



Thomas's

ACADEMY

September 2023
Newsletter

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Welcome Back

Welcome back to all of our School Community. I hope that the Summer has allowed for lots of enjoyable family time and everyone is excited to start the new academic year. As an introduction/reminder to all in our community, Thomas's Academy is a values-led community school with a clear mission and vision.

Values Statement:

At Thomas's Academy, we practise and celebrate a set of core values throughout the school. They are kindness, courtesy, honesty, respect, independence, confidence, leadership and humility.

Mission Statement:

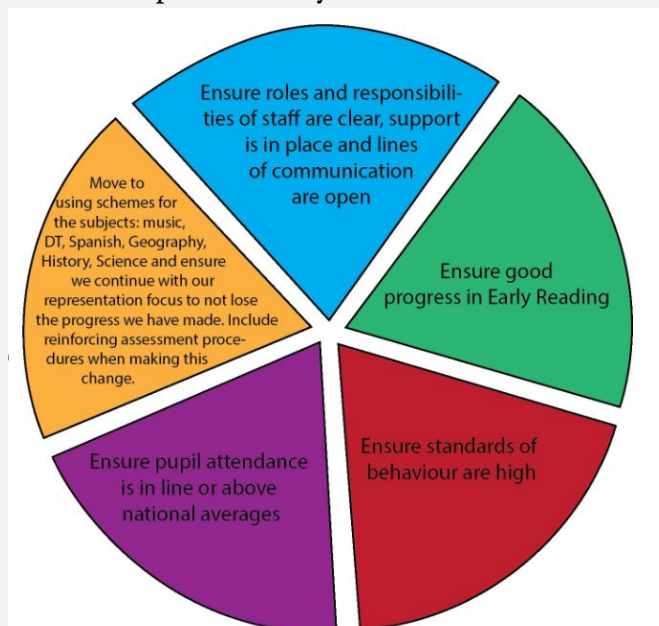
To create a vibrant and inclusive school community where all children are provided with a broad, knowledge and enquiry based curriculum, and where they can develop as confident, independent, self-aware and thoughtful learners.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to develop well-rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to reach their full potential and to make the world we live in a better place through their kindness.

The Academy is built upon four key cornerstones: Be Kind, Learn to Learn, Think Globally & Create Beauty. Each year, we review our progress towards these aims as a whole staff. To find out more about these, please go to our [website](#). As you may remember from last year, we are in the process of developing the 'Thinking Globally' cornerstone ensuring that all stakeholders have an input into shaping this.

Our Five Key Areas for Development this year are summarised below:



Staffing

Welcome to all new members of staff. Here are lists of staff as they stand..

Name	Role(s)
Suzanne Kelly	Head Teacher ECT Tutor DSL Educational Visits Coordinator
Clare James	Deputy Head Teacher PSHE Lead RE Lead Wellbeing Team DDSL ECT Mentor Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children
Kate O'Riordan	Inclusion Lead
Aurelia Redmond	School Business Manager Data Protection Officer

Classroom	Class Teacher	Staff Team
Nursery	Tabitha Fraser	Faith Connett Sengul Djemal Jo Greengross
Reception	Yasmin Mohammed	Asher Sylvester-Philips Veronica Otero Gonzalez Jamie Parent
Year 1	Lucy Waters	Femi Coker-Harrison Tefani El Hassan Chantez Lewis
Year 2	Clare Wood	Karen Carpenter Anne Hasse Yolanda Garcia (Maths) Clare James (English)
Year 3	Kate Mather	Mia Amon Tefani El Hassan
Year 4	Tia Goldsmith	Sofia Barreto Georgina O'Halloran
Year 5	Ben Kilgannon	Lydia Najjar (Maths) Georgina O'Halloran Yolanda Garcia
Year 6	Emma Pearce	Lydia Najjar Georgina O'Halloran

Staff name		Role
Office and Premises Staff	Hamdane Bouzid	Site Manager
	Henna Babar	Office Administrator

Staff name		Role
Specialist Teachers	Chloe Gerhard	P.E. teacher (Mondays and Thursdays)
	Yasemin Crouch	Art and Design Teacher (Mon-Wed)
	Kevin Laidler	Music teacher (Monday)
	Yolanda Garcia	Spanish teacher (afternoons)
	Caitlin Sheridan	Dance teacher (Wednesday am)
Instrument Teachers	Daniela Das Does	Violin Teacher - Please contact the office if you are interested in your child having violin lessons
	George Diaper	Drumming and guitar Teacher - Please contact the office if you are interested in your child having these lessons

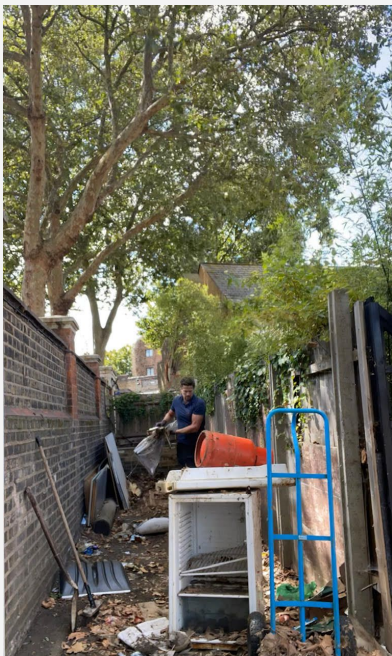


Summer Works

Many of us have been busy over the Summer preparing the school for the New Academic Year. We have a number of new policies, many of which are available on the website. Updated ones include our Attendance Policy, our Safeguarding Policy and our Inclusion Policy.

Staff have received training including Safeguarding and Ofsted readiness and new staff have been inducted to ensure they understand the ethos, processes and policies used at the Academy.

The site has had a refresh. We have new cleaners who have given the inside of the school a deep clean. Our library has been sorted (again). The outside of the school has seen a complete uplevelling thanks to Ash (a parent) and The Green Team. Thank you to all the parents who have participated in this project. If you didn't get involved, there will be more opportunities this academic year. Click on the icon below for more information.



Upcoming Dates

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



September

4th, 5th	INSET days - school closed to children
6th	First day for pupils - Rec-Y6 School Tour - Please contact the office
6th - 8th	Home visits for new nursery children
11th	Nursery opens to children (previous cohort only at first) Instrumental tuition begins this week
12th	Year 4 swimming New nursery children starting over the next 2 weeks
13th	School Tour - Please contact the office
18th	Meet the Teacher - 2.30pm (Reception to Y6 parents) Extra-Curricular Clubs begin this week
19th	Year 4 swimming
20th	School Tour - Please contact the office
25th	Curriculum Presentation to Parents - 5pm
26th	Year 4 swimming
27th	School Tour - Please contact the office



Attendance

As you would have seen, improving pupil attendance is one of the school priorities this year. There is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

To assist schools with this nationwide focus, school leaders have received advice on mild illnesses and school attendance. The guidance states that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident with assessing whether their child is well enough to be in school.

The guidance states ‘it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.’

We would encourage parents to refer to [NHS ‘Is my child too ill for school?’ guidance](#) which has further information.

In addition to respiratory illnesses, the guidance says that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child’s anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. DfE has published useful [guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil’s attendance](#).

As we head into winter, we will be sharing information regarding the seasonal flu vaccination and routine immunisations for eligible children and young people will help to reduce absences and the disruption they cause.



School Meals

It has been a very successful week with the changes to the meal policy with children tasting the school menu and we are very grateful to all the pupils and parents' support and feedback to make the transition as successful as possible.

We encourage parents and pupils to continue to feedback on the good and improvement point of the school meals as we are monitoring these continuously and feeding this back to Radish to ensure the meals are of the highest standards.

We will continue to have a blended transition where children can bring in their packed lunch and try the school meals alongside their packed lunch for those who may need some time to fully move over to school meals.

Please be assured that our caterers, Radish, cater for all dietary requirements and details of all requirements are provided to the kitchen daily and we have a specialised menu for standard allergens as well as child specific menus for more complex dietary requirements.

We work closely with the Radish nutritionist to provide these.

If your child has a complex dietary requirement and require a child specific menu, please complete the dietary request for on the website page and send this to info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk.

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 extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

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.



Local Authority Support for (Benefits related) Free School Meals Families

Message from Esther Harris - Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Lead, H&F Council

Dear Residents,

My name is Esther and I work at Hammersmith & Fulham Council in our Climate Team, supporting residents with energy bills, energy efficiency and other energy related issues.

I am reaching out to let you know about a fantastic **opportunity for households in receipt of Free School Meals to get FREE home improvements through the Energy Company Obligation**, also known as ECO. ECO is a scheme that gives funding to energy suppliers to install energy-saving measures, such as loft insulation, wall insulation, heating upgrades and draught-proofing.

With energy prices remaining high, this is a great chance to get ready for Winter 2023. Installing energy-saving measures can have huge benefits to you and your household, including:

- **Reduced energy bills:** Loft insulation in a terraced house, for example, can save a household over £300 a year on their energy bills.
- **Reduced risk from cold-related illness:** There is a strong relationship between cold temperatures and a variety of different illnesses, and energy saving measures can help reduce this risk at home.
- **Improved comfort at home:** Installing energy-saving measures can reduce draughts and improve warmth at home, making you and your family more comfortable through winter.

A link to a recording of the information session held in May can be found [here](#).

If you want to find out more about the scheme, details can be found [here](#).

All the

Best,
Esther Harris
Esther.harris@lbhf.gov.uk



School Notices

Meet the Teacher

On 18th September, parents can visit their children's classes at 2.30pm to see the environment, meet the teacher and find out more about what lies ahead for the academic year. If you cannot attend, slides will be sent to parents following the presentation. Parents may take their children home at the end of the presentations.

Presentation to Parents

On 25th September at 5pm, parents are invited to a presentation by school leaders to find out more about the school's priorities for the upcoming school year. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate children at this presentation. To register your interest, please complete [this form](#) in order that we have an idea of numbers attending.

Instrumental Tuition

We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering Drumming, Guitar and Violin lesson this year.

We are in a position to offer Violin lessons at Thomas's Academy for 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.

Drumming and guitar lessons are offered on a one-to-one basis (£24 per sessions) and with Violin options of both lesson on a one-to-one basis (£30 per session) and small group basis (£15 per session) .

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



School Notices

Sickness

It is important to minimise the spread of infection in schools as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.** We will be asking parents to collect children who are unwell. At school, we will be helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene and practicing regular handwashing. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading which we will be encouraging.

We ask that if someone in your family is presenting with symptoms of COVID, you test for COVID. If a child tests positive, please let the office know and keep your child home for **5 days** please. We appreciate your cooperation with this. Unfortunately, we do not have COVID tests at school, they will need to be purchased from _____ stores.

If your child has sickness or diarrhea, they should remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode. Thank you for your cooperation to help stop the spread of sickness in our community.

If your child is absent due to an appointment, please ensure you provide appointment confirmation to the school office either in person or via email, this can be a screen shot of the text provided.

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 Form

If you haven't yet done so, please take the time to consider and complete the images permission form (link below). This permission/consent covers a range of school activities, such as trips and photo use.

[Click here to access the 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

Breakfast Club



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



School Notices

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) 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**.

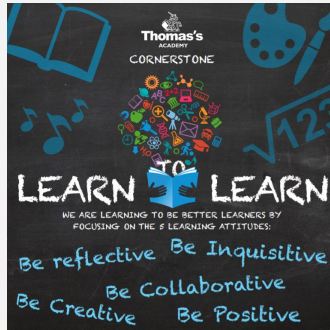
Volunteer Readers

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

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos or uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't legal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school, even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as these images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting. It respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Catherine Bruce is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWeb.



#WakeUpWednesday

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