



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 11
18th November 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

It was wonderful to see so many families attend last weekend's firework event. I am sure you will agree that the fireworks were spectacular, the barbecue was delicious and the event was organised with military precision. I would like to say a **huge thank you** to the PTFA for organising the event - and also to **all** of the volunteers who helped set up, run the stalls and tidy away at the end. It wouldn't have happened without you!

Fantastically, the event raised almost **£1,500** for the school. This is a magnificent achievement and we will soon be looking at how we can best allocate these funds to enrich the educational offer for all of our children. Thank you so much if you attended the event and supported your child's school.

I showed a number of prospective parents and carers around school this week as part of our open sessions. The feedback has been very positive with all of our visitors being very complementary of our children's behaviour, the calm and purposeful atmosphere in school, and the ambition we hold for every child in our care.

There will be additional open sessions organised for the next few weeks - so if you know anyone who is looking for a school for their child for September - then please pass on our details and support your local school.

Anti-bullying day was celebrated with everyone wearing odd socks and an assembly delivered by Mrs Blythe. In assembly the children talked about what bullying is, and what they can do about responding to it and preventing it.

Today has also been a SPOTacular day of bright colours and even brighter spots as we celebrated Children in Need. We will be able to update you next week with the grand total of how much we raised for charity.

Have a lovely and restful weekend.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

INSET Day - Friday 25th November

This is a reminder that the school will be **CLOSED on Friday 25th November** for staff training. On this day we are fortunate to be joining together with some other local schools to work with a national safeguarding expert called Andrew Hall. The purpose of the training is to deepen everyone's understanding of safeguarding and how we can ensure we keep every member of the TJLS community safe and protected.

Monday 21st November

If you haven't heard, the 2022 football World Cup starts this weekend - and I am very excited about this (*although at home Mrs Bolger hasn't shared the same level of enthusiasm as me!*). To celebrate this global event, we are asking that children come to school on Monday in a football shirt, or a sports team shirt - or even the colour of a national team they might be affiliated to is absolutely fine.

Phonics information session

We are inviting parents and carers of Preschool, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to attend an information session exploring phonics. This will be led by Miss Turner. We will look at what phonics is, how we teach it in school, and how you can help at home. This session will take place, as already scheduled, on **Thursday 24th November at 2pm in the main hall**. We anticipate the session to last for around 30-40 minutes. We ask that you enter and exit the hall from the external door by the patio area. If you cannot attend, don't worry. We will make the information available to you shortly after via Class Dojo.

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



Music lessons

As our music subject leader, Miss Tyrrell has been busily coordinating with the local school music service, Inspiring Music, to organise musical instrument lessons for our children.

Inspiring Music are in the process of recruiting some more teachers for us as there is currently a local shortage. We are also in the process of trying to secure a brass music teacher for January. I will be able to update you when we know more.

Christmas Performances

For our upcoming Christmas Performances (*already, I know!*), we will need to limit audience numbers **to 2 per child** to ensure that everyone will be able to fit in the hall. With the stage, the children, the staff and families - it will be tight - but in true TJLS style we will make it work.

Thank you for your cooperation.

'The 48 Hour Rule'

Winter has truly arrived - and that means many children and adults can become more susceptible to sickness at this time of year. From time to time children are sick (*vomit*) either at home or at school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to distinguish between the causes, and therefore **it is essential that the same rule of absence applies in all cases of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.**

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting commonly affects children and adults and can be caused by a number of different germs, including viruses, parasites and bacteria. Infections can be easily spread from person to person (*most commonly by unwashed hands*), especially in children. This is why we will be reminding everyone of the importance of handwashing.

Government guidance from Public Health England state that any staff member or child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away from the school or early years setting until they have been **free of symptoms for 48 hours** ('*the 48 hour rule*') and feel well. Personal hygiene whilst ill must be very strict.

If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. **They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises.** We appreciate this can be inconvenient in some cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, **but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases** and it is to reduce the risk of infection for all children and staff in school.

As an example, if your child is sick at lunchtime on a Tuesday, they should not return to school until after lunch on Thursday, **provided there have not been any further episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhoea.**

Guidance on how to treat and care for someone with diarrhoea and vomiting can be on the NHS website here: [Diarrhoea and vomiting - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Thank you for your understanding with this and helping to keep everyone at TJLS healthy and well.

House Points

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



Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Esme	Franklin	Harley
Year 1	Jozefina	Cody	Freddie
Year 2	Brody	Zachary	Jack
Year 3	Keira	Angelica	Noah
Year 4	Summer	Matthew	Seija

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

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Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **93%**
(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.

Badgers - Year 2
with an attendance of **98%**

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

21 st November	World Cup starts - wear a football (or sports or national team colour) shirt
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
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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