

September 2025 Newsletter

Contacts

www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk

General and office: info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Safeguarding team: <u>tacsafeguarding@thomas-s.co.uk</u>

Reporting pupil absence: absent@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

SENDCo:

sendco@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

Requests for pupil absence - <u>click here</u>

Facebook: <u>Thomas's Academy</u>
TikToK: <u>thomass.academy</u>
Instagram: <u>thomassacademy</u>
X (formerly known as Twitter)

:@ThomassAcademy

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Upcoming Dates



(live version available on the website)

September 2025		
1st and 2nd	INSET Days	
3rd	Children return (Rec - Y6) Home visits for nursery	
4th and 5th	Home visits for nursery	
8th	Nursery opens	
9th	Swimming for Y4	
11th	Y3 Trip to the Library of Plants	
12th	Class presentations for parents (Y1 - Y6) 3pm	
15th	Extra - Curricular Clubs begin	
16th	Swimming for Y4	
22nd - 26th	Harvest Collections	
23rd	Fire Safety talks for Y2 and Y5 Swimming for Y4 Y5&Y6 Girls 'Inspire Her' foundation project Individual School photos	
30th	H&F Youth Council Visit for Y6 Swimming for Y4	

October 2025 (so far)		
7th	Swimming for Y4 Y5&Y6 Girls 'Inspire Her' foundation project	
14th	Swimming for Y4	
17th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	
20th	Parents' Meetings - Rec - Y6	
21st	Swimming for Y4 Y5&Y6 Girls 'Inspire Her' foundation project Parents' Meetings - Rec - Y6	
22nd - 24th	RE Days	
27th - 31st	Half-Term - Children return on 4th November	











Head Teacher's Update



Dear Thomas's Academy Community,

Welcome to the academic year 2025 - 2026. We are very pleased to be starting the new academic year following a nice long Summer break. A particular welcome to all our new families both in Early Years but also in the other year groups as well as our new staff. Thank you to all the parents who have been so supporting and positive in our recent interactions.

With the transfer to Quality First Education Trust (Q1E) now complete, Thomas's Academy staff spent 1st September at Belleville Primary School with all the staff from Q1E. The teachers have received new Chromebooks to support in the smooth running of the school and all staff received branded jackets. During the day, the staff were introduced to many Q1E systems and teachers were fortunate enough to hear directly from Professor Dr Tim Mills regarding the new DFE Writing Framework. On 2nd September, staff undertook training including safeguarding. We have a new safeguarding policy which can be found on our website. We will keep you informed of any significant changes that occur over the course of the coming year. The first major change for us is using a new maths scheme called 'Maths No Problem'. If you would like to find out more about this, please see the website here. Speaking to some children in Y3 about this, they are really enjoying the lessons which are more practical than they were used to. They are enjoying having a text book with useful visuals and their own workbook. We thank Karen Taylor, Director of Maths at Q1E, for her support with this transition.

The school site has gone through it's usual deep clean including the windows. The outside has seen a spruce up too. We are looking to plant some flowers around the school and would love some donations from families. This will really improve the look and feel of the site.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's provision, your child's teacher is a good place to start. If you have an administration query, Karen, our office manager, is a great source of information. I'm usually around at the beginning and end of the day and love to catch up with families too. Wishing you all a positive start to the academic year.

Miss Kelly



Special Needs Update

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be difficult. Most children will be moving between year groups, with some changing schools. It's a situation that could create anxious thoughts for any child, and children with <u>special educational needs and disabilities</u> (SEND) often experience additional challenges.

These challenges can relate to:

- change
- new possibly unfamiliar environments and routines
- unpredictability
- making new relationships and connections.

Give yourself a break

It's a difficult situation for any parent or carer to navigate, so there's no shame in feeling slightly overwhelmed. One support worker at a service that provides support to children with SEND and their families says many parents undervalue their own experience and strength.

"Parents sometimes forget that they've handled challenging situations before. They tend to move onto the next milestone without taking the time to think about what they've already achieved. I would suggest to all parents and carers that you stop and reflect on the problems you've resolved before – you'll soon realise how expert you already are!"

Check what transition plans are in place

Thomas's Academy has procedures in place to manage the transition from one class or school to another. Your child may already have received a social story that should help. Children have had a chance to be in their new classroom and meet the new adults which should help with their transition.

Staff have already discussed the children in their class and have plans in place to support children who require extra support. We will be sure that our general practices are inclusive, for example by using visual timetables so children know what to expect. The class teacher is your first point of contact if you have any concerns.





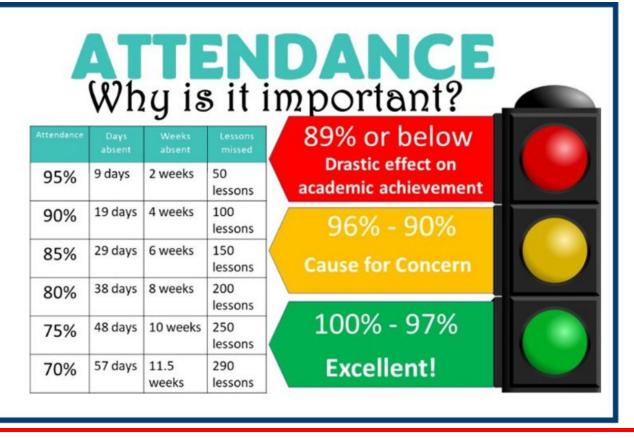
Attendance

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

See below for headline facts and figures for academic year 2024-25

Thomas's Academy Average attendance 24/25 (%)	National attendance for state funded primary schools 24/25 (%)
94.3	94.8



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.

Absence request forms must be completed by a parent/carer for ANY child, no matter their age.

Online Gaming

Our September newsletter focus is on Minecraft.

With its limitless opportunities for building, exploring and collaborating, young players can face challenges if left unsupervised. Minecraft can also become a time sink for enthusiastic players, with late nights spent crafting and constructing, potentially impacting school and social lives.

This guide to helps parents and educators understand how to keep young gamers safe – from choosing age-appropriate game modes to setting boundaries around screen time and spending. Click on the image below.



Does your child know how to stay safe online? Test their knowledge with this online quiz.

Term Dates for 2025-26

Autumn term 2025

INSET (1&2)	Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd September 2025	
Children return	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	
Half Term	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025	
INSET (3)	Monday 3rd November 2025	
Children return	Tuesday 4th November 2025	
Ends	Friday 19th December 2025 (2pm finish for children)	

Spring term 2026

INSET (4)	Monday 5th January 2026
Children return	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
Ends Friday 27th March 2026 (2pm finish for children)	

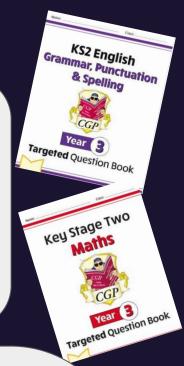
Summer term 2026

INSET (5)	Monday 13th April 2026	
Children return	Tuesday 14th April 2026	
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026 (School Closed)	
Half Term	Monday 25 May to Friday 29th May 2026	
Ends	Friday 17th July 2026 (2pm finish for children)	



Home Learning

After listening to the views of staff and parents last year, we decided to enhance our Home Learning offer. Many of you shared that home learning should not be solely online, so this year we have provided CGP books for every child in Years 1–6 for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, as well as Maths. These books will support children in embedding skills learned in class and in developing their handwriting. We ask that the books are looked after carefully and brought into school each week once the tasks are completed.



Harvest Week-Foodbank Collection 22-26 Sep

We will be holding our annual Harvest week to donate food to our local food bank. Please raid those kitchen cupboards and give generously.



After School Clubs-WB 8th Sep

Parents' Welcome Meetings- 12th Sep

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Parents' Welcome Meetings, which will take place at **3pm on Friday 12th September**. These sessions, led by your child's class teacher, are a great opportunity to meet the teacher, hear about the year ahead, and find out more about how you can support your child's learning. Meetings will be held in classrooms, and if you have more than one child in the school you are welcome to move between sessions. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Parents Meetings will be taking place after school on **20th-21st October**, booking details will be communicated nearer the time.

New School Nurse

As you may remember Nurse Polly left in July to become a district nurse in Richmond. Therefore, our new school nurse is Kadija. She will be visiting this month and we look forward to giving her a warm Thomas's Academy welcome.

School Photo Day- 23rd Sep

We are excited to let you know that school photos will be taking place on Tuesday 23rd September. We're delighted to welcome back Russell from Gem Photography, who captured the beautiful class photos in the summer. Individual and sibling photos will be taken during the day—so get those smiles ready and say cheese!

PIANO & SINGING LESSONS Spaces available

for the new term

- For absolute beginners or grade preparation available
- Annual music concert included

Instrumental Lessons

If you would like your child to learn piano, violin, cello or have singing lessons whilst at Thomas's Academy, please do let us know. We do currently have spaces.



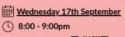


FREE PARENT WEBINAR: THE FLU VACCINE IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Join us for a presentation discussing the flu vaccine in children and young people.

Topics covered:

- Why does my child need the vaccine
- Side-effects and safety
- Nasal vs injection (pork gelatine content)
- Flu data from previous years
- Q&A session





- Microsoft Teams scan her
- △ login: 363 003 291 454 ⊕ password: jc3J83z5
- Thursday 18th September

 6:00 7:00pm



- Microsoft Teams scan her
 8 login: 310 543 675 209 5
- password: gT7P9ci3

Slush ice drinks or 'slushies' containing glycerol

- Children under 7 should <u>not</u> consume these drinks
- Children under 10 should have a maximum of <u>one</u> 350ml 'slushie' per day that's about the size of a fizzy drink can.

Glycerol can cause sickness and headaches in young children. Check with the seller or product labels about glycerol content.



More information on glycerol:

- Visit food.gov.uk/glycerol
- · Scan this QR code:







PTA Notices



Use the QR code below to sign up to easyfundraising. When you shop online with over 8,000 retailers, the retailer will give the PTA a free donation as a thank you for shopping with them.



Thomas's Academy Parents is a registered charity for Thomas's Academy. It is a non-profit organisation, raising funds for the school for the benefit of all our children.

Charity number: 1207060





School Lunches

School Catering - Summer Menu (April - September 25)



WEEK I MENU

TUESDAY





MEAL

Margherita wholemeal

MONDAY

pizza erved with baked potato wedges, peas & sweetcorn

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Fish fingers or salmon fish fingers served with chips, garden peas or baked beans & ketchup

FRIDAY

DESSERTS

Please visit the school website for full details here.

We will upload photos to the school blog here, throughout the term!

LUNCHTIME CO

WEEK 2 MENU

Thomas's

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MAIN

MEAT FREE

DESSERTS

LUNCHTIME CO

WEEK 3 MENU
WEEKS: 05/05, 02/06, 23/06, 14/07, 15/09,06/10

Thomas's

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

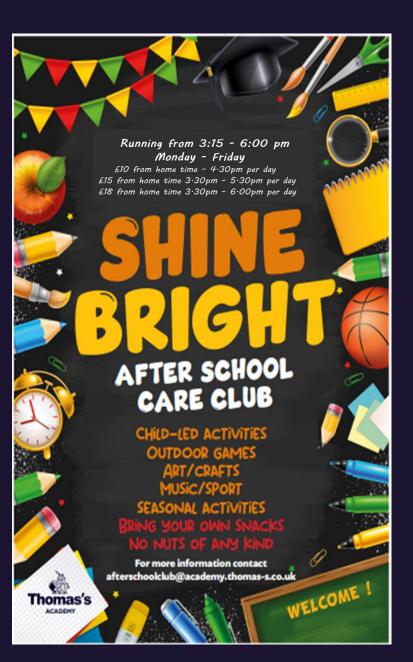
FRIDAY

MAIN

MEAT FREE

DESSERTS

Wrap-Around Care at Thomas's Academy



Please book in advance so we please book in advance so we can staff the wrap-around care appropriately.





Safeguarding and Medical Information

Miss Kelly, Head Teacher, is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Deputies (DDSL) are Mrs James, Miss Dairo and Miss Shen. We have a new Safeguarding Governor: Jenny Yang-Meslet.

To find out 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

Please let the office know on <u>info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk</u> 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.**

Collection

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. All children should be collected from after-school clubs.



Medicines

If your child needs to have medication in school, please deliver it to the school office. There are forms that need to be completed for the medication to be administered. For the safety of everyone, please, at no point, should any medication be left in your child's bag. Thank you for your cooperation.



Community Notices



