



Thomas's

ACADEMY

November 2023
Newsletter

Contacts

www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk

info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

tacsafeguarding@thomas-s.co.uk

absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Phone: 0207 736 2318



Contents

[Upcoming Dates](#)

[Attendance and Punctuality](#)

[Kindness & Anti-Bullying](#)

[School Meals & Parent Survey](#)

[UFSM * Benefits Related FSM](#)

[School Notices](#)

[PTA Notices & Events](#)

[Wrap-Around Care](#)

[Safeguarding and medical information](#)

[Reading News](#)

[Learn to Learn Update](#)

[Digital Learning](#)

[Competition Information](#)

Upcoming Dates

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



November 2023

1st	School tour - Book Here
3rd	Year 2 and 6 Gardening with Pascale
7th	Nasal flu sessions Rec - Y6 - Book Here Year 4 swimming
8th	School tour - Book Here
10th	2 minute silence for Remembrance Day Year 4 and 5 Gardening with Pascale
13th	Kindness and Anti-Bullying Week
14th	Year 5 trip to Fulham Palace Year 4 swimming
15th	School tour - Book Here Odd Socks Day - see below for more information
16th	CWIZZ (literary quiz) at Emanuel School (selected children in Years' 5 and 6)
17th	Year 1 and 3 Gardening with Pascale Children In Need - Children may wear a spotty accessory Nursery Parents' Meetings
21st	Years' 5 and 6 trip to Lyric Theatre to watch Cinderella Panto Year 4 swimming
22nd	9am - Year 6 Class Assembly School tour - Book Here
28th	Year 4 swimming Year 6 to Tate Britain (TBC)
29th	9am - Year 5 Class Assembly School tour - Book Here



October's Attendance

The attendance rate for the children at Thomas's Academy has historically been high because you value your child's education and you know each day is important. However for the second academic year, our attendance figures have fallen below national average.

This is incredibly disappointing, as I'm sure you'll agree. Illness and family holidays at the beginning of term have certainly played a big factor in this. Only 1 class, have an acceptable attendance rate over 95%. Well done to Year 6.

Reception to Year 6 (average attendance is 92.9%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Average attendance
90.1%	93.7%	92.3%	93.8%	94%	91%	95.1%	92.9%

Class attendance for the month of October 2023. 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.



Kindness and Anti- Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Week 2023 will take place from **Monday 13th - Friday 17th November**. The theme is **Make A Noise About Bullying**. At Thomas's Academy, we choose to recognise this week as 'Kindness and Anti-Bullying Week'. There will be assemblies and lessons during this week to educate the children about what bullying is, the impact of bullying, how to prevent it happening and how to be an upstander, not a bystander.

Odd Socks Day

All you need to do is wear odd socks! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! Odd Socks Day 2023 will take place on Monday 13th November.



Parents and Carers

As parents and carers we all want our children to be happy and safe, and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves or think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying. The good news is you are not alone! The Anti-Bullying Alliance and its members are here to work with children, families, and schools to help keep children safe.

Click [here](#) for the Parents and Carers Pack from the Anti-Bullying Alliance.



Parent Survey & School Meals

Parent Survey

We have put together the Parent/Carers Questionnaire and have included a section focusing on School Meals, we kindly ask if parents/carers could complete this by Friday 11th November. Your input helps shape the school and we greatly appreciate your input, please click [here to complete the form](#).

School Meals

As the winter month approaches, we will be preparing for the Christmas Lunch. We will be serving a classic Christmas Lunch Menu!

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to a taster session of our meals, when we have secured this date, an invitation will be sent out.

Thank you to all families for supporting the school with our meal provision, please do complete the survey above to support us with future decision making.

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



CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Roast Turkey
or
Roasted Vegetable, Cheddar and Cranberry Whirl v

Served with Chipolata Sausages, Roast Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots and Brussel Sprouts

Dessert
Festive Rocky Road

v Vegetarian





Universal Free School Meals

The Mayor of London is funding school meals for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 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.

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



School Notices



SEND Coffee Morning

Monday 4th December

9:00 – 10:00am

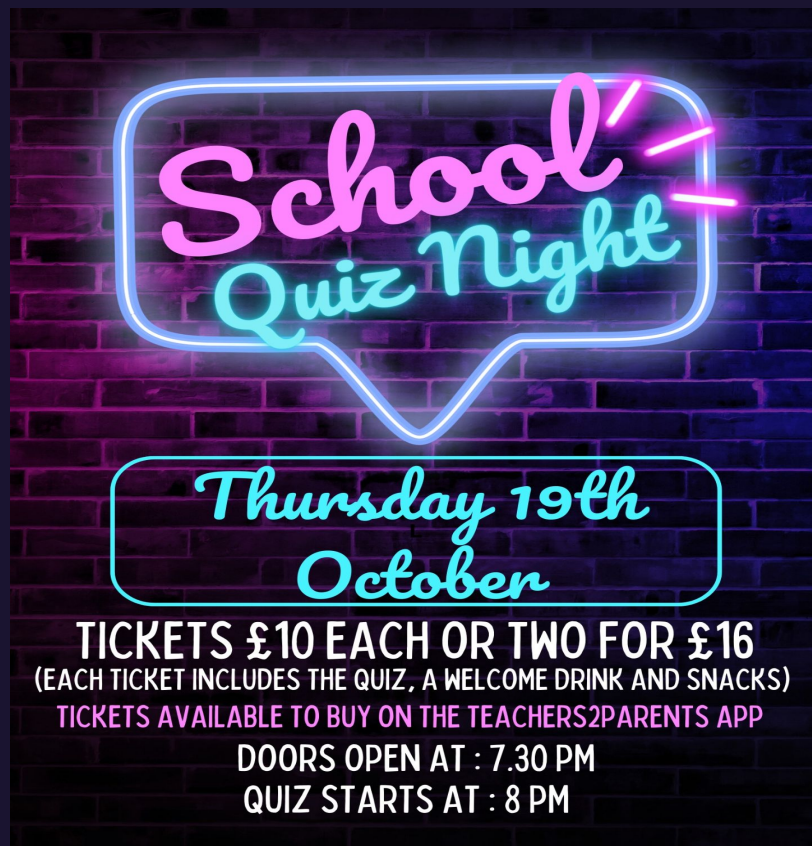
at Thomas's Academy

With Special Guest Speaker Rob Ferriman from HFEH MIND



PTA Notices & Events

Thank you to all who organised and supported this the School Quiz Night. This was the first Quiz Night since Covid and was a resounding success. An amazing **£863** was raised for outdoor improvements at Thomas's Academy.

A poster for a School Quiz Night event. The background is a dark brick wall. At the top, the words "School Quiz Night" are written in a stylized, glowing font. "School" is in pink and "Quiz Night" is in light blue. Below this, the date "Thursday 19th October" is written in a light blue, cursive font. At the bottom, the ticket information is written in white, bold, uppercase letters: "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", and "QUIZ STARTS AT : 8 PM".

School Quiz Night

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 Need you!

In order to help us reach our objectives, we are looking for volunteers to join the team for this new school year.

We will be holding an information morning on Friday 10 November 2023 at 9am at the school. To find out more about the PTA, how you can help and future plans, do come along!



Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy



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



SHINE BRIGHT
AFTER SCHOOL CARE CLUB

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

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, 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](#).

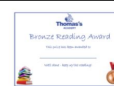
Parent and Carer Story Time

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**.

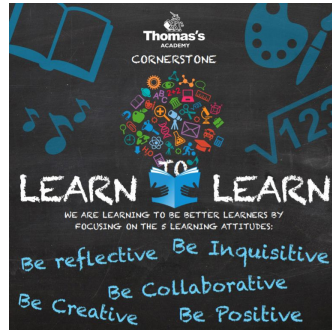
Volunteer Readers

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](#)

[Advice on Inclusive Digital Safety](#)

[Advice on Parental Controls](#)

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

Gaming Advice

[Advice on Online Gaming](#)

[Safety Advice for Roblox](#)

[Ultimate Guide to Roblox](#)





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.

