



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 10
11th November 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers in school for progress consultation appointments this week. It is a really important time in the school year as it is a vital form of communication between home and school.

In assembly this week, we learned about the significance of Remembrance Day. We found out why we wear poppies and why it is important to *remember*. At 11am today, we held a one-minute silence to remember and to show our respect and gratitude to any soldiers currently serving to keep us safe.

You may have noticed that we have installed some lights outside the school to make the site even safer now that it is getting dark earlier in the evening (*that's what Mr Bolger was doing with a drill on Wednesday morning! 😊*). If you are arriving at school and it is dark (e.g. for dropping off and collecting from Dawn Until Dusk), then please make sure you are keeping yourself safe during this time and walking/driving safely. Hopefully the new lights will make this easier for you.

Have a lovely weekend - and I hope to see many of you at the fireworks on Saturday.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

PTFA Firework Event

I am delighted to say that the PTFA are able to host the firework event after last week's news that we were unsure if it could go ahead.

I just want to take a moment to say that any firework event holds some risk. Therefore, the event has been fully risk assessed and every precaution will be taken by the firework team on the night. This is a necessary precaution to ensure the smooth running of the event.

I am sure it will be a fantastic event and I know the team will ensure you will enjoy it.

Anti-Bullying Week 2022

Next week (14th-18th November) is National Anti-Bullying Week. As part of assembly on Monday we will help children to understand what bullying actually is, how their "innocent" actions might be perceived by others as bullying, and what to do about it if they feel bullied.

Monday 14th November is Odd Socks Day. We are asking for all members of the school community to come to school wearing odds to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Bullying is defined as "*deliberately hurtful behaviour, which is unprovoked, repeated regularly over a short period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves*".

We will remind children that bullying is not "*the odd occasion*" of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.



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As a general reminder:

- When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's rude.
- When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's MEAN.
- When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it* even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset, that's **BULLYING**.

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 support your child's school and recommend us to anyone you may know who is looking for a school space for September.

Children in Need

Children in Need Day is Friday 18th November. To celebrate this, we will have a special assembly on Friday morning - and we are asking all children to come to school wearing something **SPOT**acular!

It is a non-uniform day - and we suggest bright colours and spots if you can.

If you feel able to, we are asking for an *optional* £1 donation to Children in Need. We are looking to become as cashless as possible so would prefer an electronic payment, please.

This can be paid online to [REDACTED]. Please use 'CIN' as your payment reference.

Unauthorised absence

If for some reason you require a leave of absence during term time because of 'exceptional circumstances' then you must make a leave of absence request (*you can ask for a form at the main office*). Please remember that we cannot legally authorise holidays during term time. This is a safeguarding matter and children's attendance at school is a legal requirement.

Children's absence

If you know your child is going to be absent because of illness, then please make sure you inform the school office by calling 01525 402377.

Punctuality

As a reminder, the school doors **open at 8.50am** and will **close at 9.00am exactly**. If you arrive with your child after 9.00am then you must bring them into school via the main office where you will be asked to sign the late-book and provide the reason why you are late. Your child will then be marked as late in the register.

We will now start to keep track of the number of minutes lost due to lateness for children - and hopefully be able to keep this number as low as possible.

You may not think that being a few minutes late makes much difference - but if your child is 10 minutes late every day - in one school year they will lose almost 7 days of learning time because of lateness.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of being on time. When a child arrives late they will have missed the start of their lesson and will be playing 'catch-up' for the remainder of that session - immediately putting them at a disadvantage.

An interesting way to think about it is this: What would happen if you were 10 minutes late for work every day?

Early and late collection of children

Please be reminded that the school day ends at 3.20pm. This means that children cannot be collected before this time unless it is for exceptional circumstances only. Please note, we cannot release children early for reasons such as children have a swimming lesson or that a parent/carer has a personal errand.

Further to this we have had a few cases of children being collected late after school. If you know you are running late, then please contact the school to let us know of your whereabouts and expected arrival time.

When children are collected late without any notification and/or in unexceptional circumstances, it does become a safeguarding matter. Thank you for your support on this matter.

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House Points

This week's winning house is **Woburn**.
Well done everyone!



Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Gia	Violet	Miriam
Year 1	Grace	Benji	Amberley
Year 2	Tilly	Cerys	Thomas
Year 3	Flora	Arya	Keira
Year 4	Oscar	Elliott	Ethan

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 - **94%**
(National attendance is **96.4%**)
Can we do better next week?

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

Hedgehogs (Reception)
with an attendance of **97.8%**

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

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
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

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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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