



Welcome to St Thomas Garnet's, to the children and staff, to our work and play, to our buildings and to our surroundings.

This prospectus is only a small part of introducing you to the school. A school, as with any community or family, has to be visited if you want to get a feel for its atmosphere, and to know whether it is the right environment for your child. Children should be happy at school. That means that each child is accepted as the individual that he or she is. It means that they are supported and encouraged and challenged to achieve their own personal best. It also means that each child should be helped to feel that within the school community they are important and they have a significant contribution to make. We try to do all these things, and more, for our children at St. Thomas Garnet's.

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ST. THOMAS GARNET'S

The history of the school dates back to the early 1920's. The school was originally the Junior Department of The Boscombe Convent School, and in 1979 when the Convent was amalgamated with St. Peter's and St. Thomas More's to form the present St. Peter's Comprehensive School, a Board of Trustees ensured the survival of the school as St Thomas Garnet's Charitable Trust. We are a primary school for boys and girls between the ages of 5 – 11 with a Kindergarten Department for those aged 3 – 4. This enables us to offer the pre-school child flexible provision from part to full time education. Thus children can get a head start on quality learning that is best suited to their needs. The school naturally operates "Safe Recruitment" when appointing new members of staff. All our staff are fully CRB checked. We have a sound policy in place on this and all Safeguarding Children Matters.

Organisation of the School

The school is currently divided into three main departments – **Kindergarten** 3 areas, **Infants** 3 Classes, and **Juniors** 4 classes. Additionally there is a multi-purpose hall for Assemblies, Physical Education, Music, Drama, School Productions and Games. There are separate Music and Drama rooms. Classes are grouped according to the age of the children. We mainly follow the National Curriculum – but regard this as a starting point. Our independence enables us to offer the chance for pupils to develop their individual strengths within the school curriculum range.

Children are admitted to Kindergarten from 2 years 9 months – they can attend on a part time basis, mornings, afternoons or full days, for you to decide, as your child develops. This is to give you, the parents, the widest possible choice of pre-school education. All boys and girls that attend pre-school wear uniform, and they are taught by very experienced staff.

Children are admitted to the Infants in their 5th year and progress to the Junior Department in the September following their 7th birthday.

Homework and Activity Clubs

This runs from 3.15 to 6.00 and provides an **excellent extension to the school day**. The club is arranged as a very versatile facility for our parents who are invoiced at the end of every half term, thus only being charged for the sessions used. Pupils attending homework club are given a snack of hot toast, crumpets, fruit, sandwiches, hot chocolate and fruit juice, all included in the cost of the session. Please phone Mrs. Fox in the school office should you require more details. A Holiday Club is also in operation. In addition to this, staff offer a variety of after school activities from ICT, Infant Activity Club, gardening, table tennis, netball, football and more. Please ask for details as these clubs vary throughout the year.

Breakfast Club

Pupils may arrive at 8.00 a.m. and have a cooked breakfast with a variety of cereals, toast and fruit. After breakfast pupils can have activities until 8.30 a.m. when they can go to the playground.

The Kindergarten

The staff are always willing to show you around and answer any questions you may have. Should you wish to know more please telephone

01202 - 431286

for an appointment to come and see for yourself. Further details can be found in the Kindergarten Prospectus. Close liaison between the Kindergarten and the Infant department ensures a firm learning foundation and a worry free transition to the main school.

**Uniform is available at
Barretts of Bournemouth ~ telephone 01202 425192**

Or

from our excellent quality second hand shop. Please see the information on the last page of your prospectus.

A separate application must be made in respect of the Main School.

During the half term prior to your child starting in the main school, you will receive an invitation to come along with him/her – to meet their class teacher and for your child to spend some time in the classroom.

Criteria for Admission

The Board of Trustees through the Headteacher determines all admissions. Brothers and sisters of those already on role will be considered ahead of others if there is a limiting situation. Otherwise, admission will be according to date of prior registration. Where an application involves the transfer of children from another school, a report may be sought from the Head of that school. There are no entrance tests for Infants, but children wishing to join our Juniors are tested so we maintain our high standards of Education.



The Curriculum

The broad and balanced curriculum is built on the flexible schemes of work which are designed to promote understanding and training in all the core subjects. Although not bound by the National Curriculum, the School appreciates its value and uses it to enhance the education we offer to your children. The subjects taught are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Art, Drama, Physical Education and Games. French and Spanish are taught in all classes. A wide variety of methods and equipment is in use within the school thus ensuring effective and efficient progression in every subject. Our small class sizes and experienced teaching staff enable us to respond to the individual needs of your children and ensure that they are working to develop their skills and true potential. Children in their final year are prepared for entrance examinations for their chosen Senior School. Homework is set at all levels.



Expressive Arts

The school recognises children's artistic talents and offers the opportunity to develop and expand these through a variety of mediums. We regularly enter for local and national competitions and have gained success at both levels.





Music

The school has a strong, flourishing musical tradition. As well as class music lessons there are opportunities to join the choir, instrumental groups, ensembles and the orchestra. Extra tuition is offered in pianoforte, strings, drums, woodwind, flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar and keyboard.



There is a well equipped music room with a large selection of percussion band instruments and a variety of xylophones, glockenspiels and keyboards. Recorders are taught from year 2 and every encouragement is given to children to expand their expertise on this instrument. The school is justifiably proud of its success in Music Festivals, mainly in Bournemouth and Southampton, both individual and groups are entered.

Pupils are prepared and entered for the Associated Board of The Royal School of Music in piano, recorder, violin, woodwind and Music Theory with regular successes at Grade 5.



Drama



Starting in Preparatory, these very popular optional lessons give our pupils the opportunity to express themselves fluently through sensitive teaching of role play, improvisation and human movement.

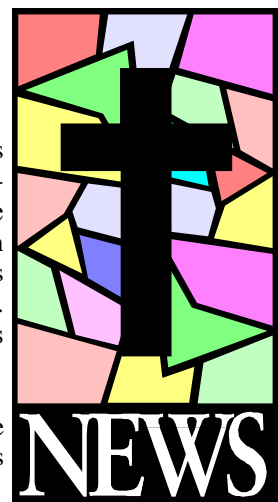
When security and confidence are established, the children are prepared for the L.A.M.D.A examinations in speaking of verse and prose. Each child who takes advantage of these classes can be expected to leave the school having achieved between Grades III and V. There is the opportunity for keen children to prepare for parallel examinations in acting and mime. All children are encouraged to perform in public through school assemblies, annual productions, the Bournemouth Festivals and school productions. The school have entered into partnership with Big Little Theatre School to give the best of teaching to the children and to provide them with the opportunity to continue when they are in secondary education.

We are confident that this combination of co-operative team work and one-to-one teaching provides a comprehensive speech and drama curriculum.

Religious Education

We are a Catholic school. The way we try to live together, the values that matter to us most, are centered on Christ and His Gospel. We try to give your children a good grounding in 'Christian living'. Good example and putting into practice the Love Of God and love of our neighbour are part of the school from start to finish. We work to promote in each individual child a respect for religious and moral values, tolerance of other races, religions and other ways of life. Children of other faiths are welcomed into our school community. Liturgies in school are planned to be reverent and meaningful to each stage of the child's development.

We have a Friday assembly each week, led by Mrs. Cutler, and often special guests are invited. Mass is celebrated in the school hall. We end each term with a Celebration Mass and invite parents, family and friends to join us on these occasions.





Physical Education and Games



The school offers a wide range of physical activities. All classes (including Kindergarten) are timetabled for P.E. and in addition the Junior School participate in games. Activities include Netball, Football, Rounders, Tag Rugby, Badminton and Cricket and many related skills games. We are fortunate that all these activities can take place on our own playing field, situated behind the school. Children are encouraged to participate in various Athletic Award Schemes. The football team regularly plays other local schools, and takes part in local Sports tournaments. Swimming takes place in Junior 4 and sailing is available during the summer term. Archery will also be offered for the first time in the summer term.



Reports and Open Evenings



Individual written reports on children are provided for parents at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms. At Junior level, the autumn report includes the results of internal examinations in English and Mathematics and, in the Summer Term, internal examinations in all subjects. In the Autumn and Spring Terms parents are invited to an Open Evening when an opportunity is provided to see your children's work and discuss their progress with members of staff. In the Summer Term we hold an Open Afternoon to give the children an opportunity to celebrate their years' work with their parents. It should be emphasised, however, that **parents are welcome** to come to school at any time to discuss their child's progress. Should you wish to do this, please make an appointment with the Class Teacher. Towards the end of the Summer term we hold a "**Transfer Information Evening**" for parents. This enables parents to meet their next child's class teacher, to listen to a brief talk about the expectations of the new class, and to ask the new teacher questions. We feel this gives parents a very good understanding of the requirements of the coming year.

The Headteacher is always available to talk to parents.

Parent – Teacher Association



The parents of every child in the school and Kindergarten are automatically members of the P.T.A. and are welcomed to its meetings and functions. The aims of the P.T.A. are to provide an opportunity for parents to meet socially, encourage awareness of the school activities, co-operation between home and school, and endeavour to support various school projects through fundraising. Their help is invaluable for the many school functions that are held during the course of the year. Currently they are embarking of a long term project to redesign and equip the playground. A project that will have lasting benefit for all children attending the school.

School Meals

"Garnet's Gourmet" cook hot meals in our school kitchen and a menu is available for you to see. Included in the cost is a morning snack. On school outings and educational visit days, a packed lunch is provided. Pupils are also welcome to bring a lunch box and have the choice whether to have the cooked meals or bring the lunch box from home. Many of our parents like their child to receive the snack and hot lunch at school, but the lunch box option remains to give choice to parents. Breakfast Club starts at 8.00 a.m.

School Hours

Main School

Morning Session: 8:45 a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Afternoon Session: 1.00p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Sport and Study Club (optional extra) 3.15 to 5.30 pm

Kindergarten

Morning session: 8:45 am to 12:00 (possible morning extension.)
Afternoon Session: 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

To ensure the safety and security of your children the School Playground Gates are locked at 9.00 am and reopened at 3 p.m. They are relocked at 3:30 p.m. All doors into the school are fitted with key pad locks, therefore access to the school during the day is by the main entrance only. All visitors must report to the Secretary on arrival.

Complaint Procedure

You may wish to know that a copy of our Complaint Policy is available for you to view on our website; www.thomasgarnets.com. A copy of this policy will also be available on request from the school office.

The Next Phase

Parents of pupils in Junior 4 (Year 6) must, in the Autumn Term, indicate their preference for the next phase in their child's education. We aim to offer to all parents the widest choice possible and will provide information concerning the school of their choosing. Catholic children residing within the catchment area will be accepted into St. Peter's Senior School, if their parents so wish. Parents can choose for their children to sit the entrance exams for the Bournemouth Grammar Schools. The Entrance Examination for local Independent Schools is another option open to our children. In recent years some of our senior pupils have obtained Academic, Music, Choir, Drama, Art and Sport Scholarships within the Independent system. We ensure that all pupils are prepared to the best of their ability for any exams they may have to sit. At St. Thomas Garnet's we pride ourselves that we are here to help you, the parents, choose the school that is best suited to your child.

St. Thomas Garnet's Uniform Shop

Our PTA have a most excellent secondhand uniform shop. The uniform is of such good quality, that it does not wear out, mainly due to the wool content in the blazer, coat and duffle. The girls tunics are also very hard wearing. A small commission is deducted by the PTA and balance paid to parents who set the price for the article of clothing to be sold. There are regular sales throughout the year, but the shop can be opened at any time for parents wishing to make a purchase.

*We hope that you have enjoyed this introduction to our school. We are proud of all that we achieve here and should you wish to know more please telephone
01202 420172
for an appointment to come and see for yourself.*