

Welcome to Thomas Hall School.

Reception Information session
for New Parents



Our Vision - Happy children learn!



At Thomas Hall, we are passionate about children being happy, confident, well-rounded individuals with a love for learning. We believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations that children continue to build upon throughout their school life. It is our aim that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally, whilst embedding a positive attitude to school and a love of learning. We do this by ensuring that all children feel safe and happy at school in an engaging and stimulating environment both indoors and outdoors that builds on each individual child's needs and interests. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are passionate in allowing all children to achieve their full, unique potential.

Our school.



We focus on each child's individual development

- intellectually
- physically
- socially and spiritually

Our aim is that:

- All children to reach their potential.
- To build supportive relationships with children and parents.

Our staff.



Sophie Greaves - Class Teacher
Sophie.greaves@thomashallschool.org

- 27+ years of teaching.
- Head of Early Years for many years.
 - Reading lead.
 - KS1 Phase Lead.



All staff details are available on the website.

Staff List

Senior Leadership Team

Name	Role	Qualifications
Mr Phil Arnold	Headteacher	MEd, BA, QTS, FCCT, NPQH
Mrs Helen Towler-Williams	Deputy Headteacher, DSL	BA, MEd QTS
Ms Julia Wood	Assistant Headteacher	BA, QTS
Miss Katy Lewis	Assistant Headteacher	BA, QTS
Mrs Kate Parker	Assistant Headteacher	MA, BA, QTS

Pastoral Team

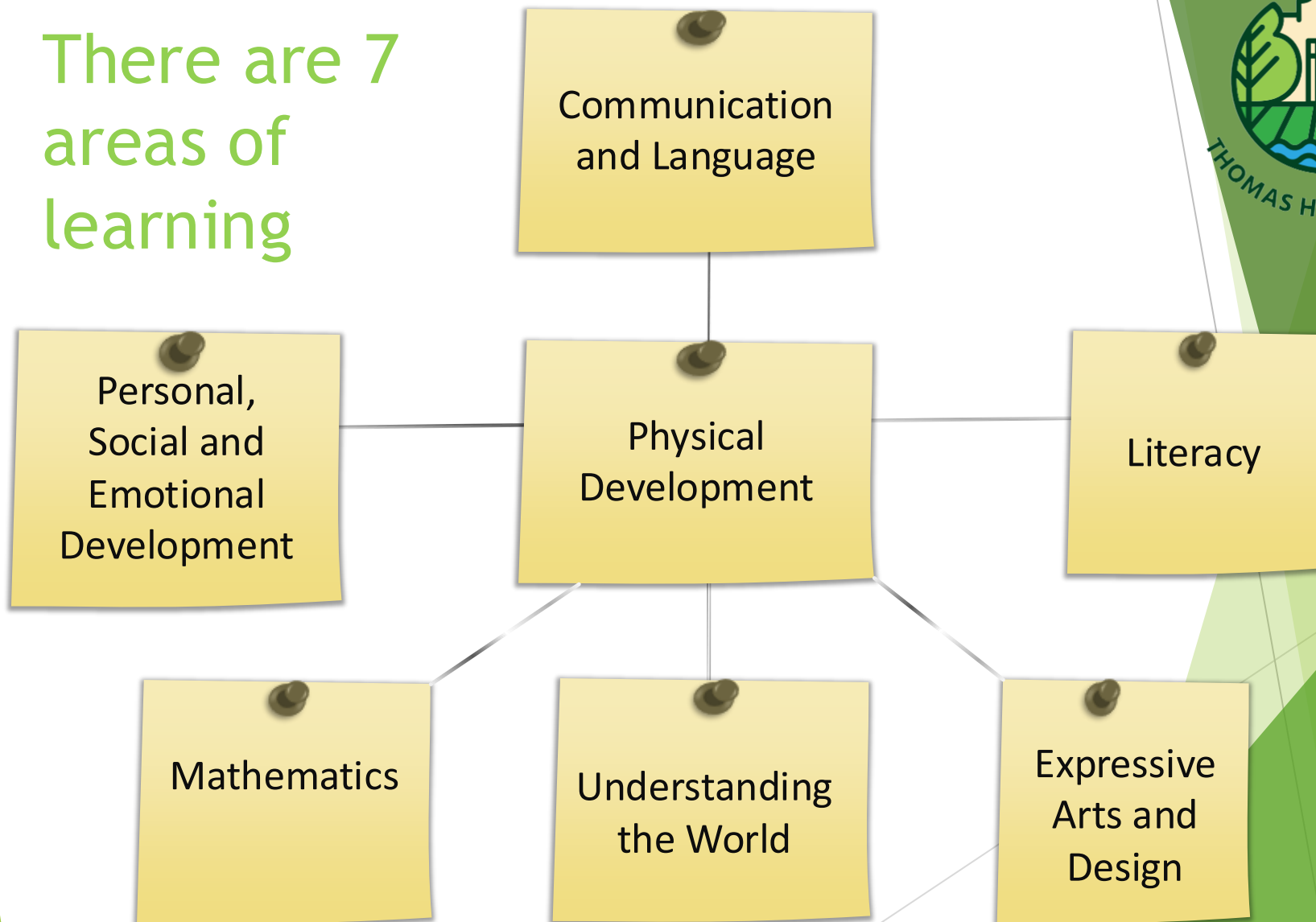
Name	Role	Qualifications
Ms Sophie Greaves	EYFS & Key Stage 1 Lead	BEd, QTS, MCCT
Miss Chloe Reep	Key Stage 2 Lead	BA, QTS
Miss Hannah Cockburn	Key Stage 4 Lead	BSC, QTS

Teaching Staff

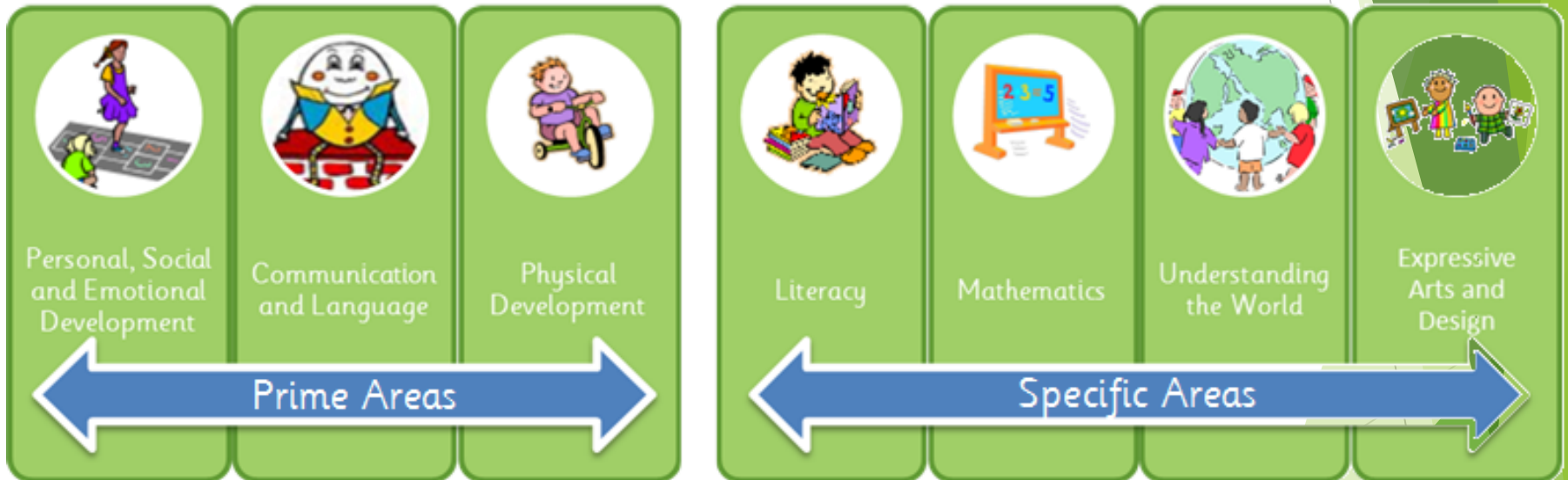
Name	Role Primary	Qualifications
Ms Julia Wood	Assistant Headteacher	BA, QTS
Mr Joe Medland	SENCO	BA, QTS

The Early Years Foundation Stage

There are 7
areas of
learning



Prime areas and Specific areas.



Personal & Social development

Opportunities to develop friendships, independence and the confidence to be themselves.



Communication & Language.

Activities that encourage speaking, developing vocabulary and using language to solve problems together.



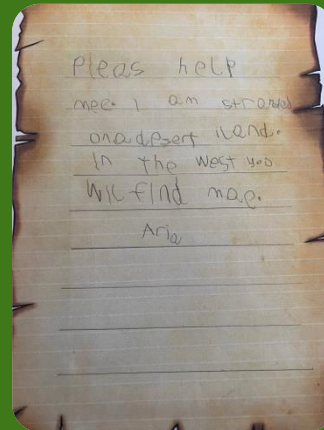
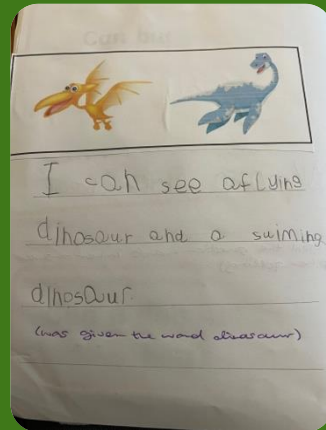
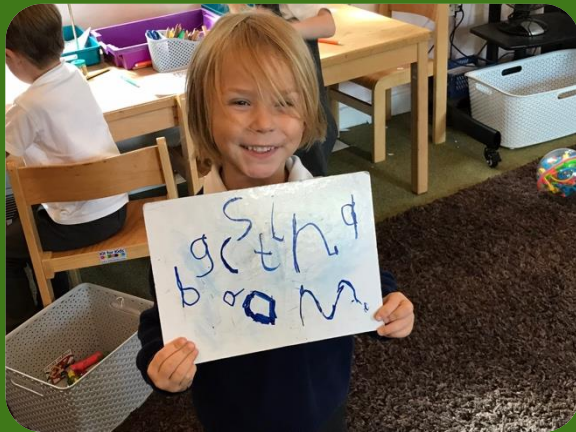
Physical development

Developing fine and gross motor skills in different ways.



Literacy

Learning Phonics, letter formation, reading and writing through different topics.



Mathematics

Exploring number, shapes, time, measurements and patterns, to name just a few.



Mathematics

Exploring number, shapes, time, measurements and patterns, to name just a few.



Understanding the World

Exploring the world through different topics.



Expressive arts and design

Using music, art and drama to explore their ideas and the world around them.



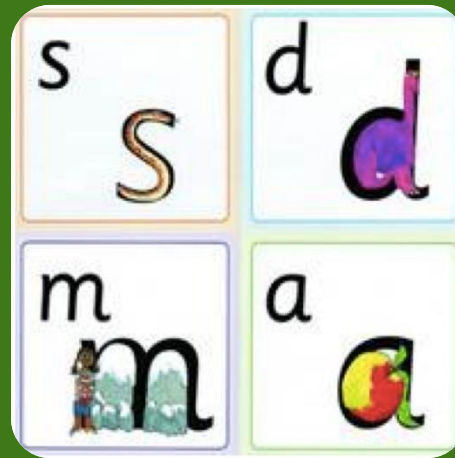
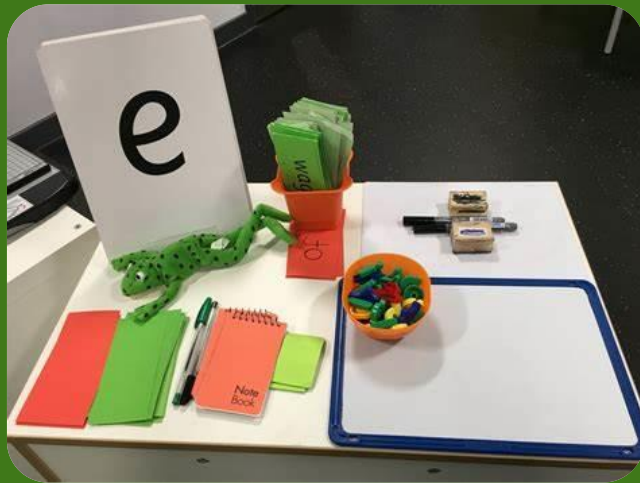
Phonics and Homework



We use the Read, Write, Inc Phonics scheme.

We start in September, learning individual sounds using the RWI rhymes.

Children are assessed every 6 weeks to ensure that we know where they are and what next steps they need. Reading books only get sent home when they know all their Set 1 sounds.



Homework based on practicing these sounds will be sent home each week. Once reading books are sent home, we encourage the children to read these at least 3 times each week at home before they are returned.

A Typical Timetable



Reception Timetable 2025-2026

All sessions may take place indoors or outdoors depending on the types of activities planned. Afternoon sessions make more use of the indoor and outdoor spaces.

	8.30/45-8:55	9:00-9:45	9:45-10:30	10:30-10:50	10.50-11:20	11:20-12:15	12.15-1.15	1.15-1:40	1:40-2:10	2:10-2:40	2:40-3:00
Monday Phonics	Registration Morning activities - Handwriting, writing, lesson recap.	Phonics	Literacy (L, C&L)	Snack & Break	Reading/ Story time	Maths	Lunch	Register and Phonics recap	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free choice	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free choice	Tidy up/end of the day form time (PSED)
Tuesday	Registration Morning activities - Handwriting, writing, lesson recap.	Phonics	Literacy (L, C&L)	Snack & Break	Reading/ Story time	Maths	Lunch	Register and Phonics recap	P.E.	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free choice	Tidy up/end of the day form time (PSED)
Wednesday	Registration Morning activities - Handwriting, writing, lesson recap.	Phonics	Literacy (L, C&L)	Snack & Break	Reading/ Story time	Maths	Lunch	Register and Phonics recap	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free choice	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free choice	Tidy up/end of the day form time (PSED)
Thursday	Registration Morning activities - Handwriting, writing, lesson recap.	Phonics	Literacy (L, C&L)	Snack & Break	Reading/ Story time	Maths	Lunch	Register and Phonics recap	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free Choice	Topic (UTW, EAD, C&L,) Free Choice	Tidy up/end of the day form time (PSED)
Friday	Registration Morning activities - Handwriting, writing, lesson recap.	Phonics	Literacy (L, C&L)	Snack & Break	Reading/ Story time	Maths	Lunch	Register and Phonics recap	Forest School		Tidy up/end of the day form time (PSED)

- RWI 'pinny time' recap sessions throughout the day.

Uniform.



- Boys - grey shorts/trousers. White or black polo shirt and black school jumper.
- Girls - grey skirt or pinafore dress. Green gingham summer dress. White or black polo shirt and black school jumper or cardigan.



They will also need:

1. Wellington boots and waterproof coat/trousers.
2. Spare set of clothes in a named bag.
3. Velcro shoes.
4. A daily bag for carrying items to and from school.
5. Water bottle.



Lunches and snacks

- Children can either have a school lunch or they can bring their own packed lunch. This can change.
- Lunches need to be booked by the Friday of the previous week.
- Fruit is provided but they can bring their own healthy snack to school.



Communication.

- Newsletters.
- Drop-in sessions.
- Parents evening.
- Reports.
- Facebook posts.
- Drop off and pick up.
- Events.
- Notice board.
- Class dojo.



Staggered start and Home visits

- The first week and a half in September are our Home visit weeks.
- The week after the home visit weeks is recommended as a half day week.
- The second week after the home visit weeks is full days.



Home visits.

- Home visits are important for your child.
- It helps them to feel confident and encourages conversation.
- They get our 1-1 attention.
- You are able to ask us questions.
- They feel more secure on their first day.



Please book a slot before you leave and take a card.



Where learning is child's play



Before and after school club

- The Exwick Ark at Thomas Hall is located right next to the Reception building. They provide breakfast club, after school club and holiday clubs.



Starting school.

- Starting school is an exciting step for your child and your family.
- It is normal for children and parents/carers to feel excited and anxious.
- Staying relaxed and calm will support your child to feel less anxious about school and you can help a lot by talking together with your child to help them understand what to expect when starting school.

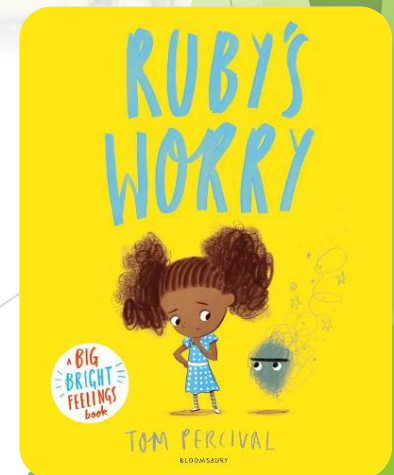
Starting school.



- **Talk about the fun things that will happen at school** e.g. playing with friends, painting, story time.
- **Share photos** from the school's website to help your child become familiar with the school.
- **Practise the school routine** such as trying on uniform, travelling to school - supporting your child to dress and undress independently.
- **Read books together about school** - you could visit your local library to find books here too.

The night before school.

- **Get everything ready** - check all clothes and possessions are labelled with your child's name. Ask your child to help you lay out their clothes ready for the next day.
- **Talk about going to school** - remind your child about what will happen, what they will do and that however they are feeling is okay. Talk about this together and say, "I know you feel a bit worried and this is OK, I get worried too". Ruby's worry is a brilliant story to discuss worries together.
- **Get an early night** - Make sure your child gets lots of rest ready for the big day ahead.



The first day of school.



- **Breakfast** - Eat a healthy breakfast to help your child concentrate at school.
- **Leave plenty of time** - Plan extra time so you have plenty of time to get ready as you do not want to rush and cause any upset. This way you can get to school nice and early and by more relaxed and ready to start the day.
- **Take a photo** - A lovely way to remember the first day of school.
- **Say goodbye and reassure your child** - Tell them who is collecting them and that it will not be long. Make sure you do not simply sneak away and have said bye as this can sometimes cause more upset. You could leave a little message in your child's bag or draw matching pictures on your hand and their hands.
- **Asking for help** - remind your child to ask for help from a teacher or friend if they are upset, worried or unsure of something.

After school.

- **Be prepared for a tired child** - a school day is exhausting for a start so be prepared for a tired child.
- **Check their bag** - lots of schools communicate through bags. There may be letters or possibly some schoolwork your child has completed.
- **Talk with your child** - how was their day at school? Who did they play with? What have they enjoyed?
- **Continue to establish a routine** - have tea, bath, enjoy a story together and get ready for bed.

Being 'School ready'.

Support your child to:

- Have a go at new things and keep trying even when they are difficult.
- Make their own choices and follow routines
- Know about their feelings and naming them.
- Get help from others when they need it
- Follow simple instructions
- Listen and take turns when talking.
- Join in with songs, rhymes and stories.
- Use a knife and fork correctly.
- Use scissors and a paintbrush correctly.
- Make marks using pens and paper - drawings or sometimes the letters of their name.
- **Use the toilet independently and wash their hands after too.**



How you can help at home



Provide opportunities for chatting, playing and interacting together



Spend time together reading, telling stories and singing



Spend time together talking about school



Play games that involve turn taking



Encourage independence – getting dressed, putting on coat and shoes, washing/drying hands and using the toilet

Before you leave today...

- Please sign up for a home visit slot.
- Have a look around the classrooms.
- Have a flick through some of the workbooks from this year.
- Please take your welcome pack.
- Don't forget the stay and play in a few weeks' time!
- Please ask any questions.

Any questions?





Thank you for coming!