



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream - Discover - Flourish

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this first half term I have to say that it has been a joy to see the children thoroughly enjoying their learning and to see them settled back into the school routine.

The real highlights for me have been these: -

- The wonderful Reading Box Challenges: It was evident that both children and adults were extremely busy over the summer and have flourished at creating such imaginative scenes out of plain cardboard boxes! We now have fabulous displays in the hall and in every classroom.
- Our double PE sessions: This week the children explored the ropes, bars and climbing apparatus and the laughter and fun that rippled out from the hall was such a joy to hear.
- High quality English work: As a result of our new "Back on Track" English books, your child has been inspired to produce some incredibly imaginative written work.
- Thought provoking mathematics: Our mathematics lessons are really challenging children to explore number concepts in different ways - and they have discovered that they are enjoying rising to the challenge!

Feedback on Reports to Parents

As you know, due to the current situation we were unfortunately unable to offer you our usual face to face Parent Evening sessions. This was a disappointment for teachers as well as yourselves, as we always welcome the opportunity to talk about the significant steps of progress your child has made. Feedback from some parents has told us that some of you would have welcomed a Zoom call as well as the report we issued. Therefore, we will put this in place for the Spring parent evenings.

Please remember that should you want to contact your child's teacher by email, or to arrange a phone call, you can do so by emailing them directly (see the base of the school report for the relevant email address). Staff will aim to reply by 24 hours, and usually at the end of the school day.

Behaviour Policy Changes

Again, after parent feedback, we are looking at making changes to our Behaviour Policy. We currently follow the Mind Map approach (something which several other schools have since adopted). However, some parents have asked for more information about our consequences, and how we address particularly poor behaviour. We always challenge bad behaviour and it is our aim to resolve this within school (e.g. through consequences such as loss of playtimes, and always with apologies being offered to the other child). However, we are amending our policy to include such details as notifying parents should their child miss a playtime. The revised policy will be available on our website and ready for implementation at the start of next term.

PTFA Reading Challenge

We hope you will look out for and enjoy taking part in the PTFA reading challenge this half term. Your efforts will help us to buy some wonderful new books to extend our reading scheme even further. TJLS was recognised by Ofsted with "Children have a love of reading" and we are keen to provide your child with an even better selection of books to choose from! Thank you for helping us in this way.

Harvest thanks

Our thanks and appreciation for the overwhelming number of food gifts you provided to support the Need Project. Thank you for your generosity.

Coughs, Colds and Covid

We have really appreciated your help with illness this term. Thank you for being so vigilant over coughs, temperatures and general unwellness. As always, please call Helen if you are in any doubt about whether or not to send your child into school and we will do our best to help you.

Back to school

May I end by wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 3rd November** (please note that Monday 2nd November is a training day and the school is closed).

With best wishes



Marian Haimes

Headteacher

When Your Child is Unwell



COVID-19 Symptoms

- A raised temperature - feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or having 3 or more coughing episodes in a day
- Loss of smell or taste - this means you can't smell or taste anything, or things taste or smell different to usual

If your child, or anyone in your house, shows COVID-19 symptoms you must self isolate and take a test. You can book this online or call NHS 119 for advice. Phone us (01525 402377) and we will talk you through what to do.

Colds, sneezes, sore throats and sickness. We have received the following guidance: "The Government recognises that families will be unsure about what to do if and when their child develops the usual colds and sneezes this winter. Based on evidence from the UK and internationally they have found that COVID symptoms are generally milder in children than in adults: most infected children present with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, and very few rarely develop severe or life-threatening disease. Children with simple cold symptoms such as coryzal symptoms (runny noses) or sore throats without fever who would normally have attended schools in other times should not be tested for COVID-19."

However, if your child is full of cold, or has a stomach upset or feels sick they may not have COVID-19, but they are still not well enough to be in school. Keep your child at home and see if any other symptoms develop, or until they are well enough to return. Ticky coughs, sniffs and sore throats are not generally thought to be symptoms, but should still be monitored carefully.

If you are unsure whether or not to bring your child to school, or whether to have them tested for COVID-19 please phone us and we will do our best to give you advice.