



Thomas's

ACADEMY

February 2024
Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates

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



February 2024	
1st	Virtual Storytelling Workshops
2nd	Parent and Child Board Games (PTA event)
5th	Nurse meeting for parents for children in Reception and Y6
6th	Safer Internet Day Year 3 swimming
7th	School tour - Book Here Thomas's Readers' Cup - Selected Y6 children
8th	Y6 to National Army Museum
12 - 16th	Half-term - school closed to children
19th	Nurse Polly Immunisations Talk with Year 1
20th	Year 3 swimming
21st	Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights Measurements Year 6 Children's Parliament Visit
26th	Year 5 and Year 6 workshop on Keeping Safe
27th	Year 3 swimming Year 5 trip to Stamford Bridge Y5 and Y6 Meeting regarding the School Residential - 3.30pm
28th	School tour - Book Here Year 6 trip to Stamford Bridge



Chickenpox

There have been a number of cases of Chickenpox at school. Please note that this is simply advice to be aware of in case your child develops symptoms.

Please see the NHS Medical Advice below.

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point.

It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. Some children have only a few spots, but other children can have spots that cover their entire body. These are most likely to appear on the face, ears and scalp, under the arms, on the chest and belly, and on the arms and legs.

To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off school until all their spots have crusted over. Chickenpox is infectious from one to two days before the rash starts, until all the blisters have crusted. Please inform the school if your child has chickenpox.

If your child has chickenpox, try to keep them away from public areas to avoid contact with people who may not have had it, especially people who are at risk of serious problems, such as newborn babies and pregnant women. **Chickenpox infection in pregnancy may cause more severe illness and there may be a risk to the foetus.** If you are pregnant you should contact your GP who may wish to do a blood test to see if you are immune.

Chickenpox treatment

Chickenpox in children is considered a mild illness, but your child will probably feel pretty miserable and irritable while they have it.

Your child may have a fever for the first few days of the illness. The spots can be incredibly itchy. There is no specific treatment for chickenpox, but there are pharmacy remedies that can alleviate symptoms. These include paracetamol to relieve fever, and calamine lotion and cooling gels to ease itching.

When to see a doctor

Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, such as:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

For more information, please click [here](#).



January's Attendance

Reception to Year 6 average attendance was 91.4% (+6% increase on last month) from Reception to Year 6. This figure is mainly down to seasonal illness as well as late returns from winter holidays.

Please check the [website](#) for our term dates to ensure that you can plan family holidays without interrupting your child's education.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Average attendance
87.8%	91.7%	92.6%	94.2%	95.8%	89%	88.8%	91.4%

Class attendance for the month of January 2024. Nursery is not statutory, therefore data is not included here.

Please note that we are obliged to contact the Local Authority if a pupil has unauthorised absences that equate to more than 10% within a six-week period. This route will result in a Penalty Notice (PN) being issued or a referral to Family Services.

If there is a reason for your child to be absent, for example sickness or medical appointments, please email absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk. For absence requests, a form can be collected from the school office for Miss Kelly to consider.

Punctuality is also incredibly important. The classrooms open at 8.45am at which point children can enter and engage with learning activities - these tend to be maths revision and challenges to support children's retention of maths learning. The register is taken at 8.55am after which point children are marked late. School doors close at this time and children will only be able to enter via the front office.

Children should be collected promptly at the end of their school day. Any parent collecting after being 10 minutes late, their child may be sent to Shine Bright Club and parents/carers may be charged a minimum fee of £10.



Government campaign to improve attendance

Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together. From 8 January, Government is launching a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance.

The campaign strapline is "moments matter, attendance counts". Messaging for the communications have been developed from research into parental attitudes, as well as two local authority pilots at the end of 2023.



Attendance: the top facts to know & share

MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, just **40%** of persistently absent (PA) children in **KS2** achieved expected **KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And **36%** of PA children in **KS4** got **9 to 4** in their **English and maths GCSEs**, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.¹

And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%)** of pupils who were **PA in Year 10** and then rarely absent in **Year 11**, passed at least **5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.²

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.³

1: [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

2: [Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

3: [Mental Health and Attendance at School \(Chapter 1\) - Mental Health and Attendance at School \(cambridge.org\)](#)

Behaviour



Above are just some of the ways children are rewarded for good behaviour at Thomas's Academy. We would like to share again, the ways in which we respond to unacceptable behaviour.

For minor incidents, children will receive:

- First Reminder
- Second Reminder
- Internal Reflection (5/10 minutes) - this will involve a behaviour note being sent home.

Behaviour Note

Child's name: _____

Date: _____

Unacceptable behaviour: _____

Teacher: _____

After their reflection, children will be able to join their class with the learning. If children receive three behaviour notes in one half-term, parents will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the behaviour and how we might work together to change the pattern of behaviour.

For more serious incidents, senior leaders will speak to the child involved. It is likely that parents will be contacted by Mrs James or Miss Kelly and will be invited to a meeting. The child will be given external reflection time (time out of the class).

Some children will have a personal positive behaviour plan (PBP) tailored to their needs. Parents will be invited to contribute to this.



School Notices

Instrumental Tuition

Instrumental Lessons started up this week with all pupils continuing from the previous term.

We have a range of excellent music tutors, Daniela (Violin) and George (Drumming, Guitar and Bass), Alessia (Piano) who provide 30 minute lessons to pupils on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

George Diaper Music Tutor @ Thomas's Academy

George is a multi-instrumentalist, music producer, and music tutor with more than 10 years of experience. He also holds a degree in music performance and completed his Masters in Music in 2020

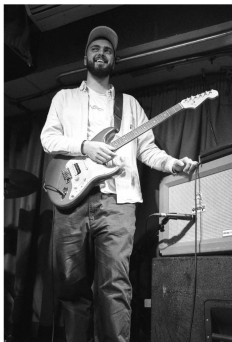
When he first starting playing at school, George loved Punk, Ska, and Rock music. Now he plays everything from Funk, to Jazz, to Soul, RnB, Rock, Latin music and beyond.

George also produces music for up and coming artists, as well as his own music. Mostly producing modern RnB/Soul, George likes to incorporate his guitar, bass, trumpet, keyboard, and drum skills in his productions. He also loves synthesizers and makes electronic music too!

Whether you've never picked up an instrument before, want to try something new, or are already a budding musical prodigy, George is looking to meet new students to take on guitar, bass, or drum lessons at Thomas's Academy. Students have the opportunity to perform at the school, work towards grade exams, or simply have fun learning a new skill.

Contact him directly today to find out more

gdiaper@academy.thomas-s.co.uk



If you wish your child to start musical instrument lessons for any of the Instruments on offer, register on [this form](#) !

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

SchoolMoney Unpaid Balances

The school continues to chase outstanding balances on School moneying balances for Clubs/Shine Bright/Breakfast Club and lunch money from previous year(s).

Please can all families check their School Money accounts and ensure that any outstanding balances are cleared as soon as possible.

In order to ensure families do not fall into arrears, parents will not be able to book onto clubs/wraparound care if there are any outstanding balances for these.



Annual Permission/Consent Forms

If you haven't yet done so, please complete the annual permission form (links below x2). 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](#)

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



School Notices

School Catering

As you will be aware, we work very hard to ensure high standards of catering provision here at Thomas's Academy so that our children can enjoy the best food possible and with the current catering contract drawing to a close, we have been meeting with suppliers to ensure a smooth transition to a new catering provider from Summer 2024!

We have been using all the valuable feedback from pupils, parents and adults in the school and bringing these forward to our new suppliers to ask them how they can ensure that all the recommendations and high standards that we want to see here for our children, are delivered .

We look forward to updating you all in due course and building on the efforts already made to bring a tasty and nutritious meal provision to our children!



MIND Online Safety Workshop for parents

On Monday 25th March at 9am, Rob from MIND will presenting a parent workshop on Online Safety. This is open to all parents.

National Storytelling Week

Thank you to all the parents who came into school during National Storytelling Week to read to children. It was lovely to see so many parents supporting the schools efforts in developing a love of reading in our children.

Save the Date: World Book Day is Thursday 7th March - get planning your costumes!!! For more information, click [here](#).

School Lettings

We now let out our school building and grounds at weekends and school holidays to further serve our community and generate further income which can be spent on school improvements. Our main focus is the outdoor area. Watch out for further improvements to the outdoor area over the coming weeks and months.



Celebrating Y6 Writing

Sumaya

Thursday 1st February 2024

My message today is that we shall fight for our country and the lives of innocent people. We are getting attacked by crazy Englishmen. Our soldiers are spectacular! When it was my first time going into battle my knees trembled, sweat dripped down my face but I still tried my hardest and won for Scotland and that is what we are going to do today! Our country deserves to be glorious! Am I the only one who is tired of those rebels? Who else is determined to destroy these animals?

We are going to take those people and send them back from where they came from. They are nothing compared to us! We are going to battle without mercy! We are going to conquer them!



Bella

Thursday 1st February 2024

Soldiers of Scotland, today we fight tomorrow we celebrate. Will we let these petty, weak Scottish rebels take our dignity? No! We will go out onto the battle field and fight for glory. Those who may not be with us after, will rest with great pride.

We won't surrender until justice and these foreign peasants go back to where they came from! I remember my first battle like it was yesterday. I was told to go out with no fear and my head held high. Expect the same from all of you. Make your family proud! See you out there.

Emile

Thursday 1st February 2024

Oh, people of Scotland, today we will fight with pride! We will cover ourselves in glory. And those who don't live to tell the tale, they will be buried with a smile. We will show no mercy!

When I fought my first battle, I gave all I had, today we will do the same! So let's teach these pitiful rebels a lesson! We will emerge victorious! So pick up your swords and fight to your death.

To those who will give blood, sweat and tears, to fight these traitors and survive, and to all that will perish, thank you. Sacrifices have to be made!

For your children! For the Scottish Crown!

So who will fight against these tyrants?

Kevin

Thursday 1st February 2024

My message today is for this foreign country to stand, you soldiers have energy of these unstoppable attacks, well that now stops I believe that these English amateurs.

We have an opportunity people of Scotland, I believe that we will win for glory, I know we are strong no mercy and can achieve. This marvellous country, will show no mercy. I believe we are more than ready to have this incredible battle. Our soldiers will conquer this battle as for your King. I guarantee you the battle will end with glory.



Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy



A poster for the Breakfast Club at Thomas's Academy. It features a wooden sign at the top with the text 'Breakfast Club' and the Thomas's Academy logo. Below the sign are two yellow rounded rectangles: one for 'Food' and one for 'Activities'. The 'Food' section lists the menu for each day of the week. The 'Activities' section lists the activities for each day. At the bottom, there is a yellow box with the text 'When 8am Lower Hall' and a footer with the email address 'info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk'.

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. It features a black background with various school-related items like a graduation cap, pencils, an apple, and a clock. The text is in bright yellow and white. It lists the times and prices for the club, the activities offered, and a note about bringing snacks. At the bottom, it says 'For more information contact'.

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



Safeguarding

Miss Kelly, Head Teacher, is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Deputies (DDSL) are Mrs James, Miss Wood, 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.

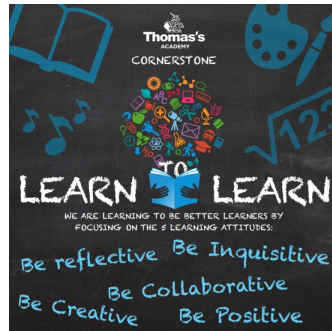
Contacts and Collection

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 or after school arrangements have changed. These are important measures to keep your children safe. For your information, only children in Year 6 are permitted to leave school at 3.30pm unaccompanied.



Learn to Learn

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



In a rapidly evolving world, it is necessary for the children to learn to be flexible, able to adapt to changing circumstances and capable of thinking of imaginative solutions to problems using all the resources available to them.

Be a Creative Chameleon

A creative learner will ask:

Is there a different way to do this?



How could I make this unique?

What resources could I use to help me?



Digital Learning

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th February 2024 and we will be celebrating as a school community! This year's learning will be based around the theme, 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Please do use the links below for more information and specific online safety support for parents with school-aged children.

Parental Support

'Things change so fast online, it's hard to keep up with what my child is doing'

'My child keeps asking to play a game, or download an app that I don't know about, what can I do?'

'My child is asking for a new device and I'm not sure they're ready for one'

'My child is keen to share content and make a change online. How can I help them achieve this safely?'

'How to make a report online'

**Safer
Internet
Day 2024** | **Tuesday
6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre



Digital Learning

Here at Thomas's Academy we are extremely lucky to have the support of Rob, an educational practitioner and assistant psychologist who works for the Mind charity in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Next month he will be leading a parent workshop which will centre around how to support your child to browse the web safely both at home and in school.

Look out for details on how to sign up for the workshop on Teachers2Parents - coming soon.



**Safer
Internet
Day 2024** | **Tuesday
6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre



Community Notices

M M R
MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA

Measles is circulating, it is serious, very infectious and can cause complications.

Especially for those with a weakened immune system, babies under one year and pregnant women.



You need **two doses of MMR vaccine** to protect you, see your **GP practice** to make an appointment.

It is never too late to have your MMR.

i mmunisation

the safest way to protect your child

BOOK ONLINE at bookwhen.com/upbeatmusic
Saturday sessions also available

UPBEAT
music courses

**POP and ROCK
HALF TERM CAMP**
Feb 12th - 14th
Parsons Green
5 - 12 yrs

*Sing, dance, play in a band,
record, write, perform!*



MORE INFO

upbeatmusiccourses.co.uk



LEARN AN INSTRUMENT WITH JOY!

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SINGING
GUITAR
DRUMS
BASS
SONGWRITING & COMPOSITION
AND MANY MORE!**

London based private lessons, fair set up with consistency



Creativ Music Academy

Get in touch:

musicacademy2024@gmail.com

www.creativemusicacademylondon.com



Community Notices

February Half Term Soccer Schools


With February Half term just over a week away Fulham FC Foundation's **one day Soccer School in Battersea at Sacred Heart School** currently has spaces available. So please do get yourself booked to avoid disappointment.

Our Pan DisAbility Soccer School at Sacred Heart School caters for boys and girls age 5-16 years, as well as adults ages 16+, with any form of physical and/or learning disability, Special Education Need or EHCP. Whether this be for a first time footballer, or someone with some experience, why not come along and give it a go! On the day, players will be split into groups based on age and/or ability. All abilities welcome. Participants will play loads of football, learn new skills and meet new friends!



Fulham FC Foundation Pan DisAbility Soccer School
At Sacred Heart School, Battersea, SW11 2TD
Wednesday 14th February 2024
9am to 3pm

To book click the link below:

<https://soccerschools.fulhamfc.com/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&coursePeriodId=1&typeld=91®ionId=&venueId=&gender=>



**PAN DISABILITY
SOCCER SCHOOLS**



WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024 9AM TO 3PM
SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL, BATTERSEA
JUNIORS 5 TO 16 YEARS, ADULTS 16+ YEARS

BOOK NOW VIA [FULHAMSOCCERSCHOOLS.COM](https://fulhamsoccerschools.com)

