



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Dream-Discover-Flourish

28th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

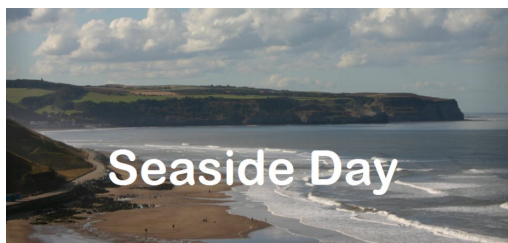
Year 4 pupils - Walking to school

During the Summer Term, Year 4 pupils who wish to walk to school unaccompanied, in preparation for Middle School, may do so.

Here are some important reminders and useful tips: -

- You must notify the school that you give your permission for your child to walk to school on their own. This can be by email, but should be copied to both the office and class teacher.
- Ideally your child should walk with another pupil, especially if they are crossing roads or coming from the other side of the village.
- Your child remains your responsibility until they are on the school site. Once they arrive they will be asked to gather in a group in the wooden Outdoor Classroom area.
- Please ensure your child knows what to do if they feel unsafe (e.g. if they are approached by a stranger or have an accident). You may want to consider coordinating with another parent or carer who is still walking their own child to school, and identify them as "Someone to go to for help". It is important that your child knows how to keep themselves safe at all times.
- These children are still very young. On returning home they should not be left on their own for any length of time. They are still too young to be responsible for another younger sibling at any time.

Please can parents be aware that the school gates are not open until 8.40am and children arriving any earlier could be left unsupervised.



Reception and KS1

Seaside Workshop: Wednesday 22nd June

We have arranged for a whole day workshop exploring the topic of Seasides (old and new).

This day will be for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.

Pre-school pupils will carry out different activities in school on the day, so should come to school as usual.

Your child can dress up for the day! They should wear clothes which are appropriate for the seaside (e.g. shorts, t-shirt, sandals, dress, hat and sunglasses - NO swimwear please). If the weather is cold (and we hope it won't be in June!) your child should also bring a cardigan/jumper and light coat. They will continue to have outdoor playtime throughout the day, and we don't want anyone to be cold or upset.

If you want, your child could even wear a traditional Victorian seaside costume!

We are looking for 6 parent helpers for the day. If you are able to help, please let your child's class teacher know. Many thanks.

Trip to Marston Forest Centre (R& KS1 May 18th and KS2 25th May)

The children will be split into Key Stages for their own day of age-appropriate forest activities.

Your child should wear mufti, preferably old clothing which you won't mind getting dirty or even muddy! Trainers or wellington boots would also work well. If it is a hot day, please ensure your child has a sunhat. Your child should have sunscreen applied before they come to school

Children should be dropped off at Marston Forest Centre car park between 9.15 - 9.30am, and collected from 2.30 - 3pm from the Forest Centre car park. There are no coaches. Ms Paula Stacey will coordinate travel arrangements directly with parents of children who attend Dawn 2 Dusk on that day.

18th May - Reception, Foxes and Badgers class

Pre-school is closed on this day. A lunch will be provided for every child (as part of their Universal Free School Meal Entitlement). Your child should bring their own water bottle.

The children will be taking part in activities such as "Nature's palette, mini beast safari, woodland games, pond dipping" (these may change slightly on the day!)

25th May - Owls and Eagles class

Your child should bring their own packed lunch and water bottle.

The children will be taking part in activities such as "Scavenger hunt, bird watching, pond dipping and map making" (these may change slightly on the day!)



Living Eggs

We will be celebrating new beginnings with an abundance of chicks this term! Knowing how much our children have enjoyed and benefited from this activity, we have a set of chicks arriving in Foxes next week, and a further set in Eagles the following week

Class DoJo

As reported last week, we are pleased to launch Class DoJo as our new information platform for parents and carers.

Class Teachers have sent out this week. Please look in your child's book bag for instructions on how to get set up.

By half term Class DoJo will be our chosen communication platform and this will completely replace Facebook.

Teachers will be using Class DoJo:

- to share photos of class activities with the parents and carers of that class
- to send whole class reminders about class specific items such as trips, uniform, homework etc
- there is also a messaging part of the app which allows a limited form of communication with the teacher and parents/carers (for example, if a child has lost a set of spellings). Urgent messages should not go through Class DoJo (see below).



You will still need to email the office to:

- report any absences
- make holiday requests
- pass on urgent messages (such as changes to a collection time)
- notify us about medical appointments
- notify us or ask about dinner payments or pre-school payments.

It is our intention to gradually move away from Facebook and Parent Hub completely. Class DoJo is easy to download onto your phone, tablet or laptop and is a class-based format which better reflects the individual nature of your child and their class.

Update on Staffing

We are delighted to have Ms Barron back in the office again after recently being unwell. As before, please direct your queries to her, unless they can be directly answered by the class teacher (e.g. missing spellings).

Unfortunately Mrs Roy will not be able to rejoin us until after Half Term due to recovery times. We are doing all we can to find regular Supply teachers who can meet our high standards. This means that Owls class may have different names from time to time, but please be assured we are doing all we can to provide continuity of learning.

Kind regards

Marian Haimes

Headteacher

Exciting Events this Summer Term

3rd May: Bikeability Training- Owls and Eagles

6th May: Bollywood Workshop and Assembly - Owls and Eagles. Performance to parents and carers at the end of the day.

10th May: Class Photographs - (not siblings)

10th May: Faith Tour - Owls and Eagles 9.15 - 1.30pm (Children travel by coach to Bedford: please bring own packed lunch and water bottle) - Wear school uniform

18th May and 25th May: Forest of Marston Vale trips (Reception - Year 4) 22nd June -Wear "outdoor" mufti

17th June: Animal Edge Farm comes to our school - Preschool, Reception, Years 1 & 2 - more details to follow

22nd June: Seaside Day: Reception, Years 1 & 2 - Seaside clothing