

## SATs the way to do it



*Christ the King Catholic Primary School is celebrating excellent SATs results. Year six pupils are pictured with teachers and headteacher Clare Tickel.*

A Bournemouth primary school is celebrating after recording significant increases in its SATs results.

Christ the King Catholic Primary School has seen its Key Stage 2 SATS soar, with preliminary results showing they have bettered the national average across the board.

In maths alone the school saw the number of children achieving the expected standard rise by 31% on last year to 83% this year - 8% more than the national average.

There was also a big increase in reading with 78% reaching the expected standard, an increase of 22% on the previous year and 7% above the national average.

And there were improved results in GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) with an impressive 88% achieving the national standard, up 24% on last year and 11% more than the national average.

Overall 68% of pupils achieved the expected standard across the board – up 20% on last year and 7% above the national average.

Headteacher Clare Tickel said: "We are delighted with these SATs results, which demonstrate the tremendous work my staff have put in to improve performance, and of course, the hard work of our pupils.

"Six weeks ago we were visited by Ofsted who concluded the school requires improvement as they said standards have not improved quickly enough.

"We have had a lot of good news in 2017 validating that we are in fact definitely moving in the right direction – this has been borne out in our SATs results."

The future also looks bright for the school with its younger students. In Early Years Foundation Stage the school has achieved over 10% above the national average for a third consecutive year.

Key Stage 1 SATs results also saw improvements in all subjects.

In reading 80% achieved the national standard, an increase of 14% on last year and 6% above the national average. There were also increases in writing and maths.

The school was also subject to a visit from a Regional Schools Commission's education expert in May, who concluded that teaching and learning was impressive and there was now clarity, consistency and rigour in raised expectations.

And in its most recent inspection by the Diocese of Plymouth, which was in November 2016, the school was given an overall rating of '2' – equivalent to an Ofsted 'good.'

Mrs Tickel, who was appointed headteacher in 2011, added: "We are thrilled and proud of our excellent SATs results and that the outcomes in our Early Years Foundation and Key Stage One phonics tests have also been outstanding. Our children get off to a cracking start.

"We'll take on board Ofsted's recommendations and I am sure when they return they will judge us to be a Good school as reflected by our data.

"We are determined to work even harder in order to get the recognition that the school so rightly deserves."

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**Note to editors:** For more information please contact Rachel Read, account director at Deep South Media, on 01202 534487.