



Thomas's

ACADEMY

October 2023
Newsletter

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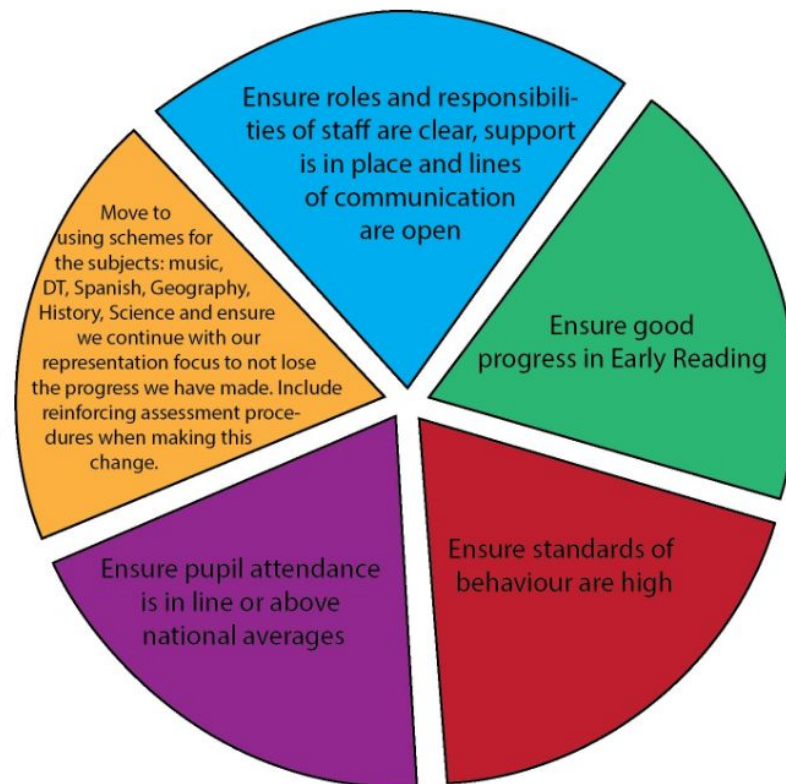
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Head Teacher's Page

When Ofsted called, I was immediately impressed with the professionalism, positivity and skill by which the leadership team at Thomas's Academy responded. This did not falter during the process and I feel so fortunate to have such a wonderful team around me. The wider staff too were so supportive and everyone worked really hard to ensure the school was really looking its best.

While it was a challenging process, the feedback we have received is going to be useful in school improvement. It was reassuring to receive so much positive feedback which I look forward to sharing with you when the report is published. It was also reassuring to hear that our inspector considered our priorities well-thought out and relevant given the context of our school. These priorities are listed below:



Thank you to the parents who attended the Meet the Teacher presentations. Sadly, there was a disappointing turnout at the Leaders' Presentation on 25th September. Please keep a close eye on this monthly newsletter for future events and put them in your diaries.

To update you, we are in discussions with a new piano teacher and hope to get piano lessons up and running very soon. Thank you for your patience with this.

Miss Kelly



Upcoming Dates

(live version available
on [the website](#))



October 2023

3rd	Drumming and Guitar tuition - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Year 4 swimming
4th	School tour - email the office to find out more
5th	National Poetry Day Violin lessons - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Dion Allen (CFC) to work with Y2, 3, 4 and 5.
6th	Y2 and Y6 Gardening
9th - 13th	Harvest Collection Period Start On 13th, children may wear own clothes in exchange for a Harvest item (see additional correspondence here)
10th	Drumming and Guitar tuition - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Y4 swimming
11th	School Nurse visiting Reception and Year 1 NSPCC workshop Y5 and Y6 - Speak Out, Stay Safe School tour - email the office to find out more
12th	Violin lessons - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Dion Allen (CFC) to work with Y2, 3, 4 and 5.
13th	Y4 and Y5 Gardening
16th	Parents meetings for Reception - Year 6 this week
17th	Drumming and Guitar tuition - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Y4 swimming
18th	School tour - email the office to find out more
19th	Violin lessons - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form
20th	Y1 and Y3 Gardening
23rd - 27th	Half-Term - school is closed to pupils
31st	Drumming and Guitar tuition - To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use this form Y4 swimming



Attendance

The Government has been clear that attendance is everyone's business. Regular attendance is vital for children's education, wellbeing and long-term development and evidence shows pupils with higher attendance tend to have higher attainment across all key stages.

Here at Thomas's Academy, we have approached the challenge of improving school attendance rigorously. Our [Attendance policy](#) gives clarity on our actions but we cannot achieve improved attendance on our own. Many hours are spent by staff tackling this which could be spent on school improvement and supporting children who are present.

To assist, please do not organise trips or appointments during school hours. For minor illnesses, children can attend school. Please trust that we will call you if we feel a child is not well enough to be here.

School Council

The School Council, who met on 29.9.23, have asked for more of the following books for our libraries:

- Beast Quest
- David Walliams
- Non-fiction books about footballers
- Captain Underpants
- Magic Fairy Books
- Dog Man

If you would like to donate any of the books listed above, please give them in to the school office. Many thanks in advance.



School Meals



As we continue our blended transition to school meals we are so pleased that many of the children have adjusted well to changes and menu and exploring new food types every meal!

We have been encouraging feedback from pupils with the school council raising pupil voice surrounding meal provision as well as staff and parents input which has been very positive and supportive to help drive high standards.

We will be sending out a google form later this week to gauge deeper feedback on the meals and catering needs of all families which will help design future menu choices and provisions of meals here at Thomas's Academy.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and children who have supported with the transition of the meal provision and with the feedback provided, your support is extremely valuable and appreciated by all at the school.

The Autumn Term menus are on school website along with further information [here](#).



Universal Free School Meals

The Mayor of London has announced funding for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 to be provided Free School Meals in 2023-24, this is an extension to the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) currently offered to pupils from Reception to Year 2 and is currently being offered for the next academic year.

Unfortunately this does not apply to children in our Nursery class who are Full Time and stay for lunch, those pupils must pay for meals if they are not entitled to Benefits-Related Free School Meals, which are charged at £2.80 per day.

Benefits-Related Free School Meal (FSM) - Make your application to support the school!

We urge all families who think they may be eligible to Benefits-Related Free School Meal (FSM) to make an application through the Local Authority as the above is separate from the Pupil Premium funding we receive for pupils entitled to benefits-related FSM's.

For children entitled to benefits-related FSM's, you will also be provided with a one-off clothes grant (from the Local Authority) and currently will be provided with retail vouchers for over the holiday periods (from the School).

For every pupil entitled to benefits-related FSM, the school receives additional funding from the central government in the amount of £1,455 per student. This money funds valuable support like additional support staff or resources.

If you believe you may be entitled to benefits related FSM, please visit the Hammersmith & Fulham website and for further information regarding eligibility and to make an application;

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/benefits/student-benefits-and-grants>

Please note that applications must be made individually for each child, if you already have a child attending school who is entitled to FSM, this entitlement does not automatically transfer to siblings.

If you have any queries or require any support from the school, please contact the school office via email at info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk or call on 020 7736 2318.

Foodbank

If you require a referral to the Foodbank, please let us know.



School Notices

Instrumental Tuition

We have a number of Instrumental Lessons here at Thomas's Academy, offering Drumming, Guitar and Violin lesson with the Piano soon to be joining those on offer!



Violin lessons are available to children in Years 1 - 6 and Guitar and Drumming lessons from Years 3-6.

We have excellent music tutors, Daniela and George, who will be providing 30 minute lessons to pupils on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To register your child for any instrumental lesson at the school, please use [this form](#), where further details regarding the lesson on offer can be found. Once submitted the school office will contact you to arrange these with you.

If your child took up musical instrument lessons last term they would continue each term/year unless informed otherwise by the parent.

We are in the final stages of securing a Piano Teacher, if you would like to register interest for child to take up /continue Piano lessons, please use the above form.

If you have any questions please email the school office: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Nursery - Full time places are available!

If your child is three years old or about to turn three and you are interested in them joining our nursery, please complete an application form [here](#).

For more information on the nursery admission, please visit our website page [here](#) or contact the school office: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Annual Permission /Consent Forms

If you haven't yet done so, please take the time to consider and complete the images permission form (links below). These permission/consents covers a range of school activities, such as trips and photo use. The second form for Seesaw and Tapestry.

[Click here to access the Trips, IT and Photo Form](#)

[Click her to access the Internal Media Form](#)

Please note that if not consenting to photo use across all aspects, the school will not be able to use your child's photo as this are cascade across all platforms.



We are registered with @easyuk, so over 4000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you used @easyuk to shop. It doesn't cost you anything extra. Please consider choosing us as your chosen beneficiary.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thomassacademy/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-t1



PTA Notices & Events

The PTA are holding a Quiz Night on Thursday 19th October, 7.30 - 10pm at the school to help raise funds for school.

Tickets are now on sale to purchase via Eduspot with 2 options available:

1 ticket = £10

2 tickets = £16

Each tickets includes the quiz, a welcome drink and snacks (at the table) with additional soft drinks, beer and wine available to purchase on the night!

A neon sign graphic with a blue outline and pink and blue neon text. The text reads "School Quiz Night" in a cursive font. The background is a dark brick wall with purple and blue lighting effects.

School
Quiz Night

A neon sign graphic with a blue outline and blue neon text. The text reads "Thursday 19th October" in a cursive font. The background is a dark brick wall with purple and blue lighting effects.

Thursday 19th
October

TICKETS £10 EACH OR TWO FOR £16
(EACH TICKET INCLUDES THE QUIZ, A WELCOME DRINK AND SNACKS)

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BUY ON THE TEACHERS2PARENTS APP

DOORS OPEN AT : 7.30 PM

QUIZ STARTS AT : 8 PM

The PTA will be going through exciting organisational changes this academic year and are keen to get more parents informed and involved in supporting. Watch this space, further details will soon follow!



Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy



A poster for the Breakfast Club at Thomas's Academy. The title 'Breakfast Club' is written on a wooden sign with the Thomas's Academy logo. Below are two columns: 'Food' and 'Activities', each listing items for Monday through Friday. A 'When' box indicates the club runs from 8am to Lower Hall. Contact information is at the bottom.

Breakfast Club

Thomas's ACADEMY

Food

Monday
Cereals, toast, and fruit

Tuesday
Cereals, scrambled eggs with soldiers and fruit

Wednesday
Cereals, bagels and fruit

Thursday
Cereals, beans on toast and fruit

Friday
Coco pops or toast and chocolate spread/jam (Friday only) and fruit

Activities

Monday
Games and Small World

Tuesday
Colouring and Crafts

Wednesday
Games and Small World Puzzles and Lego

Thursday
Train Set and Games

Friday
iPads (Friday only)

When 8am
Lower Hall

For further information email info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk



A poster for the Shine Bright After School Care Club. The title 'SHINE BRIGHT' is in large yellow letters. Below it, 'AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLUB' is written. The poster lists times, prices, and activities. It includes a 'WELCOME!' sign and the Thomas's Academy logo.

TIMES: 3.15 PM TO 6 PM
PRICES: £10 UNTIL 5 PM
£15 UNTIL 6 PM

SHINE BRIGHT

AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLUB

CHILD-LED ACTIVITIES
OUTDOOR GAMES
ART/CRAFTS
MUSIC/SPORT
SEASONAL ACTIVITIES
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS
NO NUTS OF ANY KIND

For more information contact
afterschoolclub@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Thomas's ACADEMY

WELCOME!



Safeguarding

Miss Kelly, Head Teacher, is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Deputies (DDSL) are Mrs James, Miss Wood, Mr Kilgannon, Ms O’Riordan and Miss Shen.

To find out more about our approach to Safeguarding, you can read the Safeguarding policy, plus others, on our website:

<https://www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk/policies-outcomes/school-policies>

We have a new Safeguarding email address should you wish to contact the Safeguarding Team at school. It’s tacsafeguarding@academy.thomas-s.co.uk.

At Thomas’s Academy, Safeguarding is our top priority. Please let one of the safeguarding leads know if you have any safeguarding concerns. Confidentiality is important so we encourage speaking to these adults directly or to Children’s Services directly.

Contact Details

Please let the office know on info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk if you change any personal details such as your email address or phone number in order that you receive all our communications. **We require at least two contacts for all children.** Also, please let us know if someone different is collecting your child. These are important measures to keep your children safe.



Reading at Thomas's Academy

'Reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life.' UNESCO, 2011

Recommended Reads

Who better to get book recommendations from, than the children themselves!

Here are some links to their favourites so far:



You'll also find some great recommendations for all ages [here](#).

Parent and Carer Story Time

Each class now has a 15 minute time slot, where parents and carers can come in and read to their child's class.

If you would like to take part, please get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Thomas's Academy
Reading Award for
pupils

5



To receive an award, you need to read 5, 15 or 25 chapter books!

15



We can't wait to hear your recommendations!

25



Reading Records

All pupils, from **Reception to Year 6**, have a Reading Record where all home reading is recorded. Reading Records, along with a child's reading book must be brought into school **daily**, to facilitate writing and any extra reading that takes place.

Reception and KS1 – comments to be made by an adult

KS2 – comments to be made by the child

Pupils are expected to record **at least 5 times a week**.

Volunteer Readers

If you can spare an hour or so a week during school hours, please contact:

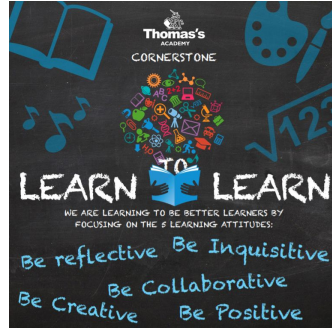
vritchie@thomassfoundation.org.uk

No experience is needed.

You will receive training and a DBS check will be organised for you.

Learn to Learn

Our focus for this half term is **BE POSITIVE**.



Pupils need to be confident enough to attempt a difficult task, resilient enough to persevere and willing to fail to learn effectively. This learning behaviour is fundamental to the success of all of the others.

Be a Positive Pup

A positive learner will ask:

Am I trying my best?

Am I challenging myself?

Am I being kind to myself?

What have I learnt from my mistakes?



Digital Learning

We are immensely proud to call ourselves a digital school and through our digital literacy topics in computing and during Character Curriculum lessons, we continue to teach the children of Thomas's Academy to stay safe online.

Here are some useful links to support you in embedding this message at home!

Parental Support

[NSPCC Online Safety Family Agreement](#)

[TikTok Privacy and Safety Checklist](#)

[Advice on Parental Controls](#)

[Digital Family Toolkit](#)
(tailored and personalised to match your child's digital choices)

Support for Children with SEND

[Information on sharing personal details](#)

[Helping your child with cyberbullying](#)





500 Words, the UK's most successful children's writing competition has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10 November.

Since the competition was first launched in 2011 by Chris Evans on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show, it has received over one million stories from children throughout the UK.

This year, the two age categories will be **5-7 year-olds** and **8-11 year-olds**.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to **write a story they would love to read** without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Judges include award-winning and best-selling authors **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**, **Francesca Simon**, **Charlie Higson**, and former children's laureate, **Malorie Blackman**. This year there will be a new addition to the panel, TV legend and children's author, **Sir Lenny Henry**. The judges will be casting their expert eyes over the final 50 stories. You can find out why they are perfect judges [here](#).

The competition has been given the royal seal of approval and has the support of **Her Majesty, The Queen**


This year, BBC Breakfast will be hosting the competition supported by us on BBC Teach. The winners will be featured in a special 500 Word programme with **The One Show**, on **World Book Day on 7 March 2024**.

Click [here](#) to find out more.



Local Notices

5-12 yrs

 [upbeatlondon](https://www.instagram.com/upbeatlondon)

UPBEAT[★] HALLOWEEN CAMP

SING DANCE GUITARS DRUMS PLAY RECORD PERFORM



HALF TERM

Pop & Rock Camp

Mon 23rd - Wed 25th Oct

10.00 - 4.00 each day

Parsons Green

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Use discount code for 15% off

TA15

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For more info contact: upbeatmusiccourses@gmail.com 07816 901396

www.upbeatmusiccourses.co.uk

