



# Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School



## Prospectus



# Welcome

The Staff, Governors and I are delighted to welcome you to Tonwell St Mary's CE Primary and Nursery School.

I am very proud to be Headteacher at this school, which is a friendly, caring and inclusive church school.

Our school vision and values are 'Knowing each child, Growing each child, in God's love'. We pride ourselves on our ability to really get to know every child and their family and to be able to give them the support they need to grow academically, emotionally and personally.

One of our great advantages is that we are a small school with a committed staff. We offer a high ratio of trained teachers and support staff to our pupils. This means that staff really know their pupils as individuals and are very aware of their successes and needs.

Tonwell St. Mary's is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, which means that we maintain a Christian ethos through Collective Worship and encourage Christian values and principles in our attitude and behaviour towards each other. At Tonwell St Mary's you will find dedicated staff who work hard to ensure that all children are happy and successful learners.

We encourage this through our exciting curriculum which is planned to motivate and inspire children while embracing new technology and utilising our wonderful outside learning environment.

I would love you to come and visit our school where you can meet the children and staff who make this school such an exciting and vibrant place to be.

Mrs Sarah Bridgman  
Head teacher

# Our Vision & Values

'A community learning together in God's love'

## Curiosity, Courage, Compassion

Our federation is a community where each person is known and valued. We are ambitious for all to develop our three C's as well as Christian and British values.

We aim to enable everyone in our school community to:

Be interested to develop a love and independence for learning and be ready to try new things.

**Curiosity**

Be brave enough to make mistakes, have a go at challenges and try again.

**Courage**

Be kind showing respect and care to all.

**Compassion**





# Curriculum

We have high expectations of our children across the curriculum and achieve high standards. Our teachers plan carefully and creatively so that we deliver the curriculum in an interesting stimulating way.

We have year groups in Early Years (Nursery and Reception), Y1/2/3 in Pine Class and Y/4/5/6 in Oak class. This gives teachers the time to really get to know the pupils well. Less time is needed for handover and getting to know pupils each year.

The pupils take turns being the older or the younger year group in each class. This gives them the chance both to learn from older pupils and to have the opportunity to "teach" younger pupils. We have found this system benefits the pupils in both year groups. It is a well- researched and evidenced fact that pupils learn well from teaching and explaining to other.

We have a two-year and three-year rolling curriculum to cater for our split classes. Our curriculum covers all the requirements of the EYFS 2012 and the National Curriculum 2014 in a fun and exciting way. Each class's current curriculum information for the term can be found in the parents section of our website under 'Curriculum Letters' along with our overview curriculum intent statements for each subject.

Collective Worship is a daily opportunity for our school community to come together to learn about and to praise God. We worship together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, reflecting on and celebrating all aspects of life in and out of school. We use stories, poetry, dance, drama, visual stimuli, music, discussion and time for quiet reflection to ensure that our worship is accessible to and appropriate for children throughout the school. The school has strong links with Holy Trinity Church in Bengoe. Our children attend services for special occasions and the church team takes 'Open the Book' worship times regularly.



# Nursery & Reception



"I love to welcome our new children into the school and I also love the fact that our small classes really help us get to know each child on an individual basis."

Mrs Coleman - EYFS Teacher

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Curriculum.

A large proportion of the timetable is child-initiated play-based learning, both indoors and outdoors as you can see from the pictures below. Children have daily phonics, literacy and maths lessons plus regular activities on art, design and understanding the world. Additionally, each week the children have two coach-lead PE sessions and at least one Forest School session.

Nursery children start at 8.45am and are collected at 12.15pm. Eligible children can stay for 30 hours per week in the Nursery. Reception children join the rest of the school for lunchtime. We also have a house system where older children help look after the younger ones and play games with them.



# Years 1-3



“Working with these age groups is always fun. They have so much to share and tell me. I am always amazed by how the children bring together their early learning skills and knowledge and make such rapid progress in my class.”



Miss Fitzgerald - Deputy Head and Years 1-3 teacher

Pine Class, which consists of Years 1, 2 and 3, is where the knowledge and development gained in nursery and reception is built upon, giving our children the foundations to help them succeed throughout their education. We put a strong emphasis on the core skills - reading, writing and maths. We do this by encouraging independent learning along with daily reinforcement. Due to our small class sizes, each child's needs and abilities are deeply understood by the staff, enabling them to give the children individual targets. We have a fantastic support structure for those with special educational needs plus we also ensure that children who show themselves to be gifted are given more challenging tasks to stretch them and nurture their talent. This means that every child in our school receives the best education possible whatever their needs.

Pine Class has daily lessons in maths and English. Health is a huge part of our ethos, so every morning the children complete their 'daily mile' as well as two coach-led PE sessions per week. We regularly teach the importance of a healthy lifestyle with discussions about foods and exercise.

The children also take part in fun and interesting science, history and design technology classes, with great feedback from pupils and parents. Once a week, the year 3 children go up into Oak class for French, preparing them for their transition to year 4.





# Years 4-6



"It's a pleasure to work with our oldest children and see them grow in confidence and independence. I am always so proud of the standard of work they produce and the way in which they help our younger children."

Miss Nicolaou - Years 4-6 Teacher



Oak Class consists of years 4, 5 and 6. Just like the rest of our school, we use the small class sizes to create a fantastic environment for our children to thrive.

Once again, building on the knowledge gained in Pine Class, our curriculum is designed to ensure our children leave for secondary school confident, resilient and equipped with the knowledge and skills they will need.



Years 4-6 continue with the principles of the school, focusing on core skills such as reading, writing and maths along with the twice weekly coach-led PE sessions and the 'daily mile'.



MFL (Modern Foreign Languages). Junior children have a weekly French lesson to develop their fluency and also understanding of the culture and differences of that country. Children from year 3 join them for this lesson to help with the transition.

# Facilities

The school provides excellent facilities with a welcoming and well-resourced learning environment. We are always investing in new equipment, including outdoor play equipment and newly installed 'smart' interactive whiteboards in every class.

The Nursery and Reception classroom is large and sunny with a computer area and interactive whiteboard. There are also library and art areas. The classroom opens onto a large, enclosed, garden /play area. We have developed this to provide a safe, stimulating play environment for the children.

Pine Class is again, bright and airy with direct access to the playing field.

Oak class have access to two classrooms , both of which are located in the old chapel part of the building, with its beautiful arched windows.

All the children have access to two well-stocked libraries, one outside Pine class and the other outside Oak.

We have a large hard play area to provide excellent facilities at both playtime and for PE sessions. We also have a large school field, which affords plenty of space for games and athletics and our wildlife area provides a resource for 'Forest School' sessions, as well as an outside classroom.





# Wraparound



At Tonwell St Mary's school we understand the importance of flexibility when it comes to childcare outside of normal school hours.

Our wraparound clubs are available both before and after school, from 7.45am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday and are priced to be one of the cheapest in the area.

At Breakfast Club children are welcomed in to a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where they are served a breakfast consisting of a range of cereals and toast with various toppings.

The after school sessions are run as structured clubs with different topics each day. These include art club, computer club, games club and cooking club.

"Afterschool club is very popular, many of our pupils ask their parents if they can attend even if childcare isn't required because they have so much fun!" Mrs Lazzari - Teaching Assistant and wraparound supervisor.



# Community

As part of our vision, community is one of the key principles we teach at Tonwell St Mary's. This is both the community within the school and the wider local community.

We have a School Council made up of pupils from each year group who have been elected by their peers. They are tasked with meeting regularly to discuss ideas and present them to staff. Previous projects have included updating our school behaviour code and marking code, organising the vote for which global, national and local charities to support each term and fundraising events such as non-uniform day and cake sales.

Tonwell St Mary's aims to have a positive impact on the local wider community and we have a strong relationship with the Parish Council. The children go on regular trips from theatre performances to environmental waste visits and litter picking.

In the past our younger nursery children have visited local care homes where both the children and residents got a huge amount out of the experience.

Another integral part of the school and wider community is our board of governors and Friends of Tonwell parents association.



## Governors

The members of our board of governors include parents/carers, school staff, representatives from the local diocese and local community. The Governing Board meets at least twice each term; additionally, there are sub committees which meet more regularly.

The Governing Board works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the parents/carers. Whilst the Headteacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors ensure that the school functions well and they are involved in decisions about staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance.

The Governing Board has a range of powers and duties laid down by various Education Acts. In the main, these responsibilities relate to:

- setting targets and promoting high standards of educational achievement
- setting the strategic framework within which the school operates
- management of the school's budget
- ensuring that the curriculum for the school is broad and balanced.

Our Chair of Governors, Diana Howarth can be contacted at: [diana.howarth@tonwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:diana.howarth@tonwell.herts.sch.uk)

## F.O.T - Friends of Tonwell

The friends of Tonwell support the school by fundraising and promoting the school through exciting events across the year. These include events such as Christmas and Summer Fairs, quiz nights and the Ware Christmas Tree Dressing Festival.

All parents are welcome to join the committee or help at events. Meetings are held every Half Term in school.

For more information contact Pauline Hooper: [paulinehooper8@gmail.com](mailto:paulinehooper8@gmail.com)





Tonwell St Mary's  
C of E Primary School (VC)

Ware Road

Tonwell

Ware

Herts

SG12 0HN

01920 462894

[admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk)