



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 9
4th November 2022



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Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. It has been another very busy week in school (*I seem to say that every week!*) and I was really pleased to see the children back in school ready to start the new half-term with the same enthusiasm which they had at the end of the last half-term.

In Monday's assembly, we learned about Bonfire Night and its significance to life in modern Britain. Lots of children enthusiastically told me about fireworks displays they have seen in the past. Don't forget our PTFA have organised their own fireworks display for next week (*see further down this newsletter*).

School photographs were a real success this week - and a huge thank you to **Toby and Mikey in Year 4** for their work over the afternoon in collecting children when it was their turn to be photographed. We've already booked in next year's photograph day (*Wednesday 27th September if you're interested!*) - and it will be in the morning before lunch and not on a PE day!

If you are attending or holding any firework events yourself over the weekend - then please enjoy them and remember to keep everyone safe.

Have a lovely weekend.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Welcome...

We are very excited to announce that we have appointed **Miss Emma Belam** as our Foxes Year 1 Class Teacher. She will join the TJLS team in January 2023 when Miss Tyrrell goes on her New Zealand adventure. Miss Belam is a very experienced teacher and will bring a wealth of enthusiasm, knowledge and expertise to the school.

Over the course of this half-term, we will arrange for opportunities for Miss Belam to be in school for transition activities with the children and Miss Tyrrell - and for parents/carers to say hello.

PTFA Firework Event

Unfortunately, we are in a position where we may have to cancel the upcoming firework event on Saturday 12th November ☹️. At the moment, we simply haven't managed to sell enough tickets to make the event viable - and we are also in need of more volunteers.

Together, with the PTFA, I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to support this event as it is usually the PTFA's biggest annual fundraiser.

You can order your tickets by emailing tjlsptfa@gmail.com or [returning your order form](#) (*which were sent home to all children before half-term*).

If you are able to volunteer your time, then you can sign up for a role here: <https://volunteersignup.org/RAHRJ>

I am sure you will agree that we do not want the children and families of TJLS to miss out on the fireworks - and also not to have cancel this crucial fundraising event.

Thank you for your support.

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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.

Growth Mindset Language

In our school we do not use the word 'work' - we say '**learning**'. Learning is an intrinsic activity which should be its own reward. In our school we say: "*You work because you have to and you learn because you **want to***".

You will not hear our school staff tell children they are "clever" or "smart" - this is founded in conclusive scientific research. Did you know that the more you tell a child they are "clever" - the more they believe they don't have to try as hard?

Children who are frequently told how "clever, smart, talented and gifted" they are, tend to be the first to give up when the going gets tough. By praising children for how hard they have tried and for how much effort they have given - means they will develop far higher levels of resilience.

Progress Consultations for Parents and Carers

Appointment letters for **Monday 7th November** and **Wednesday 9th November** were sent out before half-term. If you do not have an appointment then please see your child's class teacher as soon as you can.

Here are some reminders to help with the organisation of the evenings:

- Please remember to arrive at least 5 minutes before your appointment to help us keep on time,
- Please enter and exit the school via the external hall door (*from the patio outside of Hedgehog's drop off point*),
- In the hall there will be tables set up with children's books on. You are welcome to browse through your child's learning - **but please do not take the books home with you**,
- Your child's class teacher will collect you from the hall at your appointment time,
- All appointments will last no longer than 9 minutes (*this is to keep everyone on time*),
- The appointment must focus on children's learning (*if you have any other concerns then a separate meeting can be scheduled for another day*), and
- Dawn Until Dusk will be positioned in Hedgehogs on both progress consultation evenings - so please collect children from the door by Hedgehogs classroom.

We look forward to welcoming you into school.

End of day collection procedures and safeguarding

At the end of the school day when we release children back to their parents/carers, we always make sure that we can see the collecting parent/carer before letting the child out of the building. Teachers and LSAs are very good at recognising regular parents/carers who collect.

If for some reason you are unable to collect and you must make different arrangements to normal - **please let the main office know before the end of the school day**.

Packed lunches

Whether squeezing it in before the school run in the morning or before bed on busy midweek evenings, preparing your child's lunchbox can seem like just another thing on the list. As a parent, I also feel like this!

School meals are a great choice - but if you do make a packed lunch then there is lots of information, inspiration and recipe ideas on the NHS website. [You can click here to see the page.](#)

If you are sending your child to school with a yoghurt in their packed lunch, please remember to include a spoon for them to eat it with.

Polite reminders

Please be reminded that:

- children should not have toys in school
- as the weather is changing, all children need a coat (*named*) in school every day
- we are a nut free school

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House Points

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



Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

Star of the Week

Reception
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4

Orla
Isla
James
Esme
Mikey

Reader of the Week

Hemi
Callum
Dexter
Mila
Marie

Sportsperson of the Week

Malachi
Ty
Brooklyn
Arya
Noah

This week's Golden Brush winner is **Badgers - Year 2**. They have had the tidiest classroom and cloakroom this week.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **93.8%**
(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 and Preschool)
with an attendance of **100%**

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

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
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

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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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