



## Thomas Johnson Lower School

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

26th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Pupil drop off and collection: June 7th onwards**

From half term, we are re-introducing single drop off and collection times. Whilst the staggered starts had many benefits, they have impacted on start and end of day routines for the children and we feel the time is right to try to bring back some uniformity to those important points of the day. Please see the attached diagram. As before, you must stay with your child until they are safely in school. Staff will be on hand to help you with the new system however we may need to make tweaks in the first week to ensure this system works.

You will now have two entry and exit options. The first is through the wooden side gate, the second is using the playing field. Please bear with us whilst we get this right!

### **Year 4 pupils**

After half term, Year 4 pupils who wish to walk to school in preparation for Middle School may do so. Please can parents be aware that the school gates are not open until 8.40am and children arriving any earlier could be left unsupervised.

We have learnt that Marston Vale is not going ahead with their usual transfer day experience. Instead the Head of Year, Miss Collins, will once again visit our school and spend a morning with the children. In view of additional precautions regarding Covid cases in Beds Borough, we agree with MVM that it is preferable for lower school pupils to avoid mixing indoors in large numbers with other schools at this time.

### **New Staffing**

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Martin this term, and I am delighted that she will now be permanently joining our team. We also want to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Davis, who will be our part-time Year 3 teacher in September, working alongside Mrs Roy.

### **Year Groups and Teachers**

From Sept, the new classes will be as follows:

Year Group	Name	Class Teacher
Pre-School and Reception	Hedgehogs	Miss Turner
Year 1	Foxes	Miss Tyrrell
Year 2	Badgers	Mrs Martin
Year 3	Owls	Mrs Roy & Mrs Davis
Year 4	Eagles	Mrs Blythe

### **Funding to Support Managing Covid-19**

I am delighted that we have secured over £3500 towards additional equipment and resources to help promote and maintain social distancing and reduce transmission within the school. We are also applying to secure an additional £1000 in order to develop the outdoor area in EYFS to provide more learning spaces for children to access.

### **Rainbow Benches**

We are enormously grateful to Becki Fleming and the PTFA for organising more of these beautiful benches for the children. They have certainly helped brighten up the area! Thank you!

### **Class DoJo**

We are looking into different ways of sharing photos and news with parents. Currently class teachers are using Facebook but from half term Hedgehogs will be trialling Class DoJo. If this is successful, we will roll out the use of this over the whole school. Please look out for further details after half term.

### **Travelling over half term**

You will be aware that there are certain restrictions on travelling at the moment (red, amber and green list countries).

- **Green list** destinations require a pre-departure Covid-19 test, and a PCR test on or before day 2 of your return.
- **Amber list** destinations should only be visited for work or essential travel (not leisure) and you will need to quarantine on return, at home, for 10 days and provide proof of negative test results.
- **Red list** destinations require 10 days quarantine on return, in a government managed hotel. You should not travel to red list countries for leisure purposes.

If you are travelling abroad over half term, we would really appreciate your providing evidence to the school of a negative PCR test before your child returns. This is not compulsory, however I know it would provide reassurance to all the staff as well as other parents. If you would like to do this, please send a phone snapshot to Helen.

May I wish you all a very relaxing and happy Half Term and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 7th June.

With best wishes



Marian Haimes  
**Headteacher**