

January 2024 Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates

(live version available on the website)

	January 2024
8th	INSET Day - Staff focussing on behaviour and academic progress
9th	Children return to school
10th	School tour - <u>Book Here</u> Toy making workshop for Year 1
15th	Clubs starting - See below for details Planets in the Solar System Workshop for Year 5
16th	Year 3 Swimming
17th	School tour - <u>Book Here</u>
19th	Year 4 and 5 gardening
23rd	Planets in the Solar System Workshop for Year 3
24th	School tour - <u>Book Here</u>
26th	Year 1 and 3 gardening
w/c 29th	National Storytelling Week Aspirations Week
30th	Year 3 Swimming







Happy New Year

Welcome back. After an extremely busy Autumn Term, we start the new year with renewed energy and motivation to support the children at Thomas's Academy to thrive at school. It has been lovely catching up with the staff, children and families over the past few days.

We specifically welcome our new families and staff to Thomas's Academy. You may have already met our new office and admissions administrator, Emma Faye, who is working at the front desk. We also have a new Year 5 teacher, Olufunmilayo Dairo, and a new support staff member in Year 1, Ali Hopkinson.

Staff spent the INSET day on 7th January working on school behaviour processes and working in teams on pupil progress. They have been busy planning for the weeks ahead, the termly bulletins detailing all this will be shared with families shortly.

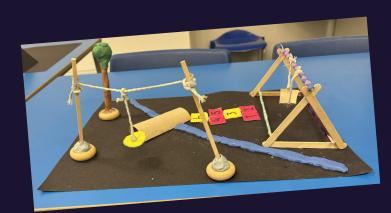
I am thrilled by the announcement that primary school pupils in London will receive free lunches for another year. In addition, children are offered bagels and fruit in the mornings. Please may we ask that snacks brought for clubs remain healthy and nut-free.

A reminder please that children should be wearing school shoes on days where there is no dance/P.E. Many children have returned to school this year wearing trainers with their uniform. Please could you rectify this at your earliest convenience if this is you. If you are struggling financially with this, please speak to a staff member so we can try to assist in some way.

During the last week of half term, children participated in Design Technology projects. This subject is led by Ms Mather, our Year 3 teacher. We thank her for all her work to enable these activities to happen. The children had a wonderful time and produced some amazing results.

Please take the time to read carefully through this newsletter so not to miss out on any information that might impact your child.

Miss Kelly





Changes in class dismissal

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to have a happy, yet relaxing break. It was lovely to welcome the children back this week and I am sure you are happy to get them back into the school routine, ready for another exciting term ahead.

I wanted to alert you to a number of changes that we are implementing at dismissal this month to ensure the safety of our children.

- 1. Please can I ask that you keep your children with you at all times and monitor their whereabouts once they are in your care and please be extra vigilant at this time both in the school grounds and when you are crossing nearby roads.
- 2. Children attending *Shine Bright Club* will now be collected from their classrooms by Miss Sofia, instead of entering the playground at the end of the day. She will then take the children straight to the *Shine Bright* Room.
- 3. Children attending after school clubs will not enter the playground at dismissal but will instead be taken to the *Sunshine Room* where a member of our staff will supervise them until the club leader arrives to take them to their club room.
- 4. At 3.30pm, you will notice that Years 2-6 will line up in the front playground, with their teacher at the front of the line. Children will put up their hand when they see a parent/carer and then safe dismissal can proceed. Staff will politely decline speaking with parents until safe dismissal is complete.
- 5. Parents/Carers will need to wait near their child's line. Children will not be permitted to walk the distance of the playground alone. Parents/Carers will need to position themselves close to their children's lines. In the case of siblings in different year groups, please collect one child at a time.
- 6. Please contact the school office if there is a change in dismissal arrangements for your child(ren). If you are going to be late, if another adult is picking up your child or if you don't require your child to attend a club and you will be collecting them at normal time, school must know these changes to safeguard your child.

Dismissal for Nursery- Y1 remain the same as last term.

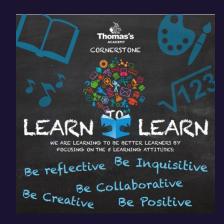
With kindest regards, Clare James Deputy Head teacher

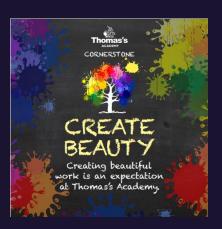
New Cornerstone



We are delighted to share our new Cornerstone with you: Grow Together. This replaces the 'Think Globally' cornerstone which required updating given our curriculum changes. Thank you to all who contributed their ideas to ensure the new cornerstone represents our community school effectively. The children have been introduced to this in an assembly and new posters have been placed around the school.







December's Attendance

Reception to Year 6 average attendance was a very low 85.4% in December, a 7.73% drop from November. Sadly, this figure is due to holidays taken before the end of term, more than seasonal illness.

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
81.2%	86.6%	82.6%	90%	91.3%	80.6%	85.6%	85.4%

Class attendance for the month of December 2023. 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 <u>absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk</u>. 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.

Children should be collected promptly at the end of their school day. Any parent collecting after being 10 minutes late, their child may 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. From 8 January, Government is launching 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



- 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.²

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

Missing Children, Missing Grades | Children's Commissioner for England (children's commissioner.gov.uk)
Mental Health and Attendance at School (Chapter 1) - Mental Health and Attendance at School (cambridge.org)

MOMENTS

ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

^{1:} 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)

Behaviour

omas's



Above are just some of the ways children are rewarded for good behaviour at Thomas's Academy. We would like to share again, the ways in which we respond to unacceptable behaviour.

For minor incidents, children will receive:

- First Reminder
- Second Reminder
- Internal Reflection (5/10 minutes) this will involve a behaviour note being sent home.

	Behaviour Note
Child's name:	
Date:	
Jnacceptable behaviour:_	
Teacher:	
EUCHET:	

After their reflection, children will be able to join their class with the learning. If children receive three behaviour notes in one half-term, parents will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the behaviour and how we might work together to change the pattern of behaviour.

For more serious incidents, senior leaders will speak to the child involved. It is likely that parents will be contacted by Mrs James or Miss Kelly and will be invited to a meeting. The child will be given external reflection time (time out of the class).

Some children will have a personal positive behaviour plan (PBP) tailored to their needs. Parents will be invited to contribute to this.

Clubs - Spring Term

We're delighted to be able to send the clubs details for this term, we've worked hard to build up the clubs on offer to parents whilst keeping the much loved clubs still going.

Please see below for details

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that After School Extra-Curricular Clubs will be running for the Spring Term from Monday 15th January - Thursday 21st March. Please see a list below of all the clubs we will be running this term and the days of the week they will be on. All clubs will run from 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

Please note children who are not picked up at 4.30pm promptly, will be sent directly to Shine Bright which will incur the £10/15 fee for this.

Club	Days	Location	Year Groups	Price per term
Digital Leaders Club	Monday	Y4 Classroom	Y3 - Y6	£40.00
Mini Coders Club [Blueshift Coding]	Monday	Computing Room	Y1 - Y2	£76.50
Lego Club	Monday	Reception	Rec - Y3	£40.00
Multi Sports Club	Monday	Back Playground	Y3 - Y6	£40.00
Choir Club	Monday	Music Room	Y3 - Y6	£40.00
Sewing Club	Tuesday	Nurture Room	Y4 - Y6	£40.00
bespoke band group, introducing children to drums, guitars and singing as part of a band. Includes recording and performance.	Tuesday	Music Room/Middle Hall	Y4 - Y6	£117.00
Art Club	Wednesday	Art Room	Y2 - Y3	£40.00
Coding with Minecraft Club [Blueshift Coding]	Wednesday	Computing Room	Y3 - Y4	£76.50
Book Club	Wednesday	Nurture Room/Library	Rec - Y1	£40.00
Chess Club	Thursday	Library	Y3 - Y6	£54.00
Arts and Crafts Club	Thursday	Reception class	Rec - Y1	£40.00
Irish Dancing	Thursday	Upper Hall	Rec - Y6	£40.00
Times Tables Club	Thursday	KS2 Teaching Room	Y4	£40.00

Please register and pay for your required club through your Teacher2Parents app. This will open from 10am Friday 12/01/2024 and the deadline for bookings to be made is 9am on Monday 15/01/2024.

Please remember you must pay to confirm your booking as places are limited for each club.

Upbeat requires you to book and pay directly through them. Please contact them at the email address or mobile number below.

Max at: upbeatmusiccourses@gmail.com/ 07816 901396

<u>Please be aware that if there are any outstanding balances owed for clubs</u> <u>in the previous term(s), then you will be unable to book onto this terms'</u> <u>clubs until these are cleared.</u>

School Notices

Instrumental Tuition

Instrumental Lessons started up this week with all pupils continuing from the previous term.

We have a range of excellent music tutors, Daniela (Violin) and George (Drumming, Guitar and Bass), Alessia (Piano) who provide 30 minute lessons to pupils on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

George Diaper Music Tutor @ Thomas's Academy

George is a multi-instrumentalist, music producer, and music tutor with more than 10 years of experience. He also holds a degree in music performance and completed his Masters in Music in 2020

When he first starting playing at school, George loved Punk, Ska, and Rock music. Now he plays everything from Funk, to Jazz, to Soul, RnB, Rock, Latin music and beyond.

George also produces music for up and coming artists, as well as his own music. Mostly producing modern RnB/Soul, George likes to incorporate his guitar, bass, trumpet, keyboard, and drum skills in his productions. He also loves synthesisers and makes electronic music too!

Whether you've never picked up an instrument before, want to try something new, or are already a budding musical prodigy, George is looking to meet new students to take on guilar, basa, or drum lessons at Thomas's Academy. Students have the opportunity to perform at the school, work towards grade exams, or simply have fun learning a new skill.

Contact him directly today to find out more gdiaper@academy.thomas-s.co.uk



If you wish your child to start musical instrument lessons for any of the Instruments on offer, register on <u>this form</u> !

If you have any questions please email the school office: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

SchoolMoney Unpaid Balances

The school has been focusing on outstanding balances on School money, reminders were sent out at the end of last term however there are still a number of families with outstanding 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.

easyfundraising feel good shopping

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.

<u>Click here to access the Trips, IT and Photo Form</u> <u>Click her to access the Internal Media Form</u> 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

School Notices

We Music for Kids

I'm reaching out to share the great news that I have crafted a new music after-school club for the children of our Fulham community. It's called "We Music for Kids," children's string orchestra, located at Christ Church Fulham

Being a trusted teacher within our school and community, I've seen firsthand the positive impact of music education on our children. Now, I'm excited to extend this experience to our community.

I would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word about this after-school club by sharing the attached invitation with parents. I genuinely believe "We Music for Kids" will bring immense value and enrichment to our community.

Please contact me for further information.

Thanks for your support, Daniela Das Dores Violin Teacher



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 **info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk** 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.

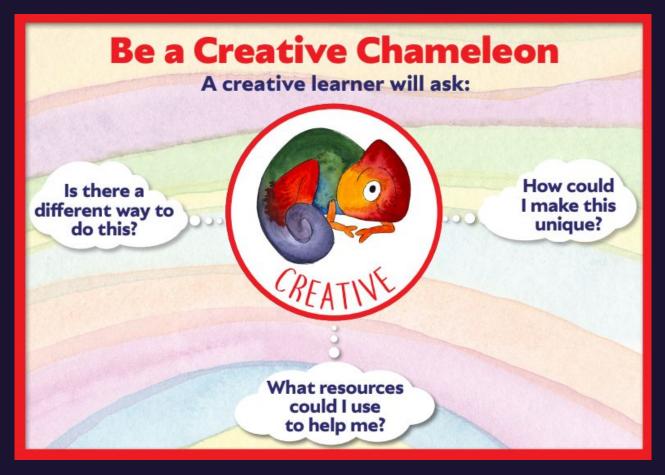


Learn to Learn

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



In a rapidly evolving world, it is necessary for the children to learn to be flexible, able to adapt to changing circumstances and capable of thinking of imaginative solutions to problems using all the resources available to them.





Digital Learning

We are immensely proud to call ourselves a digital school and through our digital literacy topics in computing and during Character Curriculum lessons, we continue to teach the children of Thomas's Academy to stay safe online.

Here are some useful links to support you in embedding this message at home!

<u>Parental Support</u>

<u>NSPCC Online Safety Family</u> <u>Agreement</u>

<u>Advice on Inclusive Digital</u> <u>Safety</u>

<u>Advice on Parental Controls</u>

Digital Family Toolkit (tailored and personalised to match your child's digital choices) <u>Gaming Advice</u> Advice on Online Gaming

Safety Advice for Roblox

<u>Ultimate Guide to Roblox</u>



Community Notices

Support around additional needs

- ADDISS (The National Attention Deficit Disorder Information and Support Service) provides information and resources about ADHD and the variety of approaches that can help including behavioural therapy, medication, individual counselling, and special education provision. 020 8952 2800 / info@addiss.co.uk
- Action on Disability Youth Service supports young disabled people and those with additional needs from the ages of 11yrs to 25yrs to have fun, learn new skills and challenge themselves. They offer a varied youth curriculum programme which covers the arts, sport, independent living skills, accredited learning and volunteering. Contact details: 020 8749 3858 / admin.youth@actionondisability.org.uk / www.actionondisability.org.uk/youth
- Action on Disability is a local charity that supports families where there is an adult or child with a disability. They offer benefit advice, an advocacy service, a youth services and much more. Contact details: 020 7385 2098 / 7381 2042 or www.actionondisability.org.uk.
- For information and advice around **Blue Badges** please see the LBHF website: <u>www.lbhf.gov.uk/health-and-care/getting-around/blue-badge</u>
- Children and Young People Information, Advice and Support Service Network for SEND is a free service for children and young people. They can help you find out about your rights under the law and about the Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. The IASS can be contacted at: wlpp@insightsesc.co.uk or 020 8840 9099 www.cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/insights-information-advice-support-service
- **Carers and Disability Benefits:** For information and advice on **Carers and disability benefits** please see the national government website: <u>www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/disability</u>
- Independent Supporters work with families and young people going through the EHC Needs Assessment process and can support you in meetings. If you would like to speak to an Independent Supporter, you can contact them on: ISHammersmithFulham@barnardos.org.uk or 0808 800 0037.
- **INSPIRE** (Hammersmith and Fulham Inclusion and Specialist Intervention Service) provide Coffee Mornings for parents and carers of children and young people with ASD. E-mail adem.cetindamar@lbhf.gov.uk or call or text 07765 406 862
- Mencap support adults, children and young people with learning disabilities and autism. Services they provided include Advocacy, a flexible support service called MY Life, a Youth Development Project (13-25) that focuses on developing skills such as independent living and social inclusion, Children's Play Services, Parentsactive is a support network for families of disabled children (0-25), The Young People's Transitions (14-25) and Short Breaks. Contacts details: 020 8748 5168 or info@hfmencap.org.
- **Parents Active** aims to help parents/carers of disabled children living in Hammersmith and Fulham. Their mission is to provide a support network for parents to gain and share information, make new friends and most importantly realise that they are not alone. Contact details: 0208 748 5168, info@parentsactive.org.uk and www.parentsactive.org.uk.
- **Signhealth** have a range of projects, services and campaigns, all aimed at improving the health of Deaf people. They provide advocacy, outreach, care homes and supported housing. Text Deaf to 85258 or website: <u>www.signhealth.org.uk</u>.
- Solidarity Sports offer a wide range of programmes and activities from sports to art to cooking for children in West London. Contact details: 020 7376 0032 / <u>www.solidaritysports.org</u>
- The Honeypot offers both respite breaks and outreach support to young carers and vulnerable children, aged 5yrs to 13yrs old. Contact details: info@honeypot.org.uk
- The Stephen Wiltshire Centre is a 'one stop shop' for children, young people and families with disabilities and SEND. Contact details: 020 8753 4443 or address The Stephen Wiltshire Centre Queensmill Road, SW6 6JJ.

Community Notices

Please click <u>here</u> to access the Hammersmith and Fulham Cost of Living 2023 booklet.

Parenting Classes

- **Brilliant Parents:** Parent Support Programmes for the London Borough of Brent, Harrow & Hammersmith and Fulham. www.brilliantparents.org
- Masbro STOP Programme: STOP is a 10 weeks programme for parents and carers of 10 16 year old who want to understand their child better and find out how teenage brain works. Parents will explore ways to strengthen parent child relationship and learn how to manage conflicts and risk-taking behaviours successfully. To find out when the next STOP will be commencing Contact Marina Kopanja email: marina@upg.org.uk mobile: 07740 752 679
- Masbro Children's Centre run "Confident Parent, Happy Child", which is a free service for parents living in Hammersmith and Fulham with a child, under 18 years. Contact: Ushma Bal, Parenting Project Manager, 07713 077565, <u>ushma@upg.org.uk</u>





A book by one of our talented parents



Billy is having a lovely day on the beach with his mum when he is faced with the challenging task of saving the rainbow. Billy is shocked to learn that if rainbows don't exist anymore then baddies can take over Earth.

Something unexpected happens to Billy and he is very scared, but he uses his bravery, courage, and creativity to think of new ways to save the rainbow.

How will Billy save the rainbow? And will he save it in time, before the baddies take over the world?

