



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 13
2nd December 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk
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Headteacher's Introduction

It's that time of year - Christmas is coming!

It is hard to believe that we are in December already and that the Christmas holiday is almost upon us. The school has been very well decorated and the Christmas tree is up in the foyer! Thank you to all of the staff who have helped to make the school look festive for the children for the remainder of the term.

We are planning to hold various events during the next couple of weeks so that we can enjoy the festive season. I think I am also right in saying that for the first time in a few years, these events will be held in-person - which I think is fantastic!

The following events are planned:

- ✱ **Tuesday 6th December** - Preschool, Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance - 9.30am in the main hall. Please enter through the external door off of the patio.
- ✱ **Tuesday 6th December - 6pm** - our excellent PTFA will be out running with the Lion's Club. Santa pulls his sleigh around the village and I am told it is quite the spectacle! Any parents/carers who are interested in helping at this event can contact the PTFA at tjlsptfa@gmail.com
- ✱ **Wednesday 7th December** - Lidlington Church Storytellers will visit us and tell us the story of the Christingle - and the following week they will deliver a Christingle making kit for every child to take home.
- ✱ **Thursday 8th December** - Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Performance - 9.30am in the main hall. Please enter through the external door off of the patio.
- ✱ **Friday 9th December** - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day - *no donations requested*.
- ✱ **Tuesday 13th December - Christmas Card Delivery Day**. There will be a post box in school where children can post any cards they'd like to send to others in school. The House Captains will deliver the cards throughout the day on the 13th. If your child would like to send cards, then please have them sent into school by Monday 12th December.
- ✱ **Wednesday 14th December** - Christmas Dinner Day. Please let us know by Tuesday 6th December if you'd like your child to have Christmas Dinner. You can do this by emailing the school or commenting on the post on Dojo from 29th November.
- ✱ **Friday 16th December**. Non-uniform day. *Optional £1 donation to our school fund*.
- ✱ **Friday 16th December**. PTFA in school for Christmas fun activities!
- ✱ **AND...** our wonderful PTFA have paid for us to watch an online pantomime called **Pantoland** written by and starring Peter Duncan (*apparently, he was on Blue Peter...!*). Class teachers are going to arrange the dates that children watch this in due course.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

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



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 second open day on **Monday 12th December**. There will be two tours with Mr Bolger. 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.

Brass introductory session

On Thursday 15th December, we will be welcoming a member of the team from Inspiring Music who will be talking to the children about learning to play a brass musical instrument.

At the end of the day, children will bring home an information leaflet explaining how children can take up brass music lessons in school.

Weather

You will have noticed that the outside temperatures have started to drop. Please make sure you send your children to school with appropriate named clothing.

- Jumper or cardigan
 - Coat
 - Hat, scarf and gloves if needed
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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.

Car parking

Please be reminded that you must not park your car in the school's entrance way. This is to ensure that there is good visibility for all pedestrians - and in the event of needing emergency services on site that they can safely and swiftly gain access to the grounds.

There is no higher priority than the safety of our children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Park smart. Park safe. No excuses.

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

| | Star of the Week | Reader of the Week | Sportsperson of the Week |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Reception | Miriam | Skye | Orla |
| Year 1 | Amberley | Benji | Isla |
| Year 2 | Judd | Tabatha | Lolade |
| Year 3 | Arya | Mila | Esme |
| Year 4 | Zachary | Amelia | Freddie |

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

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House Points

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



Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **87%**
(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.

Eagles - Year 4
with an attendance of **97.2%**

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 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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