

## Issue 14 December 2016

### 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. 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.

### Children in Need

Well done Thomas's Academy for raising £245.00 for this amazing charity. Everyone looked really spotty!

### Global Goals Digital Exhibition

Thanks to all the staff for organising this event but especially to Mr Winsloe and Miss Crouche – our digital ambassadors. Pupils are very committed to the Global Goals and enjoyed using technology to develop their understanding further and present in new and inspiring ways. The school blog contains some of the Exhibition if you missed it or want another look.

### Book Fair

If you would like to purchase a book or two, then please visit our Book Fair after school in the lower hall during the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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)

### Reverse Advent Calendar

This has been organised by our School Council. Thank you to those of you who have already contributed food that will be given to disadvantaged families in our local area. Remember that this continues until 14<sup>th</sup> December. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, pupils may wear their own clothes in return for bringing a gift item. During week 5 – 9<sup>th</sup> December, pupils can donate toiletries and during the final week, we are asking for donations of jars of food such as sauces and spreads.

### MEND

#### Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it!

Pupils in years 1 and 4 have been having regular sessions with our MEND leaders. Parents of these pupils are invited to an information event on 13<sup>th</sup> December after school.

### Christmas Lunch

We will have this on 16<sup>th</sup> December. If your child does not usually have a school lunch, you may, for this day only, swap. Please just let the office know so enough food is made.

### End of year performances

Years 1, 2 and 3 are performing 'A Little Bird Told Me' for parents on 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am. Early years are performing Christmas songs and dances on 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

### Y5 / Y6 Residential Trip

We are inviting Year 5 and 6 children to our annual residential trip. The location has changed to Wildchild Adventure in Sussex.

The trip will take place from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

We are delighted to have received a generous grant from The Daisy Trust towards the cost. As a result, the price for a two night stay per child is reduced to £70 which includes travel by coach, food, accommodation and all the activities. The full payment for the trip is due by Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

### Culture Week

Year 1 – year 6 will be learning about British and other cultures during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please read below to find out how you can get involved.

### TAPS

#### (Thomas's Academy Parents)

KS1 parents have organised a Winter Ball due to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Termly whole school event organised by this group will be on 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is an International Food Day where we ask parents to bring in dishes from all over the world to share. Please get involved if you can by bringing dishes, serving dishes and coming along. Please speak to the office if you want more information.

### Christianity

During the last two days of term, pupils will be focussing on Christianity. They will learn about why Christmas is

celebrated and how Christians mark this occasion.

### **Home Learning Club**

This club takes place on Mondays in the library for children to complete their homework. No need to sign up just turn up with the homework. Pupils must be accompanied by an adult.

### **After School Care**

Our Aktiva After-School club is now open from 3:15pm-6pm every day on the school premises. Children attending this are having a great time. This childcare provision is available to all children from Reception upwards and can be used for regular days each week or for 'one-off' care when it is needed. Please feel free to contact Anna at the school office if you would like more information.

### **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.

### **Uniform**

Please be reminded that 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. 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.

### **Upbeat**

Upbeat is running a two day song writing course at Thomas's Academy on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December for children aged 5+. They are offering 1 free place which will be awarded to the winner of the 'Sing a Song Competition'. They are also offering 25% off the cost for any Thomas's Academy pupil who attends. See the flyers in the office for more details or contact Upbeat directly on [upbeatmusic@btinternet.com](mailto:upbeatmusic@btinternet.com).

### **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.

### **Free School Meals**

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, even if you choose to eat a packed lunch or are already receiving a KS1 free meal, please speak to Anna and Yasmin in the office. This is important

### **Parental Support**

We really appreciate parental help in school and thanks to those who already come in on a regular basis. If you have some regular spare time to hear children at our school read, please collect a DBS form from the office and let them know your availability. In addition, if you have any availability, do let the office know as we will require help for trips.

### **December Dates**

1<sup>st</sup>: Y1 and Y2 Winter Ball  
1<sup>st</sup>: Sing a song competition  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Own Clothes Day  
5<sup>th</sup>: Book Fair  
6<sup>th</sup>: Parent Gym  
8<sup>th</sup>: Y4 to British Museum  
12<sup>th</sup>: Last week for clubs  
13<sup>th</sup>: MEND session  
16<sup>th</sup>: Y1, Y2, Y3 Production  
16<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Lunch  
16<sup>th</sup>: EY Christmas Songs  
20<sup>th</sup>: End of Term Disco (details to follow)  
21<sup>st</sup>: Christmas Grotto  
21<sup>st</sup>: 2pm End of Term