



Prospectus



Victoria
Church of England
Infant & Nursery School



The
Thomas Coram
Church of England School

Welcome to Castle CE Federation

I am Rebecca Roberts, and it is my honour and privilege to be the Executive Headteacher of the Castle Federation.

We are very proud to work in partnership together, as two Church of England schools in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire:



The Federation strives to create an environment of enjoyment, safety, equity and inclusion where all our children thrive, and we support all pupils and staff to flourish and where we respect and celebrate uniqueness and difference. I feel very lucky and blessed to work with school leaders, governors and staff who are 100% committed to ensuring that the children receive the best possible experiences during their time at Victoria and Thomas Coram. There are exciting curriculum enrichment opportunities and many opportunities for pupils to develop their independence and resilience by taking on additional responsibilities.

The Castle Federation family was created because we believe our schools, pupils and staff gain many benefits from working together.

The schools in the Federation work in partnership to ensure that our subject curriculums are progressive and sequential from Nursery to Year 6. This ensures that children have consistency and a seamless transition in Y3. We believe that ambitious and inspirational leadership is core to any school's success and aim to ensure a culture of high expectation and continual improvement.

Both schools offer guaranteed wrap around care from Nursery to Year 6. We are constantly seeking to ensure consistency for parents who have siblings in both our schools.

As a Church of England federation, we welcome those who live by all faiths or no faith, as partners with whom we build our school communities.

The children in the Federation chose the parable of the mustard seed. The parable of the mustard seed can be a metaphor for our children, who blossom during their time at Victoria and Thomas Coram, ready for the next stage of their journey. Each child is nurtured and enabled to flourish through our teaching and care.

If you would like more information about either schools, please contact them directly.

Kindest regards

Rebecca Roberts
Executive Headteacher



Our Vision & Values

Our vision is flourishing in learning and love.

'Do everything in love' (1 Corinthians 16:14) underpins this vision.

Our values are the ways that we seek to do things. As Church of England Schools, these are rooted in the Christian faith, but are values that are important to us, whatever our faith or background. The values are taught to children in order for them to have a knowledge and understanding of different life values and skills which will help to make them well rounded and valuable member of the community.

We talk and learn about these through our worship and in class, but we try to put them into practice in every situation in our schools.

Our core values that we feel are particularly important to us as a school community are:

Kindness

Resilience

Respect

Thankfulness

Everything we do is underpinned by these core values and by a set of beliefs, which respect the value and potential of each individual and recognise the holistic approach to development.

We also have a duty and responsibility to ensure that our schools promote and develops British Values amongst our pupils.

Kindness Ambassadors



As Kindness is at the heart of both schools, we are delighted that we have been accredited by 52 Lives - School of Kindness.

Both schools have Kindness Ambassadors with the aim to empower children to create kinder classrooms and communities. They meet regularly to explore and plan ways to spread kindness, not only in school, but in the wider community too.

We would love to share with you, our Five Year Strategic Plan, which can be found on our school website.





Castle



Church of England Federation



Welcome to Victoria CE Infant School & Nursery



I am proud to be part of such a happy, caring school where each and every child is highly valued. We encourage all our pupils to reach their full potential, not just academically, but also in their personal development.

We ignite children's curiosity by offering them fun and exciting opportunities to learn about the world around them. We also equip them with important personal qualities such as resilience and empathy. We do this through a broad, balanced, values-based curriculum, delivered in an inclusive and nurturing environment. As a Church of England school, our Christian values underpin everything we do and have a high profile in and outside of our classrooms.

We are lucky to have a fantastic staff team, dedicated to caring for the children and encouraging them to be the best they can be. We are also very well supported by our committed governors, pro-active parents and the Diocese of St Albans.

As part of the Castle Federation, The Thomas Coram Church of England School and Victoria School have aligned the curriculum from Nursery to Year 6, have smooth transitions from KS1 to KS2 and work collaboratively across both schools. We share the same vision and values, ensuring consistency and familiarity as well as having the same procedures, policies, classroom environments, governors and staff.

You can find out more about us by exploring our website but please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information.

Kindest Regards

Lisa Freeman

Head of School



Our Curriculum



Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Nursery and Reception classes follow the DfE statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is a curriculum designed for our youngest pupils. It sets the foundations for learning using play, and first hand experiences.

There are seven areas of learning in the EYFS. The three 'Prime' areas are: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. These cover the most essential skills that are needed to help the children's development. The four 'Specific' areas are: English, Maths, Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding of the World. These are dependent upon the successful application of the Prime areas.

Key Stage 1

For Year 1 and Year 2, we follow the National Curriculum, introduced in September 2014.

The National Curriculum consists of the three core subjects English, Mathematics and Science, together with the foundation subjects: History, Geography, Design Technology, Computing, Music, Art, Physical Education, Personal & Social Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education.

Phonics & Reading

All children at our school have a short daily phonics lesson. These are delivered in a detailed and rigorous way, with the aim of the children becoming fluent readers by age seven. We use a DfE validated programme called Little Wandle. Little Wandle is a comprehensive Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) scheme of work, for the whole school, from Nursery to Year 2. It is fun and interactive so that children look forward to their daily phonics lesson. It enables teachers to build the children's skills progressively over time, ensuring they have a secure base from which to develop.

A full overview of our rich curriculum from Nursery up to Year 2, can be found on our School Website.



Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care is available from 7:30am - 6pm.



At Victoria, we are delighted to offer our very own wraparound care facility that is run after school, with places guaranteed for our pupils that need them. It is run on school grounds, by school staff and offers an invaluable service to parents that need to collect outside the normal times of the school day.

We also have a Breakfast Club on site at Victoria, run by a trusted external provider.



Prayer Bears



Each class has a Prayer Bear who goes home with a child each Friday. Whilst pupils have the bear, they have the opportunity to think about our school values of kindness, respect, resilience and thankfulness. They can write, draw or add photos to the Prayer Bear book to share with us their thoughts and time with the bear. These entries then get shared with the class before the bear goes on its next adventure.

Testimonials

"What an amazing school! Full of opportunities for children to flourish and grow with amazing staff."
Year 2 Parent

"I really enjoyed making lots of friends and our lovely teachers"
Year 2 Pupil



"Children are engaged and motivated, want to learn and so their behaviour for learning is consistently observed to be of a high standard in this school."
SEA Feedback



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Welcome to Thomas Coram CE School

Our aim at TC is to ensure our whole school community are happy and successful in everything they do. We work together with all members of our school community, to build a strong relationship and one that is open and transparent so that our children can achieve their full potential.

I am very proud to lead such a dedicated, hard-working and talented team! We are committed to continuing to provide a superb education, with the very best learning experiences for our children. We are so fortunate with the resources we have as a school: a superb library area, an amazing Forest School and dedicated DT and Art spaces. Not to mention our incredible outdoor space!

We want all of our children to feel safe and secure coming to school. We focus on this by offering our soft starts each day, our dedicated pastoral offering and ensuring that everyone - pupils and staff - embody the TC way. Together, we are proud to be part of Team TC.

Although we are a church school, we welcome children from all faiths and no faith. Our core Christian values are Kindness, Resilience, Respect and Thankfulness. Our school community helped pick these values and are important values to all members of society regardless of faith. I want our children to leave TC having developed these values and be the best possible version of themselves.

We hope that your visit will help you to learn more about our Church of England school, its aims and its aspirations. Do contact us if you have any queries or require additional information.

Kindest Regards

Lucy Daily

Head of School



Our Curriculum



Key Stage 2

At Thomas Coram, we strive to ensure we are giving the children a broad and balanced curriculum. We aim to ensure our lessons are adapted and suited to the classes we are teaching and teachers think carefully about how the pupils in their class learn. We believe every subject is important and we ensure all curriculum areas are taught and given considerable time.

TC Forest School

We are extremely lucky to have our own Forest School that is part of our rich curriculum offer at Thomas Coram.

Forest school is an opportunity for our children to appreciate the beauty of the area that surrounds them. Through carefully planned activities they are able to take calculated risks, spend time working as part of a team, problem solve and learn outdoors skills such as whittling, sawing, lopping; eventually building up to developing fire making skills in a safe yet stimulating way.

KS2 Assessments

In Year 4, all children complete a multiplication test in June, to test their multiplication knowledge. We ensure the children are ready and prepared for this with times table interventions and practise throughout the year.

In Year 6, all children are expected to complete their end of KS2 SATs. The children sit exams in Reading, Maths and SPAG. The children practise throughout the year to ensure they are ready and most of the children last year, said it was their best week of the year due to the SATs breakfast!

A full overview of our rich curriculum from Year 3 up to Year 6, can be found on our School Website.



Wraparound Care

Wraparound Care is available from 7:30am - 6pm.



At Thomas Coram, we are delighted to offer our very own wraparound care facility that is run before and after school, with places guaranteed for our pupils that need them. It is run on school grounds, by school staff and offers an invaluable service to parents that need to collect outside the normal times of the school day.



Extra Curricular Clubs & Activities

We are delighted to offer a vast variety of clubs here at Thomas Coram, both at lunchtime and after school. These provide that 'something extra' for your child's school journey and offer pupils a chance to try something new, build on current skills and mix with children in other classes and year groups. There are 3 types of club on offer at TC; Drop in clubs that do not require booking, Internal clubs that are run by school staff and are free of charge and External clubs that are run by carefully selected companies.

There is also the option for your child to have music lessons during their time at TC. These are run by Herts Music Service & Rocksteady.

Testimonials

"I just want to say a big thank you to all the Year 4 staff for helping my child this year, you have all supported her so much and have been there when she needed it most."

Year 4 parent

"TC is amazing and you won't want to leave! "

Year 6 pupil



"They say that they are happy as pupils at this school and are proud that they are taught in a respectful way. Pupils value this very special school...They say it is safe respectful and they are united as a family."

SEA Feedback



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