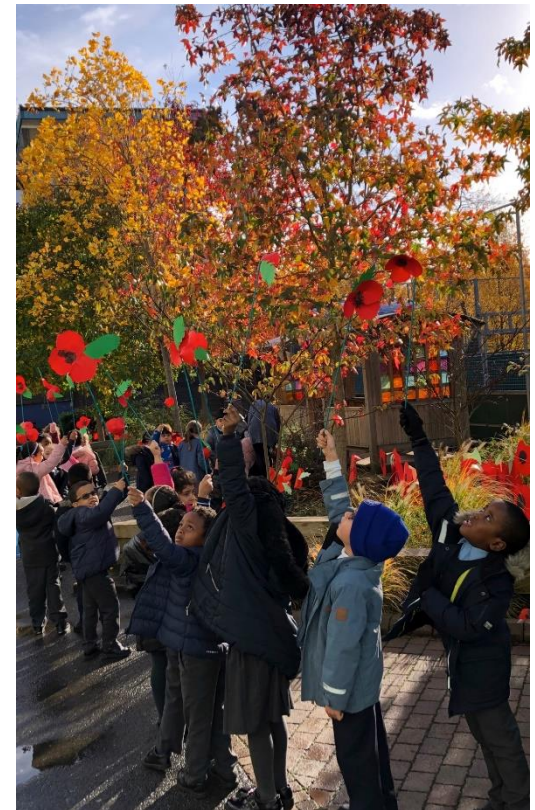
Research shows that children who read purely for the enjoyment of reading tend to do well and are happier generally.

Our aim across the two schools is to develop a real love of reading and passion for literature. As always, we will invest in new books for classrooms and promote books at every opportunity, but this year we are looking for ways to incorporate reading across the whole curriculum. This may be during any subject such as history, geography or science for example, but at every point, we will be pulling out the new subject specific vocabulary and encouraging the children to learn as many new words as possible.



Stronger together

St Thomas' Federation with St Clement and St James. Governors' School Improvement Report 2019-20



The Curriculum

We have always loved the Arts, but this year we will be making every effort to link together more of the curriculum subjects in to our themes; in creative but meaningful ways. Whether the children are studying Africa, World War II or Fire and Ice this Autumn term, the teachers will be looking for ways to incorporate Geography, History and Science for example, in to their planning, to offer a really wide breadth of experience for the children.



We have also noticed how children are able to remember more of their learning in class if we have regular, short mini-quizzes. The children will be challenged to recall what they have learned in previous lessons before moving on to new concepts, knowledge or skills.

If children can talk about what they have learned; are able to recall key facts; can apply their knowledge and make links to learning from previous years, they have a better chance of remembering it all in their long term memory too – and that's what 'learning' is all about.

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Things to be proud of..

We have lots to be proud of at both of our schools. We celebrated 10 years in our school building at St Thomas' in the summer, while a new Early Years 'Owlets Centre' was being built at St Clement and St James'. Having a beautiful environment to work in makes such a difference to the children.

At the end of the last academic year we saw fantastic artwork, stunning displays and exhibitions, and celebrated the SATs results with our departing Year 6 children. Mathematics seems to be a real strength across both schools at the moment. As a result, St Thomas' is now the lead school for developing children's mathematics in a programme that involves supporting seven other local schools.

Finally, we are thrilled to have developed our own Pottery Lane Arts Centre on site at St Clement and St James' school. What a great opportunity for the children to work alongside such talented and creative people. We look forward to seeing the results of this new partnership as it develops over the course of the year.



Moving forward



As you will know, budgets are tightening for schools but we will be doing all we can to ensure, that moving forward, both schools are financially stable. Federating has meant that there are some great opportunities to share our skills and expertise but we will be doing all we can to be efficient with our resources and reduce waste too.

We hope you find this summary helpful. In many ways, communication is the key to success. We're so proud of all our staff and recognise how hard they work to ensure that your children have the best start in life but please keep an eye out for our weekly newsletters and updated websites to learn more about the wonderful experiences the children are having and how you can support us.



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