**Issue 16**

**March 2017**

**Website**

The address of our website is: [www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk](http://www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk) and includes a calendar and blog. It is constantly being updated so keep an eye on it for up to date information. For any questions, please speak to Anna or Yasmin in the office or to the relevant teacher.

**Absence**

For your convenience, we have set up a new e-mail address specifically for absence. If your child is away, you can now e-mail with all the relevant details to:

[absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk](mailto:absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk)

**Parents in the building**

Keeping children safe is of upmost importance to us. We have many systems in place to ensure that children are safe at all times. For that reason, we cannot let parents wait in the building for their children to finish their after-school clubs.

**Waitrose Donations**

Thank you so much to Waitrose who donated pancake ingredients which the nursery and reception classes used on Shrove Tuesday. Also thanks to Waitrose and their customers for a £200.00 donation as part of their Community Matters scheme.

**Book Fair**

Our last book fair raised over £600 which means we have over £300 to spend on new books for our library. A big thank you to all especially those who bought books at the fair to donate to the library.

**500 Words Competition**

Well done to all the pupils who entered this story competition – some pupils worked during many lunch times to complete their stories. 30 pupils entered from school. Good luck to all those who entered and we hope that writing these stories has inspired you to continue writing.

**Art Club**

The pupils in Art club have begun a 6 week course at the Saatchi Gallery, led by their fantastic education team. They attended their first club last Tuesday where they were introduced to the current exhibitions around the gallery and will be returning every week for exciting workshops based on what they have learnt.

**TAPs**

**(Thomas’s Academy Parents)**

Thank you to all the parents who are helping to organise this terms events including cake sales, Movie Magic sessions and an Easter Egg Raffle. Please ask in the office if you require more information on these events or you would like help. Please come along to the next meeting on Thursday 21st March at 9am to discuss and get involved with the Summer Fair – there will be lots to do to make this a success.

**Humanism**

Pupils from year 1-6 learnt about Humanism last month. Ask your child about this religion and how it is similar to our school values especially to Be Kind.

**World Book Day**

We celebrated National celebration of books on 2nd March. **During the day we had have a range of activities and competitions.** The pupils looked magnificent dressed up as book characters. If you didn’t pay your £1.50 to contribute towards the cost of a visiting poet during Oracy Week, please do so.

**Oracy Week**

**Oracy week will be celebrated for the first time beginning on the 26th March. James Carter an** award-winning children's poet will begin the week’s activities with an assembly and workshops. During the week there will be visiting drama teachers who will work with groups on improving presentational skills. Pupils will be reciting poems they have learnt throughout the week. Pupils who have performed with confidence will then take part in our poetry recital competition on Friday 31st March.

**School Meals**

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals – even if you choose to eat a packed lunch, please speak to Anna/Yasmin in the office. The school receives additional funding for each pupil entitled to free school meals so it is important that applications are made.

**Building/playground Works**

The building works are proceeding at great pace. You may have seen the progress being made with the back playground. The outbuilding is almost finished now with a new roof and new interior. The Garden Area is also ready to go, and classes will be allocated their own raised beds for vegetable planting very soon. Inside the building, the new Spanish classroom, Science Space and extension to the Art Room are all developing well. We should have the Spanish Room open by the Summer Term and the new 'double aspect' Art Room open by the Autumn.

**E-Mail Addresses**

We are increasingly sending communication to parents by e-mail. If you haven’t already done so, please provide your email address to the school office. In addition, if your contact details change, please inform the office.

**Parent Questionnaire**

This was sent via e-mail to parents. Please respond with your comments in order that your views are known to us.

**Uniform**

Pupils look so smart when dressed in the school uniform. We request your support to ensure uniform standards do not slip. Pupils are expected to dress in full school uniform at all times. This includes T shirts, jumpers and cardigans with the school logo plus **school shoes**. Black trainers and boots are not part of the school uniform. On very wet/cold days, pupils may wear boots to school but then change into shoes once they arrive. In years 3 – 6, school bags are also part of the uniform rather than children’s own rucksacks. Please ensure all items have your child’s name in so they can be returned if found.

A letter will follow shortly containing **new information about school coats**.

**PE Kit**

Please can you ensure that your child is wearing correct PE kit for lessons (years 1 – 6).

The correct kit is **a house coloured top with the logo TA on** and **grey tracksuit bottoms also with TA on the leg**, dark blue shorts are also acceptable.

Children are encouraged to wear sports trainers as these are more comfortable than plimsolls. Black school shoes are not appropriate for PE lessons.

Please do not encourage your child to wear their tights, they will be asked to remove them for hygiene reasons so please pack socks in the PE bag.

If your child does not own the correct PE kit please make arrangements to get it.

**March Dates**

2nd: World Book Day

3rd: Cake Sale Y1, 2, 3, 4 (TAPs)

3rd: Nurse visiting Reception

6th: Parents Evening Y1-6

7th: Y1 – Woodland Adventure

9th: Movie Magic (TAPs)

13th: Readers Cup – Y5, Y6

14th: Y4 – Wetlands Centre

14th: Fire Brigade Y2, Y5

16th: Debating Club – Houses of Parliament

21st: TAPs Meeting

22nd: Y5, Y6 Residential Trip

22nd: WE Day Y5,Y6

23rd: Road Safety Show Y1,2

24th: Red Nose Day

27th: Oracy Week

28th: MEND parents workshop

30th: Easter Egg Raffle (TAPs)

31st: Poetry Recital Competition

**31st: End of Term – 2pm Finish**

**April Dates** *(subject to change)*

18th: INSET Day

19th: Pupils return

24th: After-school Clubs begin

25th: Maths Challenge

26th: Y5 to Thomas’s Clapham