



Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 15
16th December 2022



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome to the very last newsletter of the term. This term has been filled with successes for Thomas Johnson Lower School. The learning buzz around the school is really quite something at the moment. On our open session earlier this week, one parent commented that *"the school feels magical to walk around"*. Our school is filled with enthusiastic, curious and well-behaved children who are always eager to learn. I can walk from one end of the school to the other and I know I will see children engaged in their learning being supported and nurtured by the talented and caring staff we have in our school.

This term has also been one of personal significance for me. I have reached the end of my first term as Headteacher of TJLS. Someone asked me *'Is the job what you expected?'* Well, I didn't really know what to expect. Although I have been a Headteacher of another school before - all schools are different and present their own unique challenges. What I do feel confident of, is that coming to TJLS was meant to be.

Another question I have been asked is *'Why do you even want to be a Headteacher?'* That one is easy - I want to motivate and inspire children and adults to become the most brilliant version of themselves.

I have a vision for this school that takes us on a journey far into the future. The staff in the school are some of the most brilliant and inspiring individuals I have met - and every day there is someone in school who does or says something that makes me feel proud, inspired or happy. If you have the ability to make someone else feel that way then you are *flourishing* in life and consistently being the most brilliant version of yourself.

This has also transmitted to our children. Every single day this term I have seen children showing our SHINE values and embedding the core habits we promote in school. The children's attitude to learning and the way they are developing their growth mindset reminds me each and every day that TJLS is a special place.

Thank you to the staff for starting this journey with me and embracing everything I am trying to do. Thank you to the children for being fantastic, surprising and inspirational. And finally, thank you to so many of you for showing your support to me, the staff, your children and everything about your school community.

Have a safe, restful and very merry Christmas - and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday 4th January 2023** when the school reopens.

Best wishes,

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Goodbye

Today, we say goodbye to **Miss Tyrrell**. She is leaving us for 2023 to teach abroad for a year. I have told the school she is going to that the children are very lucky to have her because she is a fantastic teacher, wonderful role model and such a positive person.

Miss Tyrrell has been a teacher at TJLS since 2019 - and in that time she has supported, cared and inspired a number of our children.

Although we will miss her - she is intending to return to TJLS in 2024 after her overseas adventure.

I'd like to thank her for all her efforts at the school - and to wish her the best of luck and Bon Voyage...!

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





The Autumn Term @TJLS

What a start to 2022/23!

3 Redborne
Sports
Festivals



2 Coffee mornings
& £279 raised for
Macmillan



2 Harvest Festival
Celebrations



12 crates of food
donated to The
NEED Project



1 fantastic
firework display



Over £1,500
raised by our
PTFA



8 House
Captains chosen



VOTE
8 School
Councillors
elected



642

House Points
awarded!

£70 raised for
Children in Need



12

Children with
100% Attendance

1
inspection

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives



2 Nativity
Performances

50+ Christmas
Dinners served



We are so proud of our school...

And we hope you are too!

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Snow!

Thank you for your cooperation at the start of this week. We will always endeavour to keep the school open unless the site is too dangerous to use or staff cannot get to school because of unsafe driving conditions.

In the event that we do have to shut the school, we will notify you in the following ways:

- Class Dojo
- School website
- School Facebook
- [Central Bedfordshire: SOS | School Closure List](#) (you can also register for updates on this page)

A special thank you to the local business, **Chris Mead Roofing**, for donating a large bag of rock salt to the school so we could make the front paths and driveways safe for everyone.

Even my own parents turned up with shovels and rock salt to help me clear the snow and ice - *so thanks Mum and Dad!*

Attendance awards

Well done to the following 12 children who have achieved **100% attendance** this term - this means they have had zero authorised or unauthorised absences and have never been late. They have all been awarded their 100% Attendance Certificate this morning.

Esme
Orla
Elliot

Noah E
Cerys
Amelia W

Brody
Noah O
Emily

Jaydn
Scarlet
Sophia

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Robyn	Arthur	Violet
Year 1	Jozefina	Callum	Monty
Year 2	Noah	Sophia	Amelia
Year 3	Bella	Arya	Patrick
Year 4	Marie	Matthew	Oscar

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

The House Shield

It went down to the wire! The winners of the House Shield for this term is **MILLBROOK HOUSE!**



134 points



153 points



197 points



158 points

As a reward for their success, the winning house members are invited to come to school on **Friday 13th January** wearing their house colour. So on this day, all members of **Millbrook House** can come to school wearing **red**.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **88%**

Duggee The Every Day Dog

Awarded to the class with the best attendance all week.

Reception - Hedgehogs with an attendance of **96%**

Termly attendance

Our whole school attendance for this term is **94%**. Well done everyone! But can we do better next term? A special well done to Year 2 for having the highest attendance for this term.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
93%	94%	95%	93%	94%

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

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 (<i>Tours at 9.30am and 1.30pm</i>)
13 th January	House Day for Millbrook House - all children in Millbrook House to wear red
20 th January	Coin snake world record attempt
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
24 th February	Smile for a Mile Sponsorship Event
2 nd March	World Book Day. Dress up as a children's book character.
6 th March	Progress Consultations for Parents and Carers
8 th March	Progress Consultations for Parents and Carers
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	Easter Bonnet Parade
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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