



Thomas's

ACADEMY

March 2024
Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates

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



March 2024

1st	PTA morning tea Year 2 and Year 6 Gardening
4th	Year 3 trip to Tate Modern
5th	Year 3 swimming
6th	School Tour
7th	World Book Day (see details below)
8th	International Women's Day, Year 4 and Year 5 Gardening
11th	Year 4 Trip to Hayward Gallery
12th	School photos - Individuals, Year 3 swimming
13th	School Photos - Siblings, School Tour
14th	Iftar Celebration - all invited (see flyer)
15th	Red Nose Day - children may wear red - contributions to Comic Relief can be made here Year 1 and Year 3 Gardening
18th	Parents Meetings Year 5 talk with Nurse Polly
19th	Parents Meeting Year 3 swimming
20th	School Tour Creative Festival TBC
22nd	Year 6 Junior Citizenship Scheme trip Year 2 and Year 6 gardening After-school extra-curricular clubs finish for the term
25th - 26th	Religious Education Days
25th	Reception and Y5 Outdoor Learning MIND - online safety parent workshop
26th	Year 2 and Year 4 Outdoor Learning Year 3 swimming
27th - 28th	Design Technology. Days
27th	Year 1 and Year 6 Outdoor Learning School Tour
28th	Year 3 Outdoor Learning Easter Egg Hunt (organised by the P.T.A.) School finishes at 2pm



February's Attendance



Reception to Year 6 average attendance was 94.1% (+2.7% increase on last month) from Reception to Year 6. This is a really positive step forward towards our goal of 95% average.

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
94%	95.3%	94.8%	92%	96.8%	93.3%	92.7%	94.1%

Class attendance for the month of February 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. In January 2024, Government launched 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 \(cambridge.org\)](#)

'Beat the Street'

28/2/24- 10/4/24



The Beat the Street Game starts on 28th February. If you haven't yet started, please join now, as the more miles our children walk, scoot, cycle, run or wheel, the more we can earn money for books or play equipment.

Your child should have brought home a card and map which is all you need to start the game.

Check out the [Beat the Street website](https://beathestreet.me) or watch this [one minute clip](#) for more information.

The children were super excited to take part, so I hope you have fun, keeping fit and exploring our local area.



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

Playground Equipment

The new playground equipment is very popular.

Whilst we are happy for children to use the equipment before and after school, it is important that children are supervised by those who are collecting children. This will prevent children being hurt. Many thanks for your cooperation.



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.

EdShed



All children from Year 1 have access to EdShed. Children are able to access spelling and maths learning at home as well as school. For some time now, we have been giving certificates out each Friday for children who have been making lots of effort on EdShed. If you are struggling to access this, please speak to your class teacher.

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/the-massacademy/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-t1



School Notices

School Catering

We are very proud to announce that school has successfully awarded our catering contract to [Lunchtime Co.](#) With over 20 years of experience in the school lunch sector, their approach is simple, offering excellent food and service delivered by engaged and happy staff. They passionately believe that lunchtime should be an enjoyable, social experience that imparts an understanding and appreciation of food and eating. We strongly believe that Lunchtime Company will provide an excellent offer for all our children.

Welcome

Dear Families

We have some exciting news!

From 15th April Lunchtime Co. will be providing delicious and nutritious meals to the school.

Choose from a daily choice of 3 delicious options, including a selection of filled baguettes, wraps, and sandwiches.

All food is freshly prepared, sourced locally wherever possible, and served by friendly staff in a safe and secure environment.

Enjoy our extensive salad and dessert tables, including a daily choice of fresh fruit, and new natural yoghurt pots, served with a choice of healthy toppings. We will also be serving a weekly 'Street Feast' when you can enjoy high street style foods and concepts.

Over the course of the year, there will be special themes days, fun activities and community events - these will be advertised around the school and on the website.

We want children to gain a gentle appreciation of good food, where it comes from and the important role it plays in a healthy lifestyle.

All of us at Lunchtime Co. hope you enjoy your lunches and we can help make them the highlight of your day.

We look forward to serving you!



LUNCHTIME CO[®]



Making lunchtime the **highlight** of your day



Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy



Breakfast Club

Thomas's ACADEMY

Food	Activities
Monday Cereals, toast, and fruit	Monday Games and Small World
Tuesday Cereals, scrambled eggs with soldiers and fruit	Tuesday Colouring and Crafts
Wednesday Cereals, bagels and fruit	Wednesday Games and Small World Puzzles and Lego
Thursday Cereals, beans on toast and fruit	Thursday Train Set and Games
Friday Coco pops or toast and chocolate spread/jam (Friday only) and fruit	Friday iPads (Friday only)

When 8am
Lower Hall

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



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>

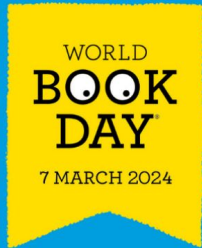
We have a new Safeguarding email address should you wish to contact the Safeguarding Team at school. It’s tacsafeguarding@academy.thomas-s.co.uk.

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.





Save the date!

World Book Day

7 March 2024



World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 7th March 2024**. World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. With this in mind, we hope to make it a special event in our school calendar. To help get them started on their reading journey, every child will receive a £1 World Book Day Book Token that can be exchanged for special £1 World Book Day books or used to get £1 off any book, costing £2.99 or more. You can find out more about the books at: worldbookday.com/books.

We are constantly endorsing the importance of and pleasure in reading, so on World Book Day we would like your support with the activities below.

Book Character Catwalk

The children are asked to come to school dressed as a character from a book. There will be a sharing assembly and prizes for best homemade costume.

Parents & Carers' Story Time

As this was so successful during National Storytelling Week, we would like to again invite parents and carers to come in and read a story to their child's class. You can bring in a book from home or pick one from the class library. If you would like to read to your child's class, please email your child's teacher to organise a time.

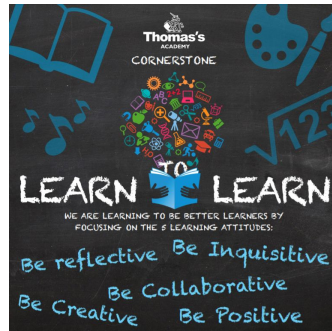
Thomas's Academy's Book Quiz of the Year

We have a very special event this year - 'Thomas's Academy's Book Quiz of the Year!' All children will have the opportunity to take part in a quiz all about their favourite books. Encourage your child to read as much as they can before the event, to give them the best possible chance to win a prize!



Learn to Learn

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



To be able to make lasting improvements, pupils have to have a self-awareness of their learning. Being reflective involves evaluating their work, developing the ability to constructively criticise themselves and choosing their own way forward.

Be a Reflective Owl

A reflective learner will ask:

What do I
already know?



What have
I done well?

What could
I do differently
next time?



Digital Learning

We are committed to keeping children safe online and supporting parents with ways to embed these strategies at home.

Please use the links below for any necessary support.

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'



P.T.A.

Ramadan Mubarak IFTAR DINNER

Please join us to break the fast
together at Thomas's Academy

THURSDAY MARCH 14TH

5:30- 8 PM



Games and Arts & Crafts

ENTRANCE: £1 PER CHILD £3 PER ADULT

**TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE
VIA THE TEACHER2 PARENTS APP**

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE PTA



Community Notices



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



LEARN AN INSTRUMENT WITH JOY!

Young, experienced teachers in:

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



Creativ Music Academy

London based private lessons, fair set up with consistency

Get in touch:

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