



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 14
9th December 2022



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Headteacher's Introduction

What a week! I am sure you will agree that the children's Christmas performances this week were simply wonderful. Their singing was sublime, their dancing was delightful, and their acting was astonishing. Thank you for attending in such good numbers. It really is fantastic to see so many members of our school community brought together for events like this. I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the staff for helping to make the performances as excellent as they were.

I took a moment to remind the children in assembly today that all the smiles, laughs and applause during the performances were for them. I said that everyone who left the hall at the end of each performance will have left in a better mood than when they arrived. This is called 'the ripple effect' - and the scientific word for it is 'emotional contagion'. You can quite literally catch the positive emotions of others. You then take those positive emotions away with you and others can catch them from you - and so on and so on.

I think over the course of their two performances - the children were responsible for lifting the entire mood of the local community - and that is something to be extremely proud of!

Today the school has felt very festive as children and staff have worn their Christmas jumpers - and we look forward to some further events and activities next week.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Welcome

On Monday 12th December, we are very pleased to be welcoming Miss Belam, our new Year 1 teacher, who will be taking over when Miss Tyrrell leaves for her year abroad.

Miss Belam will spend some time in the morning with the Year 1 children leading a transition activity. Then she will spend some time in the day with Miss Tyrrell for a handover meeting.

Miss Belam will also be around at the start and end of the day in the playground for parents/carers to say 'Hello'.

I know you will join me in giving her a very warm welcome to our school community.

Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) and Scarlet Fever. The UKHSA have said there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and adults to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices. We will increase our already high expectation of this in school.

Please note, we do not have any confirmed cases of Strep A in our school.

For further information from the DfE, [please click here](#).

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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



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.

Free Schools Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals, referred to as Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

Any child in Reception through to Year 11 that meets the government criteria is entitled to benefits based free school meals.

A citizen portal is available to help you find out if your child qualifies for free school meals. The system is quick and simple to use and [can be accessed by clicking here](#).

Uniform

Wearing uniform is to encourage children to look smart and feel smart for their learning. At TJLS we believe children should feel a sense of pride in being a member of our school community. This is reflected in the pride they show when wearing our school uniform.

Our uniform list is as follows:

- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore dress or shorts.
- White polo shirt, buttoned shirt or blouse.
- Green checked school dress as a summer alternative.
- Bottle green jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan.
- Black, white or grey socks.
- Black, white or grey tights.
- Black flat-heeled school shoes (*not trainers, canvas, fabric or open-toed*) with buckles, Velcro or laces that your child can take on and off independently.
- Black, green or white hair bands and hair bobbles.
- Bottle green book bag

For PE, our uniform is as follows:

- Black or bottle green shorts
- White or bottle green t-shirt
- Dark coloured trainers
- Black or green tracksuit trousers
- Black or green jumper

If children have pierced ears, then they must only wear studs (*no hoops or dangly earrings of any kind*) - and they must be covered for PE.

We do not permit children to have extreme haircuts or colouring that could serve as a distraction to other children or themselves.

Please make sure that all uniform and PE kit is clearly named to ensure swift return should they become lost.

Lidlington Advertiser

Did you know that the village publishes a bi-annual news and advertising bulletin?

[To read the Winter 2022 edition, please click here](#).

Facebook

The school has slowly been building an online presence in recent weeks. The purpose of the Facebook page is that it will be used as a method of celebrating the school's strengths and achievements - and for also increasing our exposure locally inside and outside of Lidlington.

It is **not** to be used as a method of communication. The original channels and pathways for communication remain in place as before.

Next week you will receive a Google form asking for your permission and consent for photos of children to be used to promote the school on our public Facebook page, website and in the local press. You will be able to opt in and out at any time. Until that goes out and the responses are collated, no images of children will be used.

If you haven't 'liked' or 'followed' us already then simply click this link to find us:

<https://www.facebook.com/thomasjohnsonlowerschool>

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Lana	Isabella	Artie
Year 1	Freddie	Grace	Cody
Year 2	Sam	Emily	Noah
Year 3	Beth	Elijah	Noah
Year 4	Jaydn	Hettie	Toby

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

House Points

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



The House Shield

It was my original intention to award the house with most points at the end of every term with a House Cup. However, we have stumbled upon a piece of history!

We have found a shield that was previously used by Lidlington Primary School in 1945 - years before our school was built. From inspecting the shield, it appears the last time it was awarded to anyone was in 1952. We have decided to embrace this piece of local history and adopt it as our House Shield.

The house with the most points at the end of the term will continue a line of previous winners dating back to the 1940s and 1950s.

The house point results going into the last week are as follows:



113 points



176 points



136 points



131 points

It is all to play for with only one week remaining!

Diary Dates

Please be reminded that diary dates for the remainder of the academic year are listed at the bottom of every newsletter.

Please take a moment every week to review this. We add new dates in green and highlight them so they are clear for you.

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Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **92.3%**
(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.

Owls - Year 3
with an attendance of **100%**

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

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
19 th -26 th April	Scholastic Book Fair
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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