

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 20  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023



[www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk](http://www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk)



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

It is hard to believe that in just one week we will be at the halfway point for this academic year! It feels as if the days may be starting to get a little lighter for longer - but the big coat is still required for playground duty!

With this in mind, please make sure your children are suitably wrapped up and any extra belongings like scarves, hats and gloves are all named.

With the halfway point of the year fast approaching, it feels appropriate to update you with our plans to continue developing the school.

Our improvement priorities are split into four areas:



#### Our Curriculum

To provide an exceptional quality of curriculum

*We will achieve this by...*

Ensuring all school stakeholders have a secure understanding of our curriculum intent.

Ensuring a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced for all children.

Raising standards in reading, writing and maths by securing an exceptional level of quality first teaching in all classrooms.

Providing exceptional provision in the Early Years which ensures children are well-placed for future challenges.



#### Our Conduct

To secure an exceptional standard of behaviour

*We will achieve this by...*

Securing an exceptional standard of behaviour throughout all aspects of school life by ensuring high expectations are consistently articulated.

Increasing the aspirational attitudes of all children by enhancing their understanding of effort, achievement and mindset.

Securing an excellent rate of attendance by supporting families and developing attitudes.



#### Our Community

To create an exceptional level of community in school

*We will achieve this by...*

Further establishing the school's values so children and adults are enabled to succeed, thrive and flourish.

Developing children's understanding of themselves so they are well-placed for future challenges.

Enhancing children's contribution to the wider community.

Providing opportunities for all children to be exposed to a rich and varied selection of experiences.



#### Our Culture

To create an exceptional culture of belonging

*We will achieve this by...*

Ensuring all stakeholders have a secure understanding of our clear and ambitious whole school vision.

Developing a deep culture of continuous improvement.

Supporting all staff members to deliver an exceptional educational experience.

Ensuring every member of the school community is safeguarded, protected and kept safe.

Safeguarding the financial future of the school

Securing an effective level of health and safety across the school

We look forward to you joining us on this journey.

*Simon Bolger  
Headteacher*



**Megan Kealy**  
Tumbling

Year of Birth: 2000  
Coach: Rob Small  
Representing: Great Britain  
England



As part of our **Year of Inspiration**, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we are very excited to be welcoming British gymnastics athlete, **Megan Kealy**, to TJLS.

Megan is the 2021 Gymnastics Tumbling World Champion - and she also won two world titles in the team events at the 2022 Gymnastics World Championships.

To give you an idea of Megan and the sport of tumbling - [you can watch her gold winning medal performance by clicking here.](#)

Megan will first lead an assembly where she will talk about her life, journey and achievements - as well as demonstrating some of her gymnastics skills! After the assembly, every child will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit led by Megan.

Sports For Champions UK is a Community Interest Company set up to raise money to sponsor unfunded athletes like Megan. The beauty of an event like this is that not only do the athletes receive sponsorship - but a proportion of the funds comes back into school. Depending on how much we raise, we will look at using the funds to support our new initiative for school clubs (*more will come out about this in the future*).

Today, your child has watched a video in assembly all about this project and they will be bringing home a sponsorship form. [You can watch this same video at home by clicking here.](#) Together with Sports For Champions, we fully appreciate that not all families are able to raise funds. Every child, regardless of how much sponsorship funds they secure, will take part in the event and receive a sticker.

As a parent you are not expected to raise funds - and nor should you feel pressured to do so. Sports For Champions suggest sharing the sponsorship form with family, friends, neighbours, people at work, the gym and your local club. Parents and carers should always accompany children during their fundraising efforts for safety purposes.

There are also incentives for every child based on how much sponsorship funding they can raise:

- **£0 - £4.99** - children will receive a sticker
- **BRONZE - £5 - £14.99** - children will receive an A6 photo postcard of Megan Kealy
- **SILVER - £15 - £34.99** - children will receive an A4 autographed photo poster of Megan Kealy
- **GOLD - £35 or more** - children will receive an instant photo of themselves alongside Megan Kealy presented in an autographed keepsake wallet (*siblings are welcome to have photos together*)

The sponsorship funds can be collected in two ways:

1. **Cash.** If you choose this option, then please make sure you put all the sponsor money into a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly displayed. Please make sure you include the sponsorship form as well.
2. **Online payment.** [You can use this link to our Sports For Champions Crowdfunder Page to deposit the funds online.](#) If you choose this option, after you have made the payment you will be asked to leave a message. In this box, please write your child's initials and their class name. This will help us work out how much each child has raised.

All sponsorship forms and paid funds **must be returned to school by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the very latest.**

Thank you for helping us to make this a memorable event for our children.

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### **Thomas Johnson PTFA Fundraising**

After a very productive meeting with the PTFA last week, we have agreed that they will be raising funds towards the relocation, regeneration and relaunching of a school library.

The school did have a designated library space a number of years ago until the space was repurposed for Dawn Until Dusk. The school's library books were then relocated around the school in small pockets of 'book spaces'.

Having a school library is very important to me - and the children in school have also shared they would like to see us have our own library. With this in mind, we are planning to repurpose the current Computer Room into a library space. This activity has already started with the removal of furniture and the reorganisation and redistribution of resources. We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

## Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Gia	Esme	Skye
Year 1	Grace	Jozefina	Amberley
Year 2	Caleb	Brooklyn	Emily
Year 3	Arya	Bella	Noah
Year 4	Hettie	Maddie	Ethan

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

## House Points

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



## Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance  
for this week - **95%**  
(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.  
Foxes - Year 1  
with an attendance of 98%

## Online Safety - Talking to younger children

According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3 to 4-year olds have their own tablet (*Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022*) so it is never too early to start talking to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this?

### Here are some of our suggestions:

Use books to spark conversations. Childnet have created a collection of five 'Digiduck' stories to help you educate your child (aimed at aged 3-7) about online safety.

The stories are available here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/>

In addition, Childnet have created a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above titled 'On the internet.' The book also includes puzzles to encourage conversations.

The book can be downloaded here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/>

Watch Jessie & Friends together. ThinkuKnow have created three different animations for three age groups between 4 to 7 years. ThinkuKnow also provide some useful guidance and advice on what else you can do to keep your child safer online, such as setting up appropriate parental controls.

You can find out more here: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/>

Is your child under 5? This article is specifically aimed at those with children under the age of 5 and discusses the benefits of being online as well as how to create a safer online environment.

You can read the article here: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/>

## World Book Day - Change of date

We are moving our celebration of World Book Day to **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** because the previous date was a PE day.

On this day children will engage in lots of book/reading related activities and be able to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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

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

6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Mental health and wellbeing event for parents/carers - 2pm
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of half term
20 <sup>th</sup> February	School REOPENS for Spring 2
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 2 SATs information session - 2pm
1 <sup>st</sup> March	School closed for industrial strike action
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<del>World Book Day. Dress up as a children's book character.</del> RESCHEDULED
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day. Dress up as a children's book character.
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Progress Consultations for Parents and Carers
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Progress Consultations for Parents and Carers
8 <sup>th</sup> March	International Women's Day
13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March	School closed for industrial strike action
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Coffee Morning - 9.15-10am
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports For Champions sponsorship forms and money returned to school
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Megan Kealy - Sports For Champions event
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Bonnet Parade
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term
17 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day - School CLOSED to children
18 <sup>th</sup> April	School REOPENS for Summer 1
18 <sup>th</sup> April	National offer day for children starting in Reception
19 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> April	Scholastic Book Fair
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday - school CLOSED
1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 SATs period
4 <sup>th</sup> May	School referendum
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Art Week
17 <sup>th</sup> May	SPLAT session - 9-9.30am. Your child will give you a tour of their classroom.
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of half term
5 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens for Summer 2
5 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Screening Period
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Period
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Coffee Morning - 9.15-10am
21 <sup>st</sup> June	New Reception starter information session - 1.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day - 9.30am
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Backup should there be poor weather
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Picnic
14 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports sent out to parents and carers
17 <sup>th</sup> July	SPLAT - your child can share their learning from this year with you - 3.20-3.50pm
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition morning - meet your new teacher
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 Leavers Assembly - 9.30am
21 <sup>st</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays

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