



Thomas's ACADEMY



Quality First Education Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well. I am writing to you as someone who has expressed an interest in Thomas's Academy and may be applying for a Reception place in January for September 2026. This newsletter gives you a brief overview of what our children have been up to during the Autumn term. I hope it gives you and your child a sense of all the activities they can take part in if they join the school.

Choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, so if you have any further questions before you apply, or would like a further tour of the school, please email us on info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk or call 020 7736 2318 and our team will be very happy to help you.

I hope to welcome you to the Thomas's Academy community.

With best wishes,

Suzanne Kelly
Headteacher



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The Quality First Education Trust

In September 2025, we were delighted that Thomas's Academy joined the [Quality First Education Trust](#) (Q1E). The Q1E Trust is an outward-looking trust which believes in providing an excellent education for all children. We are a small trust of primary schools - Belleville Primary School and Belleville Wix Academy in Battersea, The Alton in Roehampton and Churchfields Primary School in Bromley. Our schools all serve different communities but have all improved since joining the Trust. Our aim is that all children are safe, excellent learners, have excellent social and emotional skills and fulfil their potential.

We have been working closely with the school team since September, beginning with a review of the curriculum. In **Maths**, we have implemented Maths No Problem!, the series recommended by the Department for Education for schools on the Teaching for Mastery programme. We use Maths No Problem! very successfully in all the other schools in the Q1E Trust and the Thomas's Academy team are now able to benefit from the joint planning sessions and sharing of expertise.

In January, we will move to the same approach of a shared curriculum and planning for **Science, History and Geography**. In **English**, across all the schools in the Q1E Trust, we have recently introduced a new handwriting scheme, and this will be followed in January by a new spelling scheme. Within **Nursery and Reception**, we are embarking on an exciting journey to reimagine the use of their learning environment and deepen their curriculum and learning.

As a Trust, we believe that "The quality of a school cannot exceed the quality of its teachers" (McKinsey). This term, the Thomas's Academy leadership team have joined with their equivalent roles across the Trust for professional development opportunities and teaching staff have also benefitted from additional CPD and visits to other schools to learn from best practice. We will continue facilitating collaboration, reflection, and shared learning to enhance teaching, learning, and pupil outcomes.



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Early Years – Nursery and Reception

In Nursery and Reception, our focus this autumn term has been on ensuring our youngest learners are settled into their new learning environment and are happy and making friends. It has been wonderful to see who they are becoming more confident, curious and independent each day.

In **Reception**, our children have been developing their early maths understanding through a range of fun and engaging activities. They have explored numbers and patterns, learning to count, sort and match objects, as well as developing their understanding of shapes, space and measures. In their topics, they have explored the themes of families, pirates and transport through creative play, stories and hands-on experiences. In English and literacy, they have enjoyed learning and retelling the story of Owl Babies and extending their learning by finding out interesting facts about owls. They have also been hard at work practising their fine motor skills and mark-making.



Our Curriculum

In **Maths**, our Year 1 children have been practising their subtraction, and Year 2 have begun their new unit on multiplication and division, working hard on learning their 2, 5 and 10x tables. Year 3 have also been working on multiplication and division with a focus on their 3, 4 and 8x tables. Year 4 have now conquered all their times tables ready for the nationwide times tables check later this year. Our Year 6 mathematicians have been working on fractions, decimals and their problem-solving skills.

In **English**, Year 1 have been studying the book *Dear Earth* to develop their writing skills. They used colourful semantics to create interesting sentences about the pictures in the text. Year 2's descriptive writing has been inspired by *Hansel and Gretel*, and the children had the opportunity to design their own gingerbread houses. Year 3 have created their own acrostic poems based on George's *Marvellous Medicine*. Year 4 brought their reading to life with a wonderful trip to the Polka Theatre to see a performance of *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*. In Year 5, the pupils have been learning how to build tension in their stories through careful description and use of ellipsis, while Year 6 have produced a modern retelling of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*. Year 3 and 6 have also visited Fulham Library.





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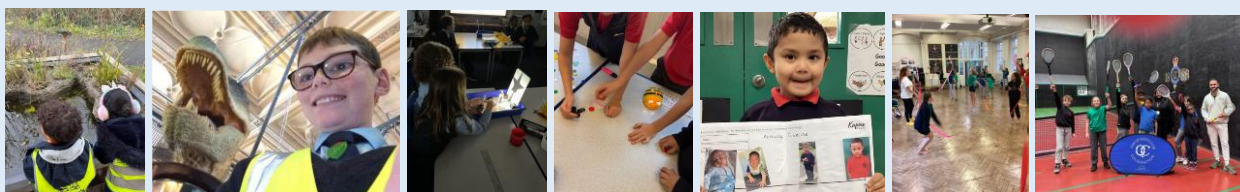


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In **Science**, Year 1 and Year 5 have been investigating materials and their properties. Year 2 have been out and about exploring microhabitats, including a very exciting trip to the London Wetland Centre. Year 5 have been learning about diet, digestion and teeth, while Year 6 have been studying classification with a trip to the National History Museum, as well as light and shadows. In **Computing**, Year 2 explored coding using the Bee-Bots, programming them to move in different shapes.

In **History** Year 1 have been learning about the past through the personal chronology of their lives, Year 4 have been learning about how childhood changed from the Tudors to the Victorians to the present day, and Year 5 learnt continued learning about the Tudors, Henry VIII and his wives.

In **Geography**, Year 3 have been learning all about volcanoes, Year 4 have delved deep into the Amazon rainforest, learning more about this vital ecosystem, and Year 5 have been learning about The Alps, finding out more about its location, climate and physical features.



In **Sport and PE**, Year 6 have taken part in the Mayor's football tournament, Year 5 enjoyed a rhythmic gymnastics workshop, and children from Years 5 and 6 had a great time at Queen's Club playing Real Tennis. We also work closely with Chelsea Football Club. We're also very proud of our Irish Dancers who successfully participate in competitions throughout the year and perform annually at the Parson's Green Fair. In addition to our specialist PE provision, we offer a range of after-school sports clubs and were delighted to be awarded the Schools Games Gold Mark for our PE provision last year.

In **Art**, our Nursery children have been exploring a range of media to create prints inspired by the colours and textures of Autumn. Reception and Year 1 have worked together to produce two stunning large-scale collaborative pieces. Year 2 have been collecting natural materials and using them to create beautiful, thoughtful installations in our very own Peace Garden. Our older children in Years 4 and 5 have been developing their skills in portraiture, while Year 6 have been mastering the art of perspective, creating detailed sketches using horizon lines and vanishing points. Year 3 had an inspiring visit to the Saatchi Gallery where they enjoyed a guided tour of The Long Now exhibition. In **Music**, the children have enjoyed preparing for their end of year concerts and Nativity performances. **Design Technology** has featured cooking in Year 1 and 5, mechanics in Years 2, and textiles in Year 3.



Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed an **outdoor learning** day at Walton Firs. The children built their own shelter and practised their stealth skills by sneaking around the woods collecting tokens for their teams. Year 3 also had a fantastic time on their trip to the Serge Hill Project, exploring a wide variety of plants and seeds, learning how they grow and discovering just how many different types there are.

Pupil voice is important to us at Thomas's Academy. We have an active School Council, who welcomed Ben Coleman, our local MP to the school this term. As a school, we have also celebrated Black History Month, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Odd Socks Day and Children in Need.