

OLDHAM COUNCIL CELEBRATE TOP PERFORMANCE IN SATS



Headteacher Stuart Bennett with pupils at Thorp primary.

Primary schools across Oldham are top of the class according to the latest performance league tables

Schools are celebrating record SATs results this year – catapulting the town ahead of national averages in both English and maths.

Provisional results show that more than three quarters of the borough's 11-year-olds are now hitting the national standard expected of them in reading, writing and mathematics.

A total of 79.9 per cent of children are reaching a Level 4 by the time they leave primary school.

This is up from 77 per cent last year and sees the town surging ahead of the national average of 75 per cent.

Five local schools – Burnley Brow, Broadfield, Coppice, St Luke's and Thorp primaries – were praised for improving their results by more than 30 per cent in the last 12 months.

Stuart Bennett, headteacher of Thorp primary in Royton, said: "We are delighted with our overall SATs results this year.

"This reflects the very good progress that we are making on our rapid journey towards becoming a good or better school.

"These results are a reflection of the hard work and commitment to all staff, children, parents and governors at Thorp Primary."

The government released the results to more than 16,000 primary schools. The figures are now being examined by the new Oldham Education and Skills Commission.

The initiative, launched by former Education Secretary Estelle Morris, aims to help raise local standards and aspirations of the next generation.

Coun Amanda Chadderton, cabinet member for education at Oldham council, said: "Oldham has more than doubled the lead it had on the national average last year in SATs results, so this is really encouraging news.

"It's absolutely vital that children leaving primary school are well placed to achieve success at secondary school.

"While SATs results are just one part of that complex picture, this is clearly good evidence of progress and I would like to congratulate youngsters, staff and parents for the parts they've all played in this success."

School are expected to ensure 60 per cent of pupils achieve Level 4 – this means they can spell properly, use complex sentences and write joined up, multiply and divide whole numbers by 10 or 100 and use simple fractions and percentages.