



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 4
23rd September 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

I have been thrilled this week to hear the children tell me all about which House they are now proud members of. I am now really looking forward to hearing the presentations from our Year 4 hopefuls applying to be House Captains. We're anticipating a number of applications for these positions - so this means some children will miss out. We will talk in school about how it may feel disappointing - but that we will also be gracious and congratulate the children chosen as House Captains. Please help us at home by managing children's expectations of the outcomes.

I have enjoyed walking around the school this week and seeing how children are developing as writers. We have recently adopted a new approach to writing called 'The Write Stuff'. It was created by the teacher and consultant, Jane Considine - and is used in hundreds of schools in the UK. It supports children to develop their vocabulary and also how they can use their newly acquired words in powerful sentences. Look out soon for when we publish some of our 'Remarkable Writing'...!

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

School Council Elections

There is another upcoming opportunity for children to contribute to whole school life. In assembly next Monday, we will be learning about the British Value of **Democracy**. We will then engage in a whole school democratic process to appoint two School Councillors from each class from Year 1 to Year 4. The Reception children will have a chance to join the School Council later in the year.

If children would like to run for the School Council then please look out on Class Dojo for guidance on how to apply and for when the elections will take place.

PE in school

We are very excited to say that we have reviewed, refined and renewed our PE offer in partnership with Premier Sports. We are very pleased to welcome **Mr Ben Whalley** and **Mr Calvin Williams** to the staff team as our resident sports coaches.

Mr Whalley and Mr Williams will be based at TJLS on a Tuesday and Thursday - and all of our children will benefit from their coaching skills.

This does mean that **PE days will need to change**. Please refer to the table below to see when your child/children will have PE. **This will start from next week**.

Class name and year group	PE Days	
Hedgehogs - Reception	Thursday	-
Foxes - Year 1	Tuesday	Thursday
Badgers - Year 2	Tuesday	Thursday
Owls - Year 3	Tuesday	Thursday
Eagles - Year 4	Tuesday	Thursday

Children can continue to come to school on these days already in their PE kits.

Dream - Discover - Flourish

The aim of our curriculum is to open doors of opportunity for our children



School photographs - and a change of date

The date for children's individual school photographs has been rearranged to **Wednesday 2nd November**.

The previous date was booked in advance last year and it fell on a PE day for a number of our children. As a parent, I fully recognise the headache this causes!

This is why I have rearranged the date. So on the day, children can stand tall and wear their uniforms with pride - without having to worry about getting changed for PE.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Attendance and punctuality at school is not only a legal requirement but also has a huge impact on the attainment and progress of our children. Attendance also has an impact on the judgement Ofsted makes - a school with attendance below the national average (*and it is not improving*) cannot be a "good" school. This is why it is so crucial to maintain really good attendance and punctuality throughout the year.

Did you know?

- 95% attendance = 10 days absent a year
- 90% attendance = 20 days absent a year
- 85% attendance = 30 days absent a year
- 80% attendance = 40 days absent a year

"Every Minute Counts"

If your child is late every day...	In a year your child would lose the following days education...
5 minutes late	3 days
10 minutes late	6 ½ days
15 minutes late	10 days
20 minutes late	13 days
30 minutes late	19 ½ days

Establishing good patterns of attendance now - and only taking days off when it is really necessary - is preparing our children to succeed in their future lives.

For your information:

- The legal responsibility for ensuring children come to school lies with the parents;
- If a child arrives after the register has been taken (this is 9.00am) they will be marked as late and if they arrive after 9.15am the session will be recorded as an unauthorised absence; *and*
- Holidays will not be authorised and if they are taken parents may be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fine of £60 (*or £120 if not paid within 28 days*). Please note that the fine is £60 per parent, per child.

Schools for the Future

As you may already be aware, Central Bedfordshire Council is leading an exciting and long-term initiative called 'Schools for the Future'. Central to this is the move for schools in the local authority to move to a two-tier educational system. This means, in time, the long-term plan is for TJLS to grow from a 'lower school' (Preschool to Year 4) to a 'primary school' (Preschool to Year 6). The project is still very much in the planning stage - and when I am able to share any further information, I will with optimism and openness.

Dogs on school grounds

Please be reminded that dogs are not permitted anywhere on school grounds. This is in the interests of making sure everyone in our school community is kept safe. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Bikes and scooters

It is fantastic to see so many children choosing to cycle or scoot to school. We have provision for bikes and scooters to be kept on the premises for the duration of the school day. Please remember to take your bikes and scooters home at the end of the day.

Please ensure children dismount from their bikes and scooters and walk with them whilst on the school grounds. This is to avoid any accidents or collisions. Thank you for supporting us with this and keeping everyone on the school site safe.

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Artie	*	Esme
Year 1	Cody	Freddie	Beatrice
Year 2	Tabatha	Ruben	Thomas
Year 3	Beth	Patrick	Bella
Year 4	Noah	Brooke	Elliott

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

This week's Golden Brush winner is Eagles - Year 4. They have had the tidiest classroom and cloakroom this week.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **93.96%**

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 **100%**

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

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>
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
2 nd November	Children's individual school photographs
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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