



# Thomas More Catholic Primary School is a big part of family life for Holli and her daughter Robin

Holli has Robin age 7 in Year 2 and her older brother has just started Year 7 at high school

## Following family footsteps

Holli's daughter Robin is following a family tradition. Robin's older brother has recently left Thomas More and her dad's family all attended the school. Holli says, "Robin loves school. She missed her brother initially with him moving on to high school but she's got into her own stride now and is doing brilliantly. St Thomas More is a big part of our family life with lots of family members having been to the school."

## Parents and teachers

"I'm a Parent Governor for the school and I'm also a member of the Parents' Committee. As a Parent Governors we act as the voice of the parents. If school have an idea or are looking to change something we're the group they come to for feedback and then quite often ideas are taken to the larger parent community as well," says Holli.

## New ideas and initiatives

School has recently implemented Opal Play to enhance play time provision. "School has looked at what could be done to make playtimes more exciting. With Opal play the children will have lots of activities to choose from and not just things like sports, but other activities too. There will be things that encourage the children to move around but also things that offer space for quiet play and relaxing," says Holli.

## Local community

"School is part of our local community. Many of the families that come to school are from the local area so you soon get to know everyone. The children bump into each other outside of school and meet up at the park for example, there's always someone there that we know. Whether in school or out of school you feel part of a nice community," says Holli.

## Lead with kindness

St Thomas More is a Catholic Primary School and welcomes children and families from all faiths. Holli says, "School weaves Catholic teaching into the everyday lessons and activities at school. The children are taught to lead with kindness and to treat others how they want to be treated. Stories from the Bible are shared but in ways that engage the children and when they visit church and have Collective Worship they're encouraged to ask questions and explore. The children learn about other faiths and their traditions and festivals, everyone is made to feel welcome and part of school life."

## Communication

"School are good at keeping parents up to date. They use an app called Class Dojo where they upload photos and updates so you can see what the children have been up to. You can message the teachers through the app and they're always quick to respond," says Holli.

## Enjoying school

"Robin is enjoying reading Fantastic Mr. Fox. Her class were reading a chapter a week but they've had to increase it to two as the children were enjoying it so much. They've created artwork from it and are planning on writing their own stories which Robin is looking forward to doing," says Holli.

## Exciting events

"This year we're having an end of year show. All the children will be involved and we're taking it outside and building a stage for the children to perform on. They're getting to help choose the songs they'll sing and everyone is looking forward to it," says Holli.

## Children say:

Robin says: "I love reading Fantastic Mr. Fox."