

October 2024 Newsletter

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Head's Report



Dear Thomas's Academy Community,

It's been a busy September with trips, gardening, lots of new children starting, a visit from the Fire Brigade Education Team and the Foodbank, the relaunch of football in the back playground, the London Play Street Day on Cristowe Road, a pre-loved uniform sale and the very successful Food Taster session for parents.

New staff have settled well into their roles. They have all felt very welcomed by the Thomas's Academy community.

We have a wonderful new group of house captains in Year 6 who have made a good start with fulfilling their responsibilities. We also have a new school council who had their first meeting on 26th September. Let's not forget our School librarians too who work hard to ensure that reading has a high profile in the school.

Attendance remains high on our priority list. Well done to all the families who are making an effort with this. With so much going on at school, missed days do have an impact on children.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank some partners of Thomas's Academy who have been working with us to provide such a wonderful experience for our children. It's an impressive list.

- The Daisy Trust provided a substantial grant to enable us to decrease the cost of our school residential last term
- Chelsea Football Club Foundation are providing in class support and a football club at lunch times on a Monday. They are also working with Year 5 on a drama project exploring discrimination and celebrating heroes.
- Growing Space, namely Pascale, works with the community on fundraising and sustainability activities
- Thomas's Foundation supply volunteer parent readers to read with pupils in school
- Thomas's Foundation have provided a project named Thomas's Foundation Pathway which many children from our school have benefitted from
- The English Hub provided a substantial grant to support us in our resourcing of phonics and are supporting development of phonics in the school
- MIND supply a trained practitioner to work with the school on a weekly basis
- KOS Academy of Irish Dance are supporting experienced Irish Dancers at Thomas's Academy access competitions
- St Dionis Church and Christchurch Fulham for their support in delivering assemblies
- St Pauls who provide a programme called Year 5 Primary Professors which some children will be benefiting from
- Thomas's Schools who provide some children with places on their dance programme

We are fortunate to have so many community links who are able to enhance what we offer at Thomas's Academy. Thank you to all the staff for forging and maintaining these links.

I hope you all have a wonderful October.

Miss Kelly



September attendance

Reception to Year 6 average attendance was 93%, which is below national average. We look forward to October's attendance being a lot more healthy.

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	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Average attendance
85%	95.8%	94.5%	94.6%	98.4%	90.5%	88.6%	93%

Class attendance for the month of September 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 ten-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 absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk 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 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.

Social Media

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. Did you know we are also on TikTok, Facebook and Instagram! Please follow us if you don't already!



HARVEST COLLECTION FOR H&F FOODBANK Mon 30th Sep- Fri 4th Oct

Donations for the foodbank are very much welcome this week. The foodbank will be collecting our donations early next week. Thank you to those of you who have already donated.

The children are allowed to wear their own clothes on Friday 4th October if they bring in an item(s) for donation. No crocs, sliders or high heels please and suitable comfortable clothing, especially for those classes that have PE on Friday.



URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD AND TOILETRIES

- Tinned fish
- Coffee and tea
- Tinned soup
- Biscuits
- Tinned fruit and vegetables
- Jams or spreads
- Instant noodles
- Toilet rolls



In this year's competition, there are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 words or less. The deadline for submitting stories directly online is **9pm on Friday 8th November 2024.**

We would love children of all abilities to enter; spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - it's all about creativity!

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous **grand final** at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

To find out more, click <u>here</u>.



PARENT WORKSHOPS

1. Positive Routine for School Mornings

O Date: Friday, 4th October 2024

• Time: 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM

• Welcome Room @ Thomas's Academy



2. Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme)

A 6-week programme for parents/carers who have a child between 0-12 years of age. The programme helps parents raise happy and confident children. Parents are introduced to a range of strategies to enhance parent child relationship, encourage positive behaviour and manage misbehaviour.

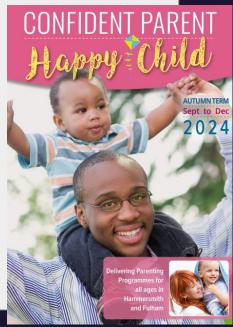
O Date: Each Friday, 8th November 2024- 13th

December 2024

• Time: 9:15 AM - 11:15 AM

• Welcome Room @ Thomas's Academy





Central London Community Healthcare

Your healthcare closer to home

Hello, my name is Polly Mattia, I am the school nurse at Thomas's Academy

Looking for health advice, support or information? I am available every Monday afternoon We can discuss anything that's on your mind, such as:

- Bullying
- Emotional wellbeing
- Stress
- Self-harm
- Family matters
- Healthy eating & exercise
- Bed Wetting
- Growing-up & adolescence
- Anger & hormones
- Sleep
- Staying safe
- Immunisations



You can contact your school nurse on

T: 07908 130 138

polly.mattia@nhs.net



Mind Bulletins

See this link for October's Mind bulletin for parents and here for the pupil Mind bulletin. This month is *Black History Month*, so there is a special focus on 'differences and acceptance'.

Black History Month

Parent & Carer Bulletin no. 2 – October 2024



OCTOBER IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

Schools in England are not currently required to teach Black history. Despite Black people being part of UK society since Roman times, history books have failed to document their achievements, and their stories have been forgotten.

Black History Month takes place every October in the UK to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds and to challenge racism. Teaching UK history from a multicultural perspective can hel address racist notions that people of colour are 'new to this country' or 'don't belong'.



inspiring Black communities to take control

Why not watch this short video with your child to learn more about the campaign.



Words for Life, created by the National Literary Trust, has put together a Black History Month Booklist here.

They have also put together some 'Learn to be an Anti-Racist' toolkits for <u>5-8-year-olds</u> / <u>9-12-year-olds</u> / <u>13+</u>. Each webpage includes age-appropriate videos and news articles exploring race and identity.

- Learning history is always easier when it's fun! Oti Mabuse from Strictly fame introduces a selection of sketches and songs from the "Horrible Histories" series. BBC Bitesize has informative cartoons and quizzes to expand your child's knowledge.

 Older children and young people can watch videos on pivotal moments in Black British history here, including the New Cross house fire of 1981, the 1960s Black Power movement, and the murder of Stephen Lawrence



The educational journey can be a daunting and emotional experience for families and children. Parents of Black Children UK is an advocacy group that supports families to facilitate equitable outcomes for Black children, through accountability and transformational change.

Racism is sadly still a part of life for many of us, affecting our mental health and wellbeing The following websites support young people who are affected by racism:

Racism and mental health – Mind How To Deal With Racism - YoungMinds

For blog posts, and to learn more about the support we offer, visit our



School Catering - Summer Menu (April - October)



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

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!

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MEAT FREE

MAIN MEAL

LUNCHTIME LUNCHBOX

WEEK 3 MENU

DESSERTS

LUNCHTIME CO

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 (MH), Seame Seeds (SD), Suya (SO), Sulphites (SU), Wheat (W)

Making lunchtime the highlight of your day

MAIN MEAL

MEAT FREE

LUNCHTIME LUNCHBOX

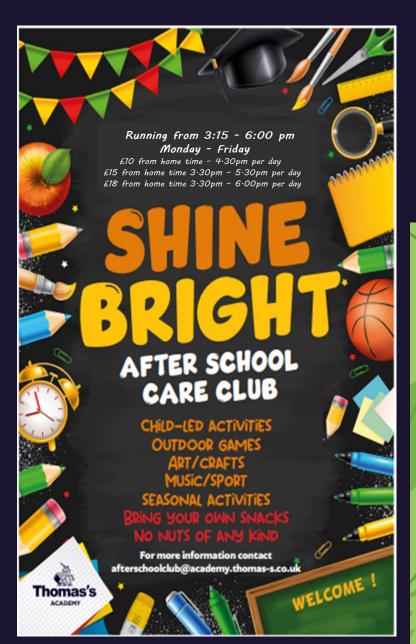
DESSERTS

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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, Miss Dairo 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 Safeguarding email address should you wish to contact the Safeguarding Team at school. It's tacsafeguarding@academy.thomas-s.co.uk.

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.



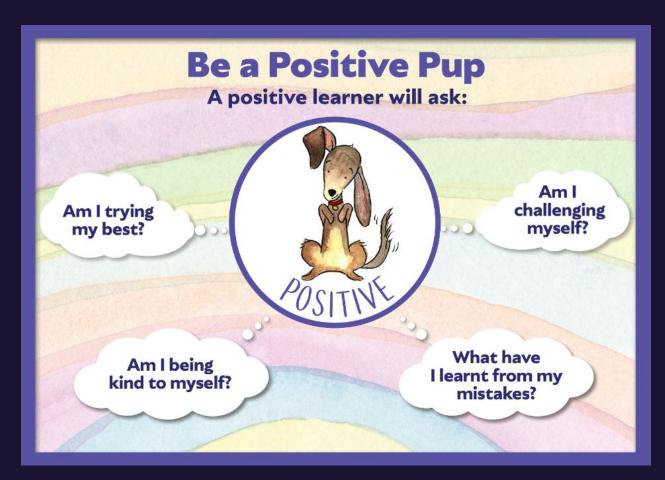


Learn to Learn

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



Pupils need to be confident enough to attempt a difficult task, resilient enough to persevere and willing to fail to learn effectively. This learning behaviour is fundamental to the success of all of the others.





Reading

Reading is one of the most important life skills.

At Thomas's Academy, we do everything we can to help your child read and develop a love of reading. You can help your child by encouraging them to read at home.

Every child has a Reading Folder containing their Reading Record and at least one book. They must bring this to school with them every day.

They should be recording their reading every time they read.

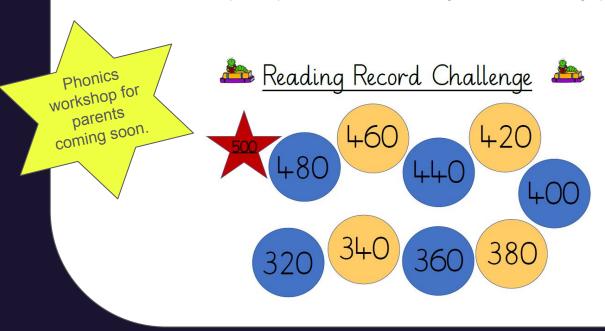
KS1 – comments to be made by an adult KS2 – comments to be made by the child/adult

Example:

Date	Book Name	Comments
16/4	The BFG	pg 1-9 pg 9-16
1714	11	pg 16-24 pg 24-32

Their reading records will be checked weekly and achievements will be celebrated!

Have they told you about our Reading Record Challenge yet?!





Digital Learning

Our new lead for digital learning is Yasmin Mohammed, our nursery teacher.

We are committed to keeping children safe online and supporting parents with ways to embed these strategies at home. Our PSHE and computing curriculum teaches children how to use the internet safely and what to do if things go wrong. If you are concerned about anything related to this, please speak to a member of staff.

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







Community Notices





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Save the Date

The Daisy Trust Fair 2024

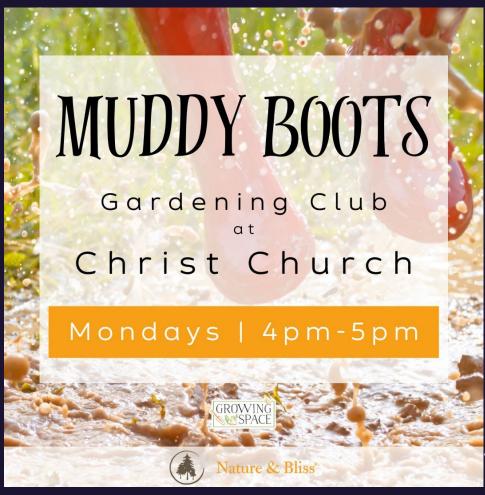
Monday 7th October

9am-5pm

at St Dionis Church & CAS Halls SW6 4UH

Click here or visit www.daisytrust.org for tickets





Community Notices







Upcoming Dates

(live version available on the website)

	October 2024			
1st	Year 4 swimming Gardening session with Pascale - Year 1 Nasal spray flu vaccinations Year 5 'This is Us' workshop with Anand from Chelsea FC Foundation			
2nd	School Tour			
4th	9.15am - Parent workshop - Positive Routine for School Mornings Gardening session with Pascale - Year 4 Own clothes day for Harvest Collection			
7th	Ciara from CFC working with various classes			
8th	Year 4 swimming Gardening session with Pascale - Year 6 Year 5 'This is Us' workshop with Anand from Chelsea FC Foundation			
9th	School Tour			
11th	Gardening session with Pascale - Year 5			
14th	Ciara from CFC working with various classes			
15th	Year 4 swimming Year 5 'This is Us' workshop with Anand from Chelsea FC Foundation			
16th	Year 5 CPR Training at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital (TBC)			
17th	Year 4, 5 and 6 Black History Month Workshops led by CFC			
21st	Ciara from CFC working with various classes Parents Meetings - Rec - Year 6			
22nd	Year 4 swimming Parents Meetings - Rec - Year 6 Year 5 'This is Us' workshop with Anand from Chelsea FC Foundation			
23rd	School Tour			
25th	INSET day - no school for children			
28th	Half-Term - children return on 4th November			
31st	Deadline for Year 7 applications			

Please ensure no holidays are booked during term-time!







Upcoming Dates

(live version available on the website)

	November 2024		
4th	Ciara from CFC working with various classes		
5th	Year 4 swimming Gardening session with Pascale - Nursery		
6th	School Tour		
7th	Year 6 to Imperial War Museum (TBC)		
8th	Gardening session with Pascale - Year 2 Parents Workshop - Positive Parenting Programme		
11th	Kindness and Anti-bullying week Ciara from CFC working with various classes Remembrance Day		
12th	Year 4 swimming Gardening Session with Pascale - Reception		
13th	School Tour		
14th	Year 3 to the Science Museum		
15th	Parents Workshop - Positive Parenting Programme Gardening session with Pascale - Year 3		
18th	Road Safety Week Ciara from CFC working with various classes		
19th	Year 4 swimming Gardening session with Pascale - Year 1		
20th	School Tour		
22nd	Parents Workshop - Positive Parenting Programme Gardening session with Pascale - Year 4		
25th	Ciara from CFC working with various classes		
26th	Year 4 swimming		
27th	School Tour		
28th	CWIZZ at Emmanuel (8 keen readers from Year 5&6)		
29th	Gardening session with Pascale - Year 4 Parents Workshop - Positive Parenting Programme Thistles wear blue accessory to celebrate St Andrew's Day		

Please ensure no holidays are booked during term-time!





