



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mrs Victoria Ebdon
St Thomas More Roman Catholic Primary School
Bleakwood Road
Chatham
ME5 0NF

/ 2 November 2018

Dear Mrs Ebdon

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.

Achieving early fluency in decoding is a necessary first step in acquiring the key skill of reading.

There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that systematic phonics is the most effective method for teaching early reading. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 95 per cent of pupils at St Thomas More Roman Catholic Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 9 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Crouch MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs V Ebdon
Head Teacher
St Thomas More RC Primary School
Bleakwood Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 0NF

9 January 2019

Dear Mrs Ebdon

Key Stage 2 Results

The Minister of State for School Standards has been in touch with me regarding the latest Key Stage 2 (KS2) results of primary schools in Chatham and Aylesford. He particularly wanted to highlight those schools that have seen an improvement in their results of which your school was one, and I wanted to write and congratulate you and your team on this.

I know that there has been significant change to KS2 testing as well as further pressures on school funding, creating an extremely challenging environment for your teacher staff. However, it is fantastic to see that despite this, the improvements that your pupils have made outstrip the national average. This is a real testament to the hard work of you, your teaching team and of course the pupils themselves and I hope is being celebrated accordingly.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Crouch".

TRACEY CROUCH MP

Chatham & Aylesford

Tel: 020 7219 7203