



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 3
16th September 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk

@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

We have had another fantastic week of learning at TJLS - and the children continue to impress me with their thirst for new learning. My vision for this school is a clear and simple one. I want to ensure that every child leaves our school with every door of opportunity still open to them.

With this in mind, I am clearly focused on leading the school to get even better at what it does. When I have walked around school during these first two weeks, I can feel a real learning buzz in the classrooms. Children are clearly enjoying their learning and are motivated to succeed. Together, as one community, I am determined to create a successful school community with a 'can do' attitude rather than relying on reasons or excuses why we 'can't do' something.

However, it is obvious that the school's role is limited. If a child comes to school every single day for one year, it means they have access to **950 hours** of teaching time - this is **just over 10% of the total hours in a year**. We must work in **partnership with you** to provide the best education possible for your child so they are able not just to survive in the modern world - but thrive.

I know the vast majority of parents/carers share our desire for their child to excel. As a school we really appreciate the contribution of so many parents/carers who read regularly with their child, get them into good independent learning habits, develop self-discipline and encourage their child to meet our shared expectations.

On a daily basis, I see many, many parents modelling our high expectations to their children - not just in terms of learning but in terms of how they behave. This could be through parking considerably outside the school, respectfully speaking to other members of the TJLS community, or the way they deal with any issues that arise. This attitude makes the TJLS community a very special place to belong to.

I also know our shared determination means we will not lower our expectations of the children. Most children - and perhaps most adults - don't like it when things get harder or expectations rise - but at TJLS we are beginning to learn about developing a *Growth Mindset* where we believe we can learn from failure and embrace challenges instead of shying away from them. By helping us to transmit this attitude to your children you are giving them the very best chance for their future.

I am pleased with the start we have made to the new academic year - and with your continued support we can build on these early few weeks and make this a year to remember at TJLS!

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Bank Holiday Monday 19th September

Please be reminded that **school will be CLOSED on Monday 19th September** as it has been declared a Bank Holiday for the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

[Please click here to see my previous letter referring to this.](#)

School will reopen as normal on the morning of Tuesday 20th September.

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The introduction of Houses - and the search for House Captains...

To further develop our understanding of community, belonging and teamwork - we have decided to introduce a House Point system in school. All children will be a member of one of the four school houses - with all siblings being in the same house as each other.

Children will be awarded House Points for showing brilliant behaviour, exceptional effort and legendary learning on a day-to-day basis. They will collect House Points both as a team and individually. When children earn 20 House Points they will be awarded with a Bronze Award, 40 points for a Silver Award and 60 points for a Gold Award.

Each half-term, the House with the most points will be awarded the TJLS House Cup - and will earn a House Reward. At the end of the year, the winning House will be awarded with the first ever TJLS House Award. House Points will start to be collected in the coming weeks.

Today, children have been assigned to their Houses - and you will find their House Membership Certificate in their book bags.

The Houses are:



But before we can do anything, we need to assign **two House Captains** for each house.

All **Year 4 children** are eligible to apply for the role of becoming a House Captain. Their role is to be highly upstanding role models within the TJLS Community and be responsible for collecting, counting and communicating the number of House Points earned back to me.

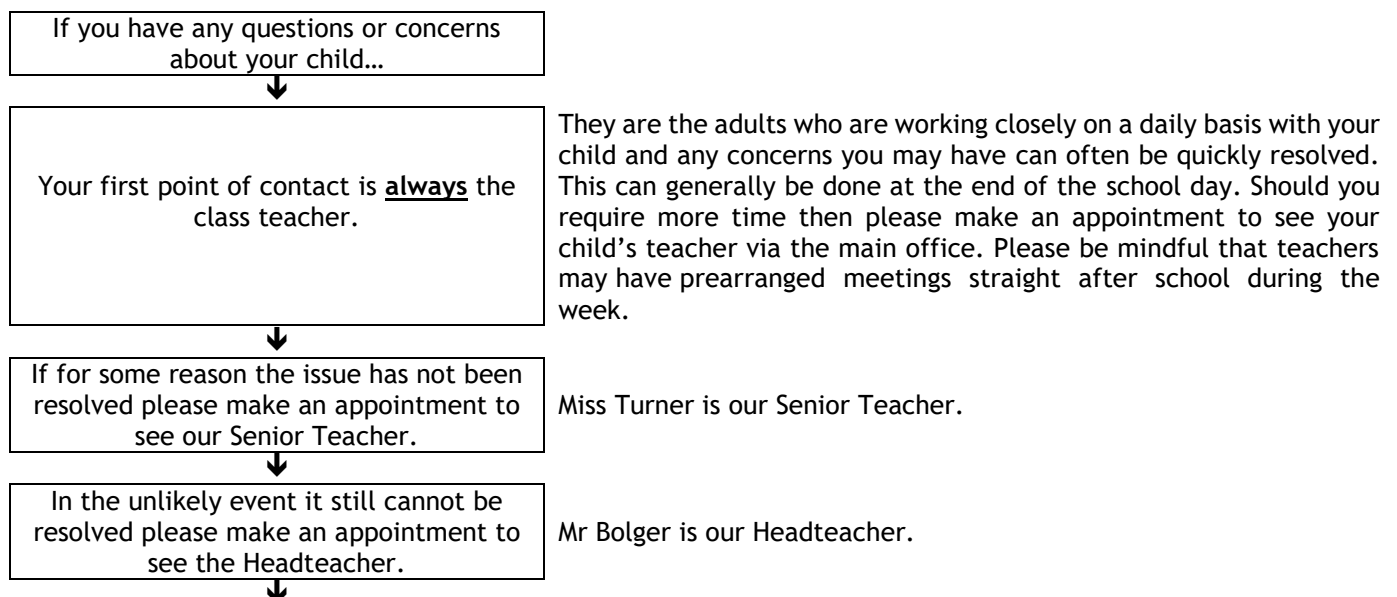
It is a big job - but I know the Year 4 children are up to it!

To apply for these positions, Year 4 children have been asked to create a one-minute presentation explaining why they want to be a House Captain and why they would be fantastic in the role.

Children will be called to present their speech on **Tuesday 27th September** and we will announce the successful House Captains in assembly on Friday 30th September.

Chains of communication

Communication is extremely important to us in helping to support your child. The following protocol ensures that **all parents** follow the same process:



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In the unlikely event it still cannot be resolved then you will be directed to our Chair of Governors.

Mr Mason is our Chair of Governors.

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Malachi	*	George
Year 1	Benji	Grace	Tiberius
Year 2	Jack	Tilly	Quinton
Year 3	Mila	Angelica	Elijah
Year 4	Matthew	Seija	Mikey

**We will introduce this award later in the school year for our Reception children.*

This week's Golden Brush winner is Owls - Year 3. They have had the tidiest classroom and cloakroom this week.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **95.98%**

Duggee The Every Day Dog
Awarded to the class with the best attendance all week.

(National attendance is **96.4%**
- can we do better next week?)

Foxes - Year 1 with an attendance of **99.23%**

Dates for your diary - new dates added will be written in green

19 th September	School CLOSED - Bank Holiday for the Queen's State Funeral
27 th September	Year 4 presentations for House Captain
6 th October	School Council Elections - <i>more information in due course</i>
7 th October	Macmillan Coffee Morning - <i>more information in due course</i>
11 th October	School photographs
15 th October	PTFA Disco held at the Village Hall
21 st October	Last day of half-term
31 st October	School REOPENS for Autumn 2
Week beginning 7 th November	Progress Consultations for Parents/Carers - <i>final dates/times to be confirmed in due course</i>
12 th November	PTFA Fireworks event
25 th November	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
16 th December	Last day of term
3 rd January	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
4 th January	School REOPENS for Spring 1

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