

April 2024 Newsletter

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# Upcoming Dates

(live version available on the website)

April 2024				
1st - 14th	Easter Holidays			
15th	Children return to school			
16th	Year 3 swimming			
17th	Class photos School Tour			
23rd	Year 3 swimming			
24th	School Tour			
30th	Year 3 swimming			







## March's Attendance

Reception to Year 6 average attendance was 93.6% (-0.5% decrease on last month). Please check the <u>website</u> 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
91.9%	92%	90.5%	97.8%	94.8%	96.9%	91.5%	93.6%

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 <a href="mailto:absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk">absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk</a> 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.

**Late children** should be brought into the school (not left at the gate) so parents/carers can sign children in late. This is to ensure that children are safely handed over.

Children should be collected promptly at the end of their school day. Any parent collecting after being 10 minutes late, their child will 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



#### 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.<sup>2</sup>

#### 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

<sup>1:</sup> 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)

al Health and Attendance at School (Chapter 1) - Mental Health and Attendance at School (cambridge.org)

# 'Beat the Street' 3rd place!

Thanks to all of our families for your efforts in 'Beating the Street'.

We did it! We came 3rd place in both the 'total points' and 'average points' leagues for south of the borough schools.



#### North Schools - Total Points

1st - Larmenier & Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School 2nd - St Stephen's CofE Primary School 3rd - Brackenbury Primary School

#### South Schools - Total Points

1st - Fulham Bilingual 2nd - St Augustine's RC Primary School 3rd - Thomas's Academy

#### North Schools - Average Points

1st - Jack Tizard School 2nd - Queensmill School

3rd - Larmenier & Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

#### South Schools - Average Points

1st - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School 2nd - École Marie d'Orliac

3rd - Thomas's Academy

We will now receive £100 of equipment for our playground or books. We'll let the school council decide what they would prefer to do with the vouchers.

A huge thank you to all of you, for helping with this school community effort. It has been a lot of fun.

On **Tuesday 16th April**, there is a *Celebration Event Drop In a*t Ravenscourt Park Glasshouses at 4.30-5.45pm. See this <u>link</u> for more information. All are welcome!



#### **Nursery Entrance**

We're delighted to showcase our renovated nursery entrance that brings a hugely warm and welcoming feeling to all that walk past. A big thank you to Pascale and ChangeX for part funding the beautiful space for all to enjoy!



# EdShed 4

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/tho massacademy/?utm\_campaign=raise-mor e&utm\_content=gs-t1





We are excited to share the news that our art teacher, Ms Crouch, is pregnant, her and her husband are looking forward to the arrival of their first baby at the end of August. In addition to this, our SBM, Ms Redmond, is also pregnant and expecting her second child at the end of September.

We are wishing both expectant mothers a healthy and happy pregnancy.

#### Music at Thomas's Academy

Mr Laidler, our music teacher, is back working full time at Thomas's Clapham this Summer Term. We thank him for all the wonderful work he has done with us at the Academy. We will be welcoming **Vicky Cowles**, a teacher from Thomas's Fulham, to teach our music lessons from April.

Vicky trained at the Royal College of Music, later gaining a PGCE. She works as a woodwind specialist performing worldwide. Combining a career of teaching and performing, which she believes complement and enhance each other, Vicky teaches all woodwinds: recorder, flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon as well as directing ensembles and teaching Musical Theatre singing workshops.





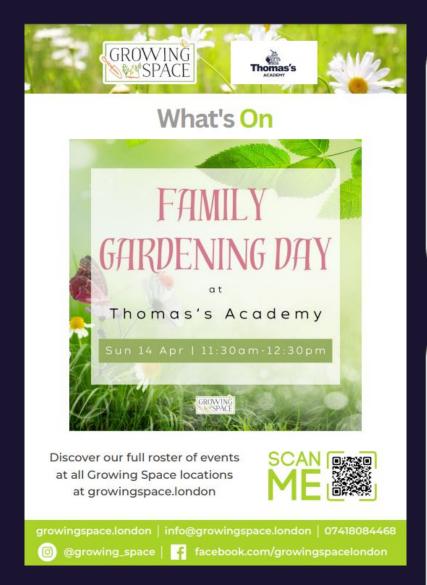
#### **School Blog**

Did you know you can subscribe to the school blog to be notified when the school posts about something that is happening?

To subscribe to the blog, either follow the link:

https://thomassacademy.wordpress.com/

or click on the subscribe button on the top right corner of our blog homepage.





All children in Year 4 have access to Times Tables Rock Stars. If you are struggling to access this, please let Ms Goldsmith know.

#### Year 5 / 6 Residential - Daisy Trust Grant

We are so pleased that we have secured £1,500 grant from the Daisy Trust Foundation to subside the cost of the residential this year.

If you wish your child to attend and have no paid the deposit, the deadline has been extended to Sunday 19th April. Any applications to attend after this date will not be eligible for the grant subsidy.

#### Summer Term Assessments

As a school, it is statutory that we provide assessments to the local authority for children at the end of each Key Stage (Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2). As part of this assessment, children in Year 6 sit Standardised Assessment Tasks (SATs). Our Year 6's have been busily preparing for these. Take a look at last year's results:

	% at or above expected standard	% nationally	% at above expected standard
Reading	76%	73%	34%
Writing	76%	71%	24%
SPAG	88%	72%	52%
Maths	96%	73%	50%
Science	84%	80%	52%

In addition, Year 1 children participate in phonics screening and Year 4 children participate in a multiplication assessment. All of which is reported to the local authority. Ms Dairo is our Assessment Lead at Thomas's Academy.





#### Clubs - Summer Term 2024

The Clubs for next term have already gone live on Teachers2Parents/SchoolMoney and will stay open over easter to allow parents time to book on.

We have worked very hard to increase the offer available to children and have bought in 2 new organisations into the Thomas's Academy family, <u>Super Star Sport</u> and <u>Rose Ballet School</u> and we are very excited to be working with them!

Please ensure that any historical outstanding amounts for dinner money, shine bright, breakfast, musical instrument lessons and extra-curricular clubs from previous terms are full paid before we come back (15th April) or any bookings made for clubs next will be have to be taken off.

Club	Days	Year Groups	Price per Term
Food/Cooking Prep Club	Monday	Y3 - Y4	£72.00
Spanish Games Club	Monday	Y3 - Y4	£40.00
Mini Coders Club	Monday	Y1 - Y2	£76.50
Basketball Club	Monday	Y3 - Y6	£76.50
Lego Club	Monday	Rec- Y3	£40.00
Ballet Club	Monday	Rec - Y2	£76.50
Upbeat/ Upbeat Plus band	Tuesday	Y3 - Y6	£99.00
TTRS Group (last session 13/6/24)	Tuesday	Y4	Free
Arts & Crafts Club	Tuesday	Y1 - Y3	£40.00
Soft Archery Club	Tuesday	Y1 - Y6	£93.50
Athletics Club	Tuesday	Rec - Y1	£93.50
Football Club	Wednesday	Y1 - Y3	£93.50
Coding with Minecraft Club	Wednesday	Y3 - Y4	£93.50
Book Club	Wednesday	Rec - Y1	£40.00
Street Dance Club	Wednesday	Rec - Y6	£93.50
Chess Club	Thursday	Y3 - Y6	£65.00
Irish Dancing Club	Thursday	Rec - Y6	£40.00
Multi-Sport Club	Thursday	Rec - Y1	£40.00
Spanish Club	Thursday	Rec -Y1	£40.00

Extra Curricular Clubs run from Monday 22nd April - Thursday 11th July, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Year 6 intervention Groups however, are running from W/B 15th April (Attendance/sign up to these are by invitation only)

**Breakfast Club** will be running from Monday 15th April - Wednesday 23rd July. **Shine Bright** will be running from Monday 15th April - Tuesday 22nd July.



#### School Catering - First Day of Lunchtime!

As you will all be aware today was the first day of service for our new

caterers, Lunchtime Company!

We had a successful day with children and adults trying the new menu on offer. We had amazing feedback from all across the school.



The new Catering Team were fantastic and it was a great team effort to bring an amazing experience for the children and staff.





#### School Catering - Summer Term Menu



Celery (C), Egg (E), Fish (F), Gluten (G), Lupin (L), Mülk (MK), Mustard (MU), Sesame Seeds (SE), Soya (SO).

Making lunchtime the highlight of your day



#### **WEEK 2 MENU**

THURSDAY

Fresh Salads Available Daily Fresh Bread Available Daily

Please visit the school website for full details here.

We will upload photos to the school blog here, throughout the week!

Beef Bolognaise Pasta Bake Served With Seasonal Vegetables (G) (W) (SO) (MU)

FRIDAY

**MEAT FREE** 

**MAIN MEAL** 

**LUNCHTIME LUNCHBOX** 

**DESSERTS** 

**LUNCH**TIME CO

#### **WEEK 3 MENU**

Allergen symbols are provided as guide only and daily allergen information is available via the school kitchen
Allergen Key, Burley (B), Colery (C), Egg (B), Fish. (P), Gluten (D), Lupin (L), Milk (MK), Museard (MI), Seame Seeds (SD), Suya (SO), Sulphites (SU), Wheat (W)

Making lunchtime the highlight of your day

**MAIN MEAL** 

**MEAT FREE** 

LUNCHTIME LUNCHBOX

**DESSERTS** 

Allergen symbols are provided as guide only and daily allergen information is available via the school kitchen
Allergen Key: Barley (B), Calery (C), Egg (E), Piah (P), Gluten (O), Lupin (I), Milk (MK), Mustard (MI), Seanne Seeds (SK), Saya (SO), Sulphites (SU), Wheat (W)

Making lunchtime the highlight of your day



# Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy







# 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 our 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 <u>tacsafeguarding@academy.thomas-s.co.uk</u>.

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 <a href="mailto:info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk">info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk</a> 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.



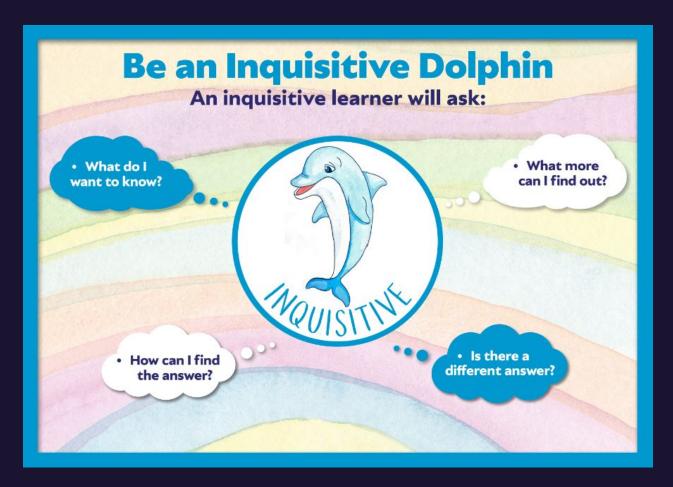


## Learn to Learn

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



A sense of curiosity and interest in the world around them is essential if pupils are to develop into lifelong learners. Consequently, Thomas's Academy aims to engender a willingness and ability to ask and answer questions about the world around us.





# 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'





# Community Notices







Three new family hubs to offer more support and help



We're launching three new family hubs to help local parents, individuals, young people and children.

Family Hubs are a single point of access to help families navigate and receive the support they need.

Our vision is for every child, young person, individual and family to be happy, healthy and have the opportunity to thrive, supported by an effective community network.

Where are the new family hubs?

You can find the family hubs at these three locations:

- Old Oak Community Centre 76 Braybrook Street, W12 0AP
- Tudor Rose Community Centre Fulham Court, SW6 5PG
- The Stephen Wiltshire Centre\*
   Queensmill Road, SW6 6JR
  - \* The Stephen Wiltshire Centre is a specialist family hub for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families, who live in H&F.

www.lbhf.gov.uk/ familyhubs





## Community Notices



