



**Thomas Johnson Lower School**  
Excellence and Enjoyment

16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Our Fabulous Year 4 Leavers**

We were delighted to see our wonderful Year 4 pupils in the Hall on Wednesday for their Leavers' presentations. I can speak for all the staff in saying how thrilled we were to see the energy and effort your children had put into their presentations and artwork. We saw beautifully typed scripts, carefully handwritten and decorated sheets of memories, stunning artwork and fabulous PowerPoints! We couldn't be more proud of them and we know you must be too. The children were delighted to receive personalised t-shirts as a gift from the PTFA - this was such a lovely surprise and we must say a huge thank you to the PTFA for organising these and to our parents and carers for contributing to this. As is tradition, the children also received a dictionary from Lidlington Thomas Johnson Charity and a copy of Good News from our Storytellers. We wish our fabulous Year 4 leavers every success in their new schools - and we look forward to hearing from them and finding out how things are going. We know they will all do well!



### **Nursery - new name**

In September we are renaming our Nursery provision as a "Pre-school". This is because the learning we offer to our youngest pupils is really about getting them ready for "big" school and we recognise that the children in our current Nursery are ready for those exciting and challenging learning experiences. Whereas a traditional nursery takes pupils from birth to year 5, our children start at 3. We also have the advantage that all our pupils are taught by Qualified Teachers. Therefore, we feel the name Pre-school describes what we do exactly. The Pre-school will continue to be in Hedgehogs class, with Reception. It's only the name that has changed!

### **September thoughts**

As you may be aware, in September, the guidance changes again and each class will become its own "Bubble". For the majority of the day, the Bubbles will be kept apart. At playtime breaks, there may be 2 Bubbles, each using a different half of the playground, and staying within their own allocated zone. At lunchtime, there will be 2 Bubbles, each seated in a different half of the dining hall. In this way we can keep to sensible lunch and break timings, and by observing high standards of hygiene we can minimise the risk of transmission. This also enables us to return to hot cooked meals in the dining hall as we go into the colder months.

Rigorous handwashing, sanitising the areas, and reminding children about social distancing, will be our strengths in helping maintain the best environment we can and letting us return to the very important task of bringing new and exciting learning experiences to your child.

**PE kits:** For the moment we ask that children come into school in their PE kits on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. This is because we cannot help children change, and because even our oldest children still manage to pick up other children's clothing by mistake at times! This decision reflects current practice in other schools. Please look out for our uniform list (on our website: [www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk](http://www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk)) so your child has everything they need.

### **Lunches**

Hot school meals will return in Sept, and as before these are free to all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is in other year groups and you would like to buy a hot school meal we now need to ask that payment is made online, or by cheque in advance. **Unfortunately, we cannot accept cash.** Cheques will need to be made out to **Interserve Catering Service**. We are currently looking into online payments, and we will keep you informed about this. Each year we negotiate carefully with our catering company to find the best price for our school meals. We have been able to hold increases to a minimum for 2 years, but the cost of the daily meal will increase to £2.20 per day. This is still significantly cheaper than other settings, but we recognise that it comes at a difficult time for many families. Please let us know if this increase is a problem for you. As mentioned earlier, if your child is in reception, year 1 or 2 they do not pay for their hot meal. If your child is entitled to the pupil premium grant, these meals are also free.

Packed lunches: Once again, we will return to our healthy eating choices in packed lunches. Please look again at our Green, Amber and Red suggestions if you need some ideas - these have been compiled with help from our parents and if you as a parent or carer have any other recommendations do let us know! We are so proud that your children are eating such nutritious packed meals and we take our hats off to you for being so creative first thing in the morning! What a fantastic way to support healthy body and brain growth!

### **Key information on staggered starts and finish times, and where to drop off and collect your child.**

Class	Arrival	Morning lessons	Lunch timings	Afternoon lessons	Collection
Hedgehogs	8.45 - 8.55am <b>Preschool door</b>	8.55 - 11.45 am Free flow learning, including English and Maths, wellbeing and key skills, outdoor play and learning	11.45 - 12.55 Lunch (1st sitting) in main hall, followed by play break.	12.55 - 3.00pm Topic based work and free flow activities. Outdoor play and learning	3.00-3.10pm <b>Preschool door</b>
Foxes	8.55 - 9.05 am <b>Main playground</b>	Phonics, English and Maths 1st lesson, assembly and break (10.45am) followed by 2nd lesson	12.00 - 12.55 Play break followed by lunch (3rd sitting)	12.55 - Wellbeing and Topic or Foundation Subjects 3rd Lesson and short afternoon break (2.00pm) followed by 4th lesson	3.00 - 3.10pm <b>Main playground</b>
Badgers	8.55 - 9.05 <b>Hall door</b>	Phonics, English and Maths 1st lesson, assembly and break (10.45am) followed by 2nd lesson	12.00 - 12.55 Lunch (2nd sitting) followed by play break	12.55 - Wellbeing and Topic or Foundation Subjects 3rd Lesson and short afternoon break (2.00pm) followed by 4th lesson	3.10 - 3.20pm <b>Hall door</b>
Owls	8.45 - 8.55am <b>Main playground</b>	English and Maths 1st lesson, assembly and break (10.30) followed by 2nd lesson	12.05 - 12.55 Playbreak followed by lunch (4th sitting)	12.55 - Wellbeing and Topic or Foundation Subjects 3rd and 4th lessons	3.10 - 3.20pm <b>Main playground</b>

### **Building improvements**

Over the Summer we will be tidying up the front hedge (replacing this with smaller shrubs) and improving our Sensory Garden - both of which had become overgrown during lockdown. In the Hall we are also carrying out painting work improvements. We shall also be looking for more sustainable signage at the front of the building. We look forward to having a much smarter building to return to in the Autumn!

### **Mrs Kemp's retirement**

Mrs Kemp retired today after many dedicated years of service at our school. Always passionate about children's learning, she has already volunteered to come back and help in DT classes and hear readers. Her "official" retirement party will take place in October. We hope you can join us then! More details to follow nearer the time.

### **Dawn til Dusk**

Our before and after school provision will reopen in September. Paula will be in touch with you to let you know about how the setting will operate.

### **Any questions ...?**

Over the holidays, I will continue to check emails, although not on a daily basis. I know these are anxious times and I know that you may hear something and want clarification. If so, please drop me or Helen an email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Finally, can I wish all our wonderful parents, carers and children a fantastic Summer holiday. Enjoy your well-earned break! Look out for our holiday project which we hope your child will love and have lots of fun over! There are prizes to be won!!



Take care and stay safe. We look forward to seeing you on September 7th!!

With very best wishes

**from Marian Haines and all the TJLS team!**