

Report for Merton Parish Council meeting

Thompson Primary School is a rural village school in the heart of the village of Thompson. The school caters for children from the ages of 4 – 11 years old. We have 4 classes in the school. These consist of the Reception class, Years 1/2, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6. The children are in mixed age classes except reception who are a standalone year group.

The children attend the school from Thompson and the surrounding villages. Very few children attend who actually live in Thompson. The vast majority of our pupils that attend the school come from Watton.

The feeder high school from Thompson Primary school is Wayland Academy, however we have children that leave us to go to Dereham, Attleborough, Brandon and Wymondham.

Thompson Primary School is part of an academy trust, this is Cooperative Education East. The school joined the trust in July 2017.

The current headteacher at the School is Mrs Heath, Mrs Heath has been in post since April 2017. The school has 4 teaching staff, 6 Teaching assistants, 1 admin staff and 2 BASC staff. We currently have 102 children on roll at Thompson and our PAN is 105.

The percentage of boys on roll is 55% and girls is 45%

We have 9% of pupils that access free school meals.

23% of our pupils receive pupil premium funding.

1% of our pupils have English as an additional language.

7% of our pupils have Special Educational needs.

As I am sure you can imagine since March 2020 school life has been a real challenge. We learnt a lot from the first lockdown and when schools closed again in January 21 the home school provision was much better. All pupils received at least one face to face session per day and in KS2 we used Google classroom to provide work and feedback to pupils. During both lockdowns we were open to key worker children.

The staff have all worked extremely hard and I could not be prouder of all of their efforts. They have all picked up additional responsibilities such as regular cleaning of their class and resources. We miss our usual school routines such as whole school assemblies, singing sessions and just being able to have the whole school together. The staff also miss mixing together in the staff room and that lack of social contact has made an already challenging job even harder. The children are in class bubbles and these do not mix with each other. They have lunch separately and playtimes separately. We all now very much look forward to the day when a bit of normality will return and we can continue all of the wonderful things that we have planned but have been unsuccessful in achieving thus far.