



Thomas's Academy

www.academy.thomas-s.co.uk

info@academy.thomas-s.co.uk

020 7736 2318

Happy New Academic Year 2020-21

We hope you all had a good break. It is so lovely to see all the children and families back at school. Welcome also to new staff and families that have joined our community. Mr Kilgannon is teaching in Year 6, Miss Chambers in Year 3 and Miss Chaffer in Year 2. In addition, we have a number of new learning assistants that you'll see around and, of course, Nicky, our caretaker.

We are hoping that the year will be more straight forward than we have experienced recently but we are prepared if things change. There has been lots of preparation for the academic year both in terms of our response to COVID-19 and in terms of our school development. During our INSET days for example Miss Wood delivered 'Talk for Write' training to our staff and Miss White delivered Maths Mastery Training. We have plans to develop our curriculum this year, a project being led by Mrs James and Mr Kilgannon.

Please keep up to date by checking our communication channels including our website which includes a school calendar, emails and text messages. You won't see many hand-held letters moving forward.

School Grounds

Nicky, our caretaker, has worked hard over the summer to make improvements to the inside and outside of the school. You will also have noticed our 'play trees' (permanent name to be decided) in the front playground which have proved really popular with the children. Thank you so much to the TAPs and supporters of the TAPs for helping raise the funds for this. The PTA will continue to try to raise funds to improve the playgrounds further.

Communication

If you wish to discuss a matter relating to your child, your first point of contact should be their class teacher. You'll soon receive Curriculum bulletins (pupils in Y1-6) to inform you of what will be taught and everyone will also receive introductory information (usually done in the classrooms) by email. For your information, our child's first parents' meetings will happen via Zoom during the week of 19th September. Finally, we also have a new online booking and paying system.

September 2020

14th: Reception pupils start full time

18th: Class Bulletins sent home

22nd: EY Zoom meeting (Tapestry)

23rd: Parents introductory slides sent out

23rd: EY newsletter sent out

October 2020

W/B 19th: Parents meetings via Zoom

26th: Half term

November 2020

2nd: INSET Day

3rd, 4th: Sikhism Focus Day

9th: Nasal flu vaccine (Rec-Y6)

13th: Children in Need dress-up day

30th: Thistle House wear blue for St Andrews Day

December 2020

11th: Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

18th: EY newsletter sent out

18th: End of term 2pm finish

Be Kind - Learn to Learn - Think Globally – Create Beauty

Uniform

The pupils look very smart in their school uniforms. We are allowing pupils to stay in their P.E. kits on P.E. days rather than changing in school. There are developments with uniform which we'd like to share with you:

- Once Sogans have used up their P.E. kit stock, we will move to unbranded tracksuit bottoms and t-shirts
- We have enquired into navy culottes for girls however these are available from M&S
- Alternatively, girls may now wear grey school tailored trousers (not leggings or fashion trousers) if they wish
- We have enquired about a long-sleeved red polo top to wear in the cold weather.

Paying money to the school

We now have an online system for parents to pay money for things such as lunch and trips. You should have been sent a link and a password to log on. Please let the office (email address and phone number at the top) know if you are having any trouble with this new system.

Headphones



In order that pupils in Years 1-6 have clean headphones to use with the computers and iPads, we have purchased enough to distribute to all these pupils. You'll see a request to pay £2.50 (the price we paid for them) on our new online system. Pupils will keep their headphones in their trays. We would prefer pupils to not bring their headphones from home.

Aktiva Camps After-School

If you would like after-school care, please contact Aktiva. The staff from Aktiva collect pupils directly from their classrooms at the end of the day, they then have a range of activities to choose from as well as an evening snack before they are collected. Further information can be found on the Aktiva website: www.aktivacamps.com



This year at Thomas's Academy we are introducing a new travel scheme designed to get children and parents alike to travel to school not in a car or bus, but instead, to use their feet. This may be by walking, cycling or scooting. The scheme will begin on 14th September and is being led by Mr Bates, our P.E. teacher.

There are plenty of reasons why walking to school is a good idea including: have cleaner air around school, learn road safety skills, get to know our community and to leave space on public transport for those who really need it the most.

We will be introducing rewards for the individuals and classes who make a real effort with this. Hopefully, we can all make keeping fit and healthy a regular thing as we move forward.

We encourage those who have no alternative to driving/using public transport to park the car 10 minutes' walk away or hop off the bus at an earlier stop so that they can partake in this initiative.

Please do get involved with this fun and important scheme. See Mr Bates for more information.

Thomas's Outdoor Learning

There are some exciting developments in relation to outdoor learning; we are working on numerous dates for pupils (from Reception – Y6) to partake in this. This really valuable time offers children the chance to develop skills linked to our cornerstones and in particular to our Learn to Learn skills such as to be collaborative, inquisitive and positive. We will use local parks for the time being such as South Park, Hurlingham and Eelbrook Common (as well as the playground). Look out for your dates soon!

Change in personal details

Please remember to let the office know if you change any details such as your address or phone number. We use e-mail as a form of communication so please let the office know your email address if you haven't already. Please also make sure that you let your child's teacher or the office know if somebody different will be collecting your child.

Thomas's Academy places the safeguarding of children's welfare as our very highest priority. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or welfare, inside or outside school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads or call us on the number above.