



Thorndon CE Primary School celebrates a strong Ofsted report after previously requiring improvement

Village school celebrates Strong Ofsted report

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A school has been praised for helping pupils 'thrive and grow in confidence' after achieving strong results in an Ofsted inspection.

The watchdog inspected Thorndon Church of England Primary School, part of All Saints Schools Trust, in January with the school securing six 'strong' judgements across attendance and behaviour, curriculum and teaching, early years provision, inclusion, leadership and governance, and personal development and wellbeing.

It also achieved an 'expected' standard in pupil achievement.

This marks a significant improvement from its previous 'requires improvement' rating.

Executive headteacher Daryl Jones said: "This outcome belongs to our pupils, our staff, our families and our governors. The inspectors recognised the warmth, ambition and expertise that define Thorndon. We are thrilled that our inclusive practice, our curriculum and our children's exceptional attitudes to learning have been celebrated so strongly."

Inspectors highlighted the school's small size as a key factor in creating a supportive environment where staff know pupils well and can tailor learning to meet individual needs,

including those with special educational needs or disabilities.

Pupils were praised for their engagement in lessons and their preparedness for the next stage of education.

The report noted the school's wide range of enrichment opportunities, from history-themed days and extra-curricular clubs, such as Lego and film, to music lessons starting in Reception and progressing to clarinets by Year 5. Pupils also have opportunities to take part in sports and other events with local schools.

Bullying and low-level disruption were reported as rare, with clear routines and high expectations contributing to pupils' confidence, independence, and positive behaviour.

With the school's SEND levels above national averages, all pupils follow the same curriculum with tailored support and additional teaching where needed. Inspectors said the school provides a safe environment where children trust staff and feel supported.

Leaders have been encouraged to enhance writing instruction to ensure more pupils reach the higher standard in Year 6, matching their performance in reading.

Hannah Meadowcroft, head of school, added: "Our children are incredible. Their curiosity, kindness and determination are at the heart of this success. This report captures the spirit of Thorndon perfectly."

In brief

Outline approval granted for seven village homes

Outline planning approval has been granted for seven homes in Tharston, despite concerns about layout, construction access and surface water.

Applicants Darren and Samantha Whymark asked for permission to build the homes on land at Chequers Road, saying 'Whymarks Walk' would be a 'development that we can all be proud of'. South Norfolk Council approved the plan.

Spring blooms on display at show

Spring has sprung – and no better way to celebrate the season than at a Spring Flower Show tomorrow.

Diss and District Horticultural Society is holding the annual event at Roydon Village Hall from 11am-4pm.

The show is open to the public – admission by donation – and as well as various classes, the event also promises lunches, teas, a tombola and plant stall.

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