



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream - Discover - Flourish

22nd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new half term. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half term break!

Parent and Carer Zoom Meetings: Wed 24th Feb at 2pm and 5.30pm

As you know, we are all waiting for an update from the Government this afternoon, and I will be writing to you again in the week to confirm the announcement and how the school will prepare for any changes. To help you, I will also be hosting a couple of Parent and Carer Zoom meetings so that you can raise any questions or concerns. These will be scheduled for **Wed 24th Feb at 2pm and 5.30pm**, allowing myself and staff time to formalize our plans with Governors tomorrow. It is likely that the school will need to be closed for 1 day prior to a fuller reopening in order that staff training, finalizing arrangements and cleaning can go ahead. However I will give you as much notice as possible of this date to help minimize any disruption.

Staff testing and vaccinations

Education providers have not been routinely vaccinated, however, it may reassure you to know our school has been part of a staff Covid self-testing programme since Christmas. This means that, twice weekly, staff and regular visitors take an NHS LF test which gives results in 30 mins, meaning that any early infections can be identified and action can be quickly taken. Staff will continue to test themselves when children return, and until vaccinations are made available to education providers.

Message from the Chair of Governors: Vacancy for a Parent Governor

There is currently a vacancy to serve alongside Miles Tawell as Parent Governor on the Governing body of our school.

Governors play a key role in setting the strategic direction of the school and holding leaders to account. This is done through termly Governor meetings, regular sub-committee meetings and visits to the school. In addition Parent Governors play the crucial role of feeding back the impact of the school's initiatives on the wider school community.

Any skills in finance, understanding data, board oversight or health and safety would be welcome, but most of all we are looking for enthusiasm, a willingness to ask questions, and someone who is able to give time to this worthwhile role.

Nominations will close on **Tuesday 9th March 2021**. If there is more than one nomination it will be put to a vote by parents.

If you are interested please contact Mrs Barron (hbarron@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk) for a nomination form. If you want to find out more before you commit yourself, please feel free to contact me (tmason@tjls@gmail.com) and I will get back to you.

Tim Mason

Chair of Governors

Results of our Home Learning Questionnaire

49 responses were received. Of these:-

- **100%** of respondents accessed home learning, including **29%** whose child/ren also attended some Key Worker sessions in school.
- **88%** accessed home learning at least 3 times a week, with **71% accessing provision daily.**
- **86%** of pupils spent over 2 hours each day engaged with home learning activities, and of these **57% spent 3 or more hours.**
- **94%** found Google Classroom very easy or OK to access but it was noted that there were some difficulties with printing or accessing worksheets. We now have some spare available each day for parents and carers and hope that this can help in some way. Please let us know if you would like spare sheets made ready for you. We are also still offering use of a laptop (or similar) if needed.
- **90%** found either the majority or most of the activities engaging and enjoyable. Where some activities were more engaging than others, parents said their child tried most of them.

Parents and carer responses to “Do you think anything is missing from the lessons provided?” *included requests for more communication with teachers on how to help their child improve their work, work available in advance, easier/harder options, face-to-face lessons or live lessons, and more contact with the child's own class teacher.*

Where possible, we have tried to resolve problems and difficulties and taken suggestions on board.

Parents’ freehand comments to “What’s the best thing about our Home-Learning provision?”

included: “My child finds it very engaging”; “Easy to use, lots of options with video, documents links etc. quick to upload and hand in work”; “I noticed a huge improvement and how he is more confident with the lessons”. Positive comments included the videos (content, teacher positivity, flexibility, ease of use and good explanations), the way work is marked, and being able to prepare the evening before.

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to this questionnaire. Your comments help us make improvements where we can, and provide really positive feedback to our hard-working staff!

Packs to support learning and book swap

New worksheet packs and book swaps will be available **tomorrow (23rd February) outside the hall entrance door** unless the weather is either very rainy or windy and it is not possible to leave the items outside for collection (in which case, please call for them at the front door). Packs and books will be available **after 1.15pm.**

With best wishes



Marian Haimes

Headteacher