



Thomas's

ACADEMY

September 2022 Newsletter



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Twitter: @ThomassAcademy

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Phone: 02077362318

September Dates

1st and 2nd: INSET days - school closed to children

5th and 6th: Home visits for nursery parents

5th: Pupils from reception - Year 6 return to school

7th: Nursery Opens to children

7th: Parents Introduction sessions for Years 1 - 3
(2.45pm)

8th: Parents Introduction sessions for Years 4 - 6
(2.45pm)

12th - 16th: Bikeability Road Safety Course

12th: School Clubs begin

12th: Years 3 and 4 to Parson's Green

13th: Year 4 swimming

15th: Year 5 session led by CFC - No to Hate

September Dates continued

16th: Sleepover for Year 5 pupils

16th: Gardening sessions for Years 1 and 3

19th: Nurse Polly in Year 1 (handwashing)

20th: Year 4 swimming

23rd: Gardening sessions for Years 2 and 4

26th: Nurse Polly in reception class (handwashing)

27th: Year 4 swimming

29th: Year 5 session led by CFC - No to Hate

30th: Years 5 / 6 Author Workshop

30th: Year 5 and Year 6 Gardening sessions

October Dates so far

3rd: Black History Month

3rd: School Leader Presentation

4th: Year 4 swimming

6th: Year 5 / 6 Author Workshop

6th: National Poetry Day - The Environment

6th: Year 5 session led by CFC - No to Hate

7th: Gardening sessions for Years' 1 and 3

11th: Year 4 swimming

13th: Year 5 session led by CFC - No to Hate

14th: Gardening Sessions for Years' 2 and 4

October Dates continued

17th: Parents' Meetings this week

18th: Year 4 swimming

21st: Gardening sessions for Years' 5 and 6

24th: Half-Term week





Welcome to a new academic year to all our school community. In particular, a huge welcome to those who are new to our community. Please see below for a list of our staff. You will notice that some staff move across year groups. Also, whilst we aim to maintain a consistent staff, on occasion staff are changed or moved around different classes to meet needs of the school and the children.

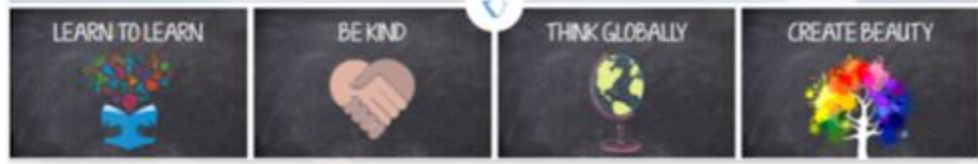
Miles Chester	Principal of the Academy Trust and deputy designated safeguarding lead
Suzanne Kelly	Head Teacher and Designation safeguarding lead
Clare James	Deputy Head Teacher and deputy designated safeguarding lead
Lyndsey Gale	Inclusion Lead

Classroom	Staff Team
Nursery and Reception	Lee-Anne Dobson (Early Years Lead and Nursery Teacher) Mon - Fri Laura Watkins (Nursery Teacher) (Weds - Fri) Faith Connett Asher Sylvester Phillips Femi Coker-Harrison Veronica Otero Gonzalez Shadab Hatami Jo Greengross (Weds) Beka Baldwin (Reception teacher) Shen Djemal (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) Jamie Parent
Year 1	Lucy Waters Sofia Baretto Sam Kelly Jo Greengross (Tues and Weds)
Year 2	Tabby Fraser (teacher) Yasmin Mohammed (Apprenticeship student) Mia Amon Karen Carpenter
Year 3	Steph Chambers (teacher) Karen Carpenter Mia Amon
Year 4	Diego Brizi Anne Haase Orin Fredericks Yolanda Garcia Karen Carpenter
Year 5	Clare Wood (English lead, metacognition lead, DDSL and ECT mentor) Yolanda Garcia (maths) 11.30am - 12.30pm Lydia Najjar 11am onwards
Year 6	Ben Kilgannon (teacher) Yolanda Garcia Clare James

Specialist Teachers

James Freeman	P.E. Teacher (Weds and Thurs)
Yasemin Crouch	Art and Design Teacher (Mon - Weds)
Rowan Fenner	Music Teacher (Tues and Thurs)
Yolanda Garcia	Spanish Teacher
Caitlin Sheridan	Dance Teacher (Weds)

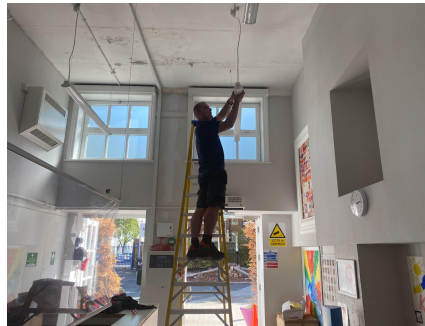
Staff Name	Role
Alex Bennett	Caretaker
Jorge Tiban	Cleaner
Sarah Lillis	Senior Administrator
Lisa Moss	Administrator
Kate Calvert	Deputy Inclusion



School Preparations

Jorge has been busy over the Summer holidays getting the building ready for the new academic year. He has fixed, painted and tidied, leaving the building looking fresh and ready for use. We have also had a deep clean including the windows. A new large screen, a projector and speakers have been installed in the ground floor hall to enable class assemblies and presentations to take place on the ground floor making them more accessible. We have also had new signage put up on the outside of the school.

During the INSET days, staff have been busy preparing for the new academic year. The days included phonics training, safeguarding training, a review of the main policies and pupil progress meetings. Staff have also prepared the classrooms so they are organised and welcoming.



A Change of times

In March, the Government released a 'white paper', the first schools white paper in six years entitled 'Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child'. The paper is wide-ranging and proposes changes to how schools are managed and run, the length of the school week, the standards pupils should achieve in English and maths, and many other areas.

Part of this Guidance states that all mainstream state-funded schools should be open for a minimum of 32.5 hours a week from September 2023 which equates to six hours and 30 minutes per day approximately. As described in July, we now have new start and finish times as can be seen in the table below.

Year Group	Doors open	Register (after which point children are marked as late)	Finish Time
Nursery	8.45am	8.55am	Part time: 11.45am Full time: 3.15pm
Reception - Year 6	8.45am	8.55am	3.30pm

Breakfast club will continue to run from 8am led by Lydia Najjar and Karen Carpenter. To book, please contact info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Aktiva after-school club will run from school finish times. To book, please go to www.aktivacamps.com or bookings@aktivacamps.com

Attendance and Punctuality

Your child must attend school every day. Long COVID self-isolation periods and lockdowns feel like a thing of the past but the repercussions of that awful period of time were still felt last academic year, in terms of attendance. Many previously cancelled holidays, weddings and family events were rescheduled and families needed to make new arrangements during term time. This should no longer be an issue and you must now aim for your child to have full attendance this year. Our children's education has been disrupted for 3 years and their academic progress will have suffered. Therefore, every school day counts. Please do not book holidays, family events or celebrations during term time. This absence will not be authorised and may be liable to fines. The attendance rate for the children at Thomas's Academy has always been high because you value your child's education and you know each day is important. Let's work together to make sure that ambition remains.

Please note that we are obliged to contact Hammersmith and Fulham Initial Consultation and Advice Team (ICAT), part of Children's Services, if a pupil has unauthorised absences that equate to >10% within a six - week period.

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. If there is another reason for potential absence, please email me directly so we can discuss this further head@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Punctuality is also incredibly important. Every day starts with 'soft start' learning activities from 8.45am and the register is taken at 8.55am. Please make sure your child arrives at school in good time and is ready to start their learning. We will provide everything they need so please do not pack pencil cases or any other materials.

Uniform

It is great to see the children back looking so smart! For clear descriptions of class by class uniform, please see our uniform guidelines on our [website](#).

As an immediate reminder:

1. Children can wear the summer uniform until October half term if preferred
2. All children must be in **black shoes that can be polished**, except for PE days when children should wear trainers (no football/astro turf boots)
3. Only Y5 and 6 are to wear a shirt and tie

General Appearance for all children

Children with long hair must have it tied back at all times with a plain hairband.

Children should have plain hairstyles without shaved patterns.

Children should not wear any jewellery or nail varnish to school.

Children with pierced ears may only wear small, plain, stud earrings which must be removed or taped up for PE lessons due to health and safety reasons.

Coats and accessories Year 1 - Year 6

Book bag (coloured corresponding to the House team that your child is in) - Book bag with logo for **Year 1 - Year 3**

Rucksack - this is the only bag that is permitted - Navy Logo Rucksack for **Year 4 - Year 6**

School coat - only this coat is permitted to be worn - Navy school coat (logo optional)

Red Summer cagoule as the navy school coat is quite warm, we have this lighter jacket which can be worn instead of the school coat on warm/wet days (logo optional)

School Beanie - this is the only winter hat that is permitted - Red cagoule (logo optional) - Navy with red logo



Look out for
a pre-loved
uniform sale
in school on
16/9/22

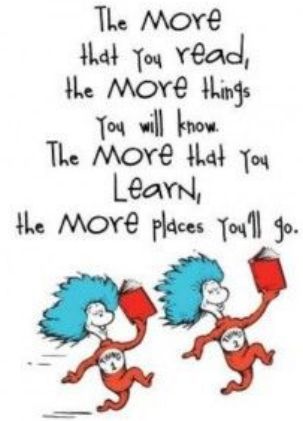


We are very excited to announce that as a result of the passion, hard work and leadership of the Green Unicorns, led by Miss Fraser, Thomas's Academy has been awarded the **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award!**

This is an international accreditation recognising and rewarding our efforts as a forward-thinking school actively engaged in protecting our planet.

We are so proud of our innovative and inspirational young environmentalists and cannot wait to continue with our environmental work this academic year.





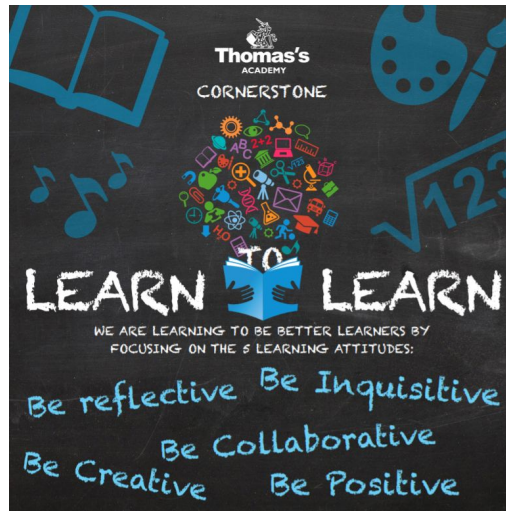
'Reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life.' UNESCO, 2011

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 - Year 2 – comments to be made by an adult

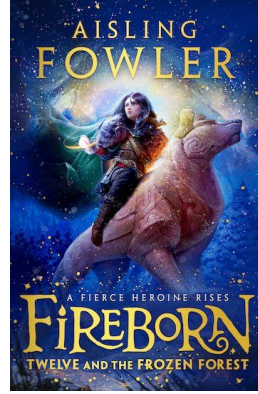
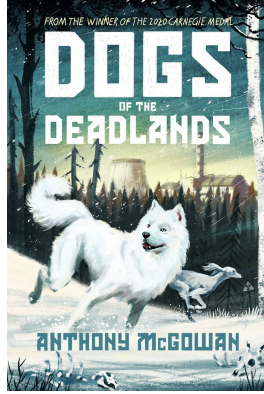
Years 3 - 6 – comments to be made by the child (where able)

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



This half term our focus is BE POSITIVE. We want our pupils to be confident enough to attempt difficult tasks, resilient enough to persevere and willing to fail to learn effectively. This learning behaviour is fundamental to the success of all of the others. We look forward to celebrating children's successes in Friday's assemblies.





On Friday 30th September and Thursday 6th October we are planning exciting events for the children in **Year 5 and 6**. Authors, Anthony McGowan and Aisling Fowler, are visiting to talk about their new books! This will support the English work that we do in school and celebrate reading.

As part of the visits, each author will be signing and dedicating copies of their book, exclusively for children from our school. A signed book can be a permanent reminder of a special experience and can reinforce the message about the importance of reading.

If you'd like to purchase a copy of either book, you'll be happy to know we have negotiated from our local bookshop, Nomad Books, reducing the book price to:

Dogs of the Deadlands: £10.99 instead of £12.99

Fireborn: £6.99 instead of £7.99

To order one of these, please complete the form on Parent Pay, by Thursday 22nd September. Alternatively, you can buy a copy from another bookshop and bring it on the day.

We are sure you will agree that these are opportunities not to be missed and the children can look forward to very exciting sessions!

Thomas's Academy Reading Award for pupils

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

We can't wait to hear your recommendations.

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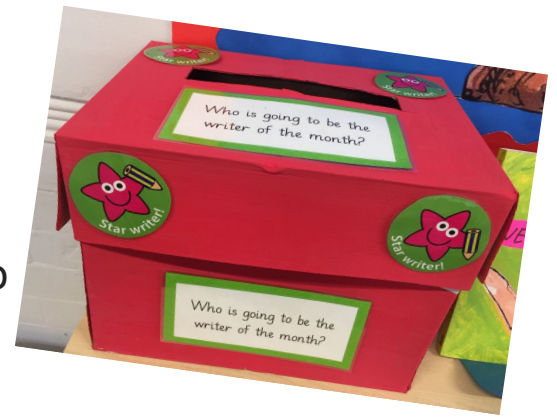
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Writer of the Month

Could you be this month's child writer of the month? If you love to write, and choose to do so in your own time, make sure you post your writing into our 'writer's box' that now sits in the school library. It can be any type of writing, from a poem to a short story to a nonfiction piece.

Every month, Miss Wood will collect the entries. Writer's of the Month will then be chosen and work will be displayed proudly in our school library, for all to admire!



School Clubs

You will soon receive our Autumn Term's offer of clubs. Following parental feedback, we will share the clubs with families a day in advance of the club sign-up to provide families with a chance to discuss the choices. We will make efforts, as we always do, to provide a variety of clubs for all year groups.

Nursery

If your child is three years old or about to turn three and you are interested in them joining our nursery, please contact the school office for information on how to apply: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk



If you require the support of Foodbank, please let Miss Kelly or Mrs James know and we can make a referral to Food Bank on your behalf. We look forward to supporting this charity in October for our annual Harvest collection of Food Bank items.

Volunteering to hear children read

Thomas's London Foundation have a bank of volunteers who visit local schools, including Thomas's Academy, to read with children. They are looking for new volunteers from the community. If you can spare an hour or so a week during school hours, please could you contact vritchie@thomassfoundation.org.uk

No experience is needed. You will receive training and a DBS check will be organised for you.

Images Permission

Please take the time to consider and complete the images permission form. This informs the school as to how we can use images for your child. Any questions, please speak to the school office or a member of the school leadership team.

<https://forms.gle/MtLqzMhnen1BpDXC7>



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.

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

Queen's Club Foundation provides free, after-school (4-5pm) tennis lessons to children in Years' 2 and 3 at Bishops Park. If you wish for your child to take part, please click below:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/QCFCommunityClub>



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

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.

Please let the office know on info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk if you change any personal details such as your email address in order that you receive all our communications. Also, please let us know if someone different is collecting your child.



Be Kind • Learn to Learn • Think Globally • Create Beauty

Food at School

At Thomas's Academy, we understand the importance of healthy eating, protecting those with allergies, oral health and the pupils' education relating to healthy eating. Our policy includes information on what can be included in packed lunches and snacks. It also sets out our procedures for birthday celebrations; unfortunately, we do not accept and give out cakes on these occasions.

We use the app Teachers2Parents which enables parents to pay money to school. We encourage parents to download the app.



Kids Matter

We are advertising a Kids Matter programme this term. If you feel you may benefit from being in a group with other parents, where you can discuss the joys and challenges of parenting, you'd be so welcome to join in. The group is facilitated by a parent who has been trained in the Kids Matter material. There is more information on the website www.kidsmatter.org.uk

With the cost of living being concern, we know that we are under even more strain and this can make parenting harder. By talking together and using the material, we can support one another with more skills to help us and our children. There will be a taster to start so you can come and see if it's for you. The Kids Matter group is run locally and is free to parents at our school. There is also a free creche for younger children. If you are interested, please speak to Miss Kelly.

As discussed with the school council and Year 5 parents last academic year, we are organising a **Year 5 sleepover** at school for pupils on Friday 16th September. For those children who are sleeping over, they will need to bring required items with them to school on the Friday morning - these can be left in the Welcome Room. Children should be collected at 9am on Saturday 17th September in the front playground.

What do children need to bring?

- Sleeping bag or alternative
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Pyjamas
- Comforter (if required)
- A packed dinner with a treat (we will not be able to heat items)

What will they do in the evening?

- Play games - children may bring their own board/card games (no electronics)
- Watch a movie

Where will the children play, eat and sleep?

- In the lower hall

Where will children change their clothes?

- Boys and girls will change into and out of pyjamas in separate rooms off the lower hall

What adults will be on site?

- Miss Kelly - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Parent volunteers

What happens if my child is upset?

- Calls can be made home
- Children are allowed to be collected early if required

In future, the sleepover will happen for Year 4 children in preparation for the 2 night residential that children can attend in Years' 5 and 6.

Year 5 parents, please complete this [Google Form](#) if you wish for your child to attend.

RACE DAY: 09 OCTOBER 2022



Last Summer, Miss Kelly took up running and completed 'couch to 5K'. She has now entered herself into the Royal Parks Half-Marathon. It will be by no means an easy run in the park but a serious challenge of stamina.

Feel free to go along and support Miss Kelly on 9th October. The route can be found on this website:

<https://royalparkshalf.com/route-map/>

If you are able, please consider sponsoring her. All money raised will go towards improvements to the outdoor areas of the school including Early Years.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/suzanne-kelly-1?utm_term=9vPk6je8r



According to the most recent guidance, the 4c's of online risks of harm are content, contact, conduct and commerce.

Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content

Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users

Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes harm

Commerce: risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams.

Our computing curriculum, led by Miss Chambers, supports pupil understanding in the areas above.