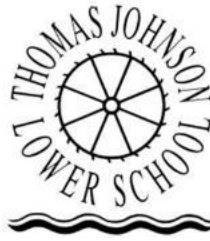


# Welcome to



## Thomas Johnson Lower School Nursery



Thomas Johnson Lower School  
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## Our Staff

Miss Turner	Early Years Teacher (Nursery and Reception)
Miss Greenwood	Teaching Assistant
Miss Morgan	Teaching Assistant
Miss Benson	Teaching Assistant

## Our vision

We believe that every child should have the best possible start to their education and are committed to promoting and maintaining high standards. Children are able to join our Nursery at the beginning of the term following their third birthday. Our intake includes children from outside our catchment area, subject to places being available.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Values school, and we welcome all children, whatever their needs. We work closely with outside agencies which include Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and Learning Mentors. If a child has specific needs we work closely with parents to agree a plan to ensure every child makes the best possible progress. Working closely with parents is the key to our high achievements, and to securing the emotional well-being and happiness of our children.

## The Nursery Day

Every nursery-age child is entitled to 15 hours funded childcare (which is equivalent to 5 free "sessions" a week). These "sessions" can be taken in different combinations:

- 5 mornings a week or
- 5 afternoons a week or
- 2.5 whole days a week or
- a mix of afternoon/ morning sessions.

Parents are also able to buy *additional* sessions at £3/ hour (£9 for a session).

These additional sessions are subject to availability, but we always try to accommodate your needs.

Our sessions comprise:

Morning Session 9am-12pm

Afternoon Session 12pm-3.15pm (includes the lunch hour so please provide either a packed lunch for your child, or purchase school lunches at £2.05)

If your child is staying for the whole day, they can pre-order hot school lunches for an additional £2.05

Occasionally, parents may wish extend their morning session to include lunch (from 9am - 1pm), at an additional £3.00 for the hour, and optionally £2.05 if including a hot lunch.

### **30 hours free funding**

Some parents are eligible for 30 hours free funding. This is linked to working income. As a school we offer 15 hours free childcare within school, and the additional 15 hours as afterschool care through our Dawn until Dusk provider. Please ask our Office Manager for more details.

### **Settling in**

We know that starting Nursery is a big step in your child's life and we would like it to be an exciting experience. It may be the first time he or she has been without you for any length of time. Working together, we aim to make the transition from home to Nursery a happy one.

We consider each child's individual needs in this process and ask for your help with this. It may be that you will need to stay and play at some sessions or the initial part of sessions whilst they settle. We usually suggest at least one (free) stay and play session.

### **What your child will need**

We embrace the learning opportunities that outside play can bring as well as inside, therefore please ensure your child has suitable clothing and footwear for the weather. It is helpful if they have elasticated waistbands that give freedom of movement and which also helps the children to be more independent when going to the toilet.

### **Snacks**

Children have continual access to water and are offered milk and a snack each session. When you register your child you will be asked to advise us of any allergies your child has.

### **Behaviour**

We are a Values-based Education School and are committed to promoting positive mental health and emotional well-being. We encourage children to live the values we celebrate at school such as kindness, friendship and peace. We help them to understand their behaviour and name their feelings. We celebrate good behaviour using our school's reward system, and we redirect poor behaviour so that children feel confident in knowing and making the right choices.

### **Parents as Partners**

You are your child's first educators, therefore we highly value your input in your child's development and progression. You are welcome to view your child's learning journey at any point and are invited to contribute to it through home observations.

Teaching staff are available to talk to at the beginning or end of the sessions. An appointment can be arranged for more detailed discussions.

The school has an active PTFA (Parent, Teachers and Friends Association) who are always looking for new members to join their fundraising efforts. As part of the school community we really value their support and generosity.

### **Keeping your child safe**

In line with our school's safeguarding policy we will only release your child into your care unless you have informed us of other arrangements.

### **Development and Learning**

We follow Government Guidelines on the Early Years Foundations stage curriculum. This comprises the following areas of learning: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Our focus is on the children learning through play with access to a range of child led and adult led activities. As your child nears school age we will encourage the early reading and writing skills and help prepare them for a school day.

As a small village school, children in Nursery are as much a part of our family as those in the main school. Your child will play alongside our Reception children and will benefit from the nurturing ethos that runs through our Early Years Unit. Nursery children enjoy their own phonics and maths sessions, and come together with Reception for topic learning. Our highly skilled teaching staff ensure learning is individually tailored to the needs of each child in their care.

### **If your child is unwell**

Please keep your child at home if they have a high temperature, sickness and/or diarrhoea (for 48 hours after their last bout). We do appreciate a telephone call or message if your child is not attending Nursery through illness or for any other reason.

Unfortunately, we can only administer medicines in school which have been prescribed by a doctor.

### **School term dates**

Nursery opens in-line with our school dates. For further information on these, including staff training Inset days, please speak to Ms Barron in the office.

### **Dawn 'til Dusk Before and After School Club**

We are able to provide wrap-around provision opportunities to support busy families. Our before and after school care club, run by Dawn 'til Dusk, is on-site. This is available from 7.30am until Nursery begins at 9am, then after Nursery until 6pm.