



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 2
9th September 2022



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Headteacher's Introduction

Where has this first week gone? I would like to start by thanking so many members of the TJLS community for making me feel so welcome and helping me to settle into my new role. Staff, parents, carers and governors have been a source of valued support this week and I am very grateful.

But let's not forget the children! They have made a very positive impression on me this week with their eagerness and enthusiasm to get straight into their learning. The most popular question aimed at me this week has definitely been 'How tall are you?' Well, to close the matter, I am six feet and five inches tall - about 196cm!

I spoke to the children in assembly on Monday about the enjoyment of setting new goals - and this is especially relevant at the start of a new academic year. I talked about how they should start small and think BIG. This is the first foundations of the introduction of our **growth mindset** approach. Over the coming weeks, we will explore this together with the children - and I look forward to sharing more with you about this exciting development...

Very best wishes - and enjoy your weekend.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Queen Elizabeth II

We marked the sad passing of the Queen in a short assembly this morning. We looked at some photographs of her life over the years and talked about what an inspirational role model she was.

Some children had questions today - and I'm sure others will have questions in the next week. We answered them carefully and sensitively - and will continue to do so as the children build an understanding of what has happened.

I've been asked about school closures during the period of national mourning. At the time of writing, the government has not announced anything. As soon as we are updated with further information, I will pass this on to parents/carers.

Welcome to new members of the TJLS Community

A very big thank you and welcome to the parents and carers of our new starters. It is always a daunting prospect when your child starts school - and often we as parents and carers are more nervous and emotional than the children are! But, like your children, you have truly risen to the occasion.

As well as our new starters in Early Years, we have a small number of new children who have joined us further up the school. We warmly welcome them and their families to the TJLS community.

This week we have welcomed Miss Sam Prattley as our new kitchen manager. She will be instrumental in providing our children with a rich selection of healthy lunches.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations are in order for Miss Benson. She got married over the summer holidays and will now be known as Mrs Southwick. Excitingly, she has also started her maternity leave and we will update you when we hear any further news.

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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



Change to collection

If you are arranging for another adult to collect your child then please **inform the front office** as soon as you can. You can do this by coming into the office in-person and letting us know, calling the school on 01525 402377, or sending an email to office@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk

This is part of our **safeguarding procedure** and by keeping the process centralised to the office means we can efficiently relay any changes to everyone who needs to know.

Weekly Awards

Next week, we will be starting the introduction of our new weekly whole school awards. They are as follows:

Star of the Week: this will be awarded to one child in each class who has consistently shown an *above and beyond* behaviour and attitude over the course of the week. As a reward, in Friday's celebration assembly they will get to sit in *the best seat in the house* at the front of the hall - and then in the afternoon they will join Mr Bolger for *Hot Chocolate Friday*.

Reader of the Week: this will be awarded to one child in each class who has shown excellent determination and effort with their reading over the course of the week.

Sportsperson of the Week: this will be awarded to one child in each class who has shown excellent teamwork, achievement and effort in their PE lessons over the course of the week.

Duggee the Every Day Dog: Duggee is our attendance award. He will be awarded to the class who has the most children in school and on time each week.

The Golden Brush: this will be awarded to the class who has the tidiest classroom and cloakroom each week. It will then take pride of place in the tidy classroom until the following Friday.

Car Parking

The most vulnerable road users are pedestrians - and especially children. I am sure you will agree that **children's safety is paramount** and it is important we drive and park considerately and safely.

Please do not park directly outside the school gate - there is a large yellow KEEP CLEAR sign painted on the ground signalling this. The **gates must be kept clear** so emergency access can be provided by police, ambulance or the fire brigade if required.

Double parking and obstructing other vehicles outside of a school is against the Highway Code and puts our children at **unnecessary risk**.

The school car park is not a public car park so please refrain from driving on to the school grounds. If you are a blue badge holder then there is one disabled parking space at the front of school. When using this, please be mindful of pedestrians by driving very slowly and clearly display your blue badge.

I understand and appreciate there is limited parking around the immediate school site - and this is a real issue for many schools around the country. However, I know you will agree that our own personal convenience is never more important than the safety of our children.

I would like to say a personal thank you to the vast majority of parents who park **considerately** and **safely** around the school grounds.

A special well done to the families who **choose to walk instead of drive**. In some cases, this is not an option for some families because of the distance they live from school - so well done to those who choose to drive most of the way, park nearby and **choose to walk the last little bit of the journey**.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our children safe.

Drive safe. Park smart. No excuses.

Term dates for the upcoming academic year 2022/23

It has been brought to my attention that two sets of conflicting term dates were sent out at the end of the last academic year.

For clarity, this academic year's term dates are as follows:

Term	Open AM on	Closes end of PM on
Autumn 1 - 2022	Monday 5 th September	Friday 21 st October
Autumn 2 - 2022	Monday 31 st October	Friday 16 th December
Spring 1 - 2023	Wednesday 4 th January	Friday 10 th February
Spring 2 - 2023	Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Summer 1 - 2023	Tuesday 18 th April	Friday 26 th May
Summer 2 - 2023	Monday 5 th June	Friday 21 st July

School will be closed on the following days:	Friday 25th November Staff training day	Monday 2nd January Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd January Staff training day	Monday 17th April Staff training day	Monday 1st May Bank Holiday