Thomas's ACADEMY Newsletter

Quality First Education Trust

27th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sometimes in school, things happen and we realise that we haven't shared or celebrated accomplishments or successes. For example, did you know that this year, our Year 4 children have had a Chromebook each to support with their learning. They use the chromebooks to follow interactive NearPod lessons and can complete activities in lessons interactively. Additionally, the children use them to regularly practice their times tables on TTRS. This is an initiative set up by Quality First Education for Year 4 children across the Trust. The children will take the devices up with them to Year 5 and our upcoming Year 4's will each get a brand new Chromebook to use in class.

Friday was the highlight of my week as we all got to see Y4's class assembly. They talked us through their learning in the past term and I was struck by the quality of their outcomes. Well done to them and to Miss Isse.

On Thursday, we celebrated St George's Day with a themed lunch. Thank you so much to our wonderful lunch staff: Kellie, Feven and Mbarime. They are always so kind to the children.

Finally, a thank-you and reminder: The Y2 - Y6 wet play boxes being organised by our School Council are really coming together. Don't forget to contribute with games if you can.

Miss Kelly

The classes with the best attendance last week:
Reception and Year 4 with 100%

👏 Awards 👏

Weekly awards are given to children following **school values**. Congratulations to last week's winners.

Nursery	Gloria and Maia
Reception	Arthur
Y1	Tilly
Y2	Nikol
Y3	Alina
Y4	Halima
Y5	Lola
Y6	George
Y1 - 3	Saida Y2
Y4 - 6	Yasmin Y4
Star of the school	Andre Y2

Upcoming dates:

- 1st May - Year 3 class assembly
- 4th May - Bank Holiday (school closed)
- 5th May - Y3 swimming
- 7th May - School closed to children for Polling Day
- 7th May - Volunteer day - please see Miss Kelly if able to help
- 12th May - Y3 swimming
- 15th May - Y5 to Lords Cricket Ground
- 21st May - Y1, Y2, Y4 to Lyric Theatre

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This week in **Nursery**, the children were excited to learn about Earth Day. We talked about simple but important things we can do both at home and at school to help care for our planet. The children shared ideas that they could do at school such as turning off the lights when leaving the room and checking that the taps are properly turned off after use. It was lovely to hear how excited they were to continue these good habits at home.

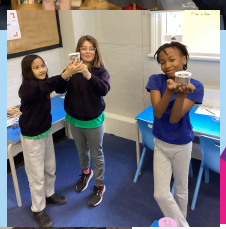
This term in **Reception**, the children have been learning about instructional writing. As part of this, they worked together to write a set of instructions for making a jam sandwich. When these were followed in class, the outcome was not as expected, helping the children to recognise the importance of clear and precise language. They then revisited their work and improved their instructions by adding more detail, ensuring each step could be followed successfully.

In **Year 1** the children have continued getting lost in the magical world of fairy tales, focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk. In History we explored household objects from th e Victorian era and compared them to modern life. The children drew some observational drawings of yellow roses in science and labeled the parts. The class are continuing to learn about boundaries and emotions and have enjoyed singing songs about it and encouraging each other to be kind- amazing work year 1.

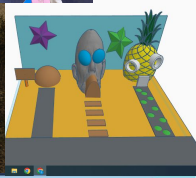
This week in **Year 2**, we have been exploring fractions, focusing on halves, thirds, and quarters. The children enjoyed a hands-on activity where we cut up pizzas to help us understand the importance of making equal parts. This helped them see how a whole can be divided fairly. We have also begun counting in fractions and learning how many equal parts make a whole. The class has shown great enthusiasm and is developing a strong understanding of these early fraction concepts.

Year 3 have had a fantastic week and have been working hard on setting descriptions in writing. We have been learning how to use figurative language, including similes and personification, to create vivid and engaging images for the reader. A highlight of the week was in Science, where we carried out an investigation into what plants need to survive. We planted three different setups: one with soil and water, one with tissue paper and water, and one with soil and plant food. We are excited to observe how each plant grows and to learn more about the importance of nutrients.

This week, **Year 4** have been working tirelessly as they prepared for their class assembly. The children have shown incredible dedication, rehearsing their lines and perfecting their performances to ensure everything was ready for the big day. On Friday, all that hard work truly paid off as they performed brilliantly for their parents. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow on stage and to witness them working together so effectively as a team to celebrate their learning.



In **Year 5**, we brought our Science unit on classification and life cycles alive with the addition of some caterpillars into our classroom! The children have been excited to observe the changes and will continue to record their results over the next few weeks. In computing, we worked on creating vector drawings - there's already been wonderful creativity on display with anything from logos to animals being designed!



In **Year 6**, we have continued our fabulous writing on Alfred Noyes' The Highwayman, looking at hyphenated adjectives and the progressive tense. A highlight this week was our lesson on 3D digital modelling. Can you work out what we were trying to create in Tinkercad?

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Contacts

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Bringing Reading to life with VIPERS

In our school, we teach reading through the VIPERS approach, which focuses on developing key comprehension skills: Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval, and Sequencing/Summarising. Each day of the week is dedicated to a different domain, ensuring that children build a well-rounded understanding of texts over time. We are delighted that pupil voice shows how much the children enjoy the books they are reading—this reflects the care taken in selecting a rich and varied range of texts, including classics, modern fiction, poetry, historical fiction, non-fiction, and works from diverse cultures and authors. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the families who supported our 'Ready, Steady, Read' event and helped us raise over £1000 for new books to enrich our classroom libraries.

Year 6 SATs

Each year in May, children in Year 6 nationally sit Standardised Assessment Tasks (SATs). They sit tests in reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) and maths. The tests measure school performance and pupil progress. Results will tell us whether children are working at the expected standard or at greater depth. Secondary schools will use the results to measure progress children are making at secondary school and for predictions at GCSE.

Year 6 have been preparing for these tests for some time to support them to perform well. We have been very proud of their approach and the progress they are making week on week.

If your child is feeling anxious, we advise the following:

- Keep it calm - avoid intense pressure
- Routine - Encourage, don't pressurise, focus on attendance and punctuality
- Practice - Use resources to practice spelling and grammar terms, practise times tables and read lots
- Have healthy habits - early nights, a good breakfast, plenty of water during the day
- Let the school know if there's a problem

We will continue to work with our wonderful Year 6 to ensure they are able to show all that they have learnt. Good luck, Year 6.

Internal and External Advertisements

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Thomas's Academy** if they sign up by Tuesday 22nd September 2026. Parents should quote NKPN220926 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/try or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/try. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from here.

Click to find your nearest classes or view a list of all areas.

Internal and External Advertisements

Quite Frank-ly, Brilliant!

Congratulations to Patrick Frank, a dad at our school, who ran the London Marathon on Sunday 26th April. He ran to raise money for the Robin Cancer Trust which is the UK's testicular and ovarian cancer charity. He is celebrating 5 years since a he had a diagnosis.
If you would like to support the charity, there is a charity comedy night on 20th May at Rich Mix in Shoreditch and he would love to see some familiar faces.
Click here for more information.

Well done, Patrick, from everyone at Thomas's Academy. 🙌