



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 8
21st October 2022



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Headteacher's Introduction

Amazingly, I am already writing the last newsletter of the first half-term. The half-term has flown past and, when we return, our thoughts will very quickly turn towards Christmas (*Already? I know!*).

It has been a half-term filled with success for the community of TJLS. Some of our achievements include:

- Introducing and embedding a new approach to writing called The Write Stuff. Both our children and staff have very quickly seen the massive improvement in writing across the school.
- Beginning to develop a culture of continuous improvement through teaching everyone about a Growth Mindset - with the belief of *I can't do it, YET!*
- The creation of our four Houses. This has helped develop a sense of community and teamwork across the school.
- Electing House Captains and School Councillors to support the staff in making the school even better than it already is.
- The introduction of our new approach to promoting positive behaviour.
- 2 very successful Macmillan Coffee Mornings where we raised almost £300.
- A very successful PTFA disco where we raised almost £600.
- And... don't forget about all the fabulous learning taking place every day!

It is never easy as a new, incoming Headteacher because it takes time to get to grips with things - and at the same time everyone expects you to know everything! I would like to thank every member of the TJLS staff for their support this half-term. They have embraced every change I have made and worked tirelessly to make the school as effective as possible. They all fully deserve their half-term break.

Thank you to you as well. For your smiles and hellos in the morning. For sharing the same high aspirations for your children as I do. For supporting your children at home with their learning. And, for the encouragement as you see me trying to sweep up leaves at the front of school!

Have a safe and happy half-term holiday. The better children are refreshed - the more effective they will be upon their return in Autumn 2.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Goodbye... but not just yet

At the end of the term in December, we will be saying a very fond farewell to **Miss Tyrrell** in Year 1. She will be moving to New Zealand for all of 2023 to take up a teaching position at an overseas school. The good news is, she will return to TJLS in January 2024. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for Miss Tyrrell - and her experience abroad will be of great benefit to both her and the school. We will let you know in due course of the staffing arrangement in Year 1.

Harvest

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and/or donated food items to our Harvest Festival. It was fantastic to see so many of you in school this week.

A big well done to the children who sang and performed fantastically. I really hope you enjoyed watching.

All the food items will be donated to The NEED Project. They support the fight against poverty across the local area and their cause is very worthy one.

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Music Genres Calendar

When I deliver assemblies on a Monday and Friday, I have themed the music the children listen to upon entry and exit to the school hall. The purpose of this is to offer a wide-ranging selection of music: different styles, genres, origins, artists, diversity, historical periods and so on.

As part of an interesting and robust music curriculum, children need to hear and experience music and musical styles and artists that they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to hear. Which is where the idea of themed musical weeks came from.

So far in Autumn 1, we have listened in assembly to music from the following themes:

Ska	R'n'B	Contemporary pop	Classical	Boy bands	Legendary women of music	Britpop
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After half-term, the themes will be:

Blues	Punk	Rockabilly	Northern soul	Dance	Metal	Show tunes
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All the lyrics for the songs have been scrutinised beforehand to ensure there is nothing inappropriate included.

School places information

Children born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 are due to start school in September 2023. You need to apply **before 15th January 2023** - even if your child already attends our preschool. [To apply online - click here.](#)

For children currently in Year 4, you will need to apply for a place at middle school **before 15th January 2023**. [To apply online - click here.](#)

TJLS Open Day

If you, or someone you know, has a child starting school in September 2023 - then you are warmly invited to attend our open day on **Wednesday 16th November**. There will be two tours. The **first at 9.30am** and the **second at 1.30pm**. There is no need to book. Prospective parents are welcome to arrive at school for one of the above times.

If you know someone locally who would be interested in visiting the school - then please pass this information on.

PTFA Firework Event

Our PTFA have organised a firework event for the local community. This will be held at school on **Saturday 12th November**. Further information on how to purchase tickets for this event will be published in the first week back after half-term.

If you feel able to volunteer some of your time to set up, assist and/or tidy up at the event - [then you can click here to sign up for a role](#). Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

School Photographs

Children will have their individual photographs taken on **Wednesday 2nd November**. It has been scheduled for the afternoon as that is the only time the company had availability. So we will make every effort to ensure that cardigans and jumpers are protected from potential spillages and drips over the lunchtime!

If you have a child in preschool - but they do not usually attend on a Friday then you are welcome to bring them at 1.30pm to have their photograph taken.

Soon after the photos are taken, you will be provided with information of how to order your photos.

Half termly awards

This week we gave out our half-termly awards. They are our **Marvellous Manners Award**. This was awarded to one child in each year group who has shown exceptional manners throughout every aspect of school life. This half-term the awards go to:

Hedgehogs	Foxes	Badgers	Owls	Eagles
Skye	Cody	Jack	Beth	Toby

In addition to this, we also presented children with **100% Attendance Awards** (*these children have been in school every single day this half-term*). I am pleased to say **46 children** received this award this half-term.

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We also presented the **Early Bird Award** (*these children have never been late this half-term*). I am very pleased to say **72 children** received this award this half-term.

My challenge for children next half-term is to beat both of these figures. Can we do it?

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Isabella	Skye	Dylan
Year 1	Tiberius	Leo	Callum
Year 2	Joshua	Sam	Kiera
Year 3	Bella	Esme	Angelica
Year 4	Amelia	Jaydn	Hettie

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 - **98.6%**
THIS IS OUR BEST WEEK SO FAR!

(National attendance is **96.4%**)

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

Owls with an attendance of **100%**

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

31 st October	School REOPENS for Autumn 2
2nd November	Children's individual school photographs
7 th November	Progress Consultations for Parents/Carers - 3.30-6.30pm
9 th November	Progress Consultations for Parents/Carers - 3.30-6.30pm
12 th November	PTFA Fireworks event
14 th November	Reach Out! Anti-bullying day. Everyone to wear odd socks.
16 th November	Open Day for Prospective Parents. 9.30-10.30am and 1.30-2.30pm
18 th November	Children in Need. Everyone to wear spots. <i>Optional £1 donation to CiN.</i>
21 st November	World Cup starts - <i>wear a football (or sports or national team colour) shirt</i>
24 th November	Phonics information session for Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - 2pm
25 th November	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
30 th November	English and Maths information session - 2pm
6 th December	Preschool, Reception Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance - 9.30am
8 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Performance - 9.30am
9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day. <i>No donations requested.</i>
14 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
16 th December	Non-uniform day. <i>Optional £1 donation to school fund.</i> Last day of term
3 rd January	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
4 th January	School REOPENS for Spring 1
11 th January	Open Day for Prospective Parents
25 th January	SPLAT (Stay Play Learning All Together) Session - 9-9.30am. Your child will give you a tour of their classroom.
1 st February	Year 2 SATs information session - 2pm
6 th - 10 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
7 th February	Safer Internet Day
10 th February	Last day of half term
20 th February	School REOPENS for Spring 2
2 nd March	World Book Day. Dress up as a children's book character.
6 th March	Progress Consultations - 3.30-6.30pm
8 th March	Progress Consultations - 3.30-6.30pm
8 th March	International Women's Day
13 th - 17 th March	Science Week
17 th March	Coffee Morning - 9.15-10am

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31 st March	Last day of term
17 th April	INSET Day - School CLOSED to children
18 th April	School REOPENS for Summer 1
18 th April	National offer day for children starting in Reception
1 st May	Bank Holiday - school CLOSED
1 st - 31 st May	KS1 SATs period
4 th May	School referendum
8 th - 12 th May	Art Week
17 th May	SPLAT session - 9-9.30am. Your child will give you a tour of their classroom.
26 th May	Last day of half term
5 th June	School reopens for Summer 2
5 th - 23 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication Screening Period
12 th - 16 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Period
16 th June	Coffee Morning - 9.15-10am
21 st June	New Reception starter information session - 1.30pm
29 th June	Sports Day - 9.30am
6 th July	Sports Day Backup should there be poor weather
12 th July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
12 th July	School Picnic
14 th July	End of year reports sent out to parents and carers
17 th July	SPLAT - your child can share their learning from this year with you - 3.20-3.50pm
18 th July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
19 th July	Year 4 Leavers Assembly - 9.30am
21 st July	School closes for summer holidays

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