

Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 23
3rd March 2023



www.thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

Headteacher's Introduction

Today has been a fantastic celebration of reading, stories and books across school. Just some of the exciting things children have got up to today include:

- In Pre-School and Reception, children have read the traditional story of The Gingerbread Man and even made their own gingerbread! *Yummy!* The children had a taste once it was cooled and used a variety of adjectives to describe the taste.
- In Year 1, children made their own cut out shadow puppets and used them to perform a story in front of an audience.
- In Year 2, children have been creating book covers and blurbs, making their own bookmarks - and finding hidden books as part of a treasure hunt.
- In Year 3, children have made posters describing their favourite book characters.
- In Year 4, children listened to an author speak online and then had a masterclass for how to draw characters from a book. They also played a book character guessing game where they had to use their deduction skills - and then looked for clues as part of a literature scavenger hunt.

It was excellent to see so many children dressed as a book character, or in their pyjamas or their own clothes today. We had a variety of children's characters make an appearance today including: lots of Where's Wally and Wendas, Harry Potter characters, superheroes, fairy tale characters, and animals - to name but a few....!

Thank you for your efforts in helping the children to enjoy World Book Day 2023.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Eco-Schools

Today we met as an Eco-Committee for the first time with Mr Bolger. We worked very hard to audit our school environment to see how we currently manage **litter**, **waste** and **water**.

Our next step is to use the information we have found to devise an action plan to take steps to improve how the school manages these different areas. This will take place in our next meeting on Wednesday 8th March.

We will then share our intended actions with the wider community once we have finalised our plan.

Yours environmentally,

Cody (Y1)
Thomas (Y2)
Joshua (Y2)
Oscar (Y4)

Tiberius (Y1)
Emily (Y2)
Sam (Y2)
Scarlet (Y4)

Ruben (Y2)
Sophia (Y2)
Beth (Y3)
Jaydn (Y4)

Cerys (Y2)
Jack (Y2)
Marie (Y4)
Summer (Y4)

Tabatha (Y2)
Amelia (Y2)
Elliott (Y4)
Mr Bolger

Woburn Forest Growers

The kind owners of Woburn Forest Growers delivered 5 wooden pallets to school to help us develop our outside play opportunities. A huge thank you to them for their donation.

You can find out more about Woburn Forest Growers here: [Woburn Forest Growers](http://www.woburnforestgrowers.co.uk)

Coffee Morning

On **Friday 17th March** we will be holding a coffee morning to raise funds for Comic Relief. On this occasion, the coffee morning will be a parent/carer only event. You are, of course, welcome to bring any younger children who are not yet school age to the event. It will run from 9.05 to 9.35am - and there will be a selection of tea/coffee/juice/biscuits available and a donation box to contribute to Comic Relief fundraising.

After you have dropped children off from the main playground, please make your way around to the patio by the external hall door and we will open up the hall for you.

Progress Consultations

You should have received your appointment time by now - but if not, please contact your child's class teacher. These meetings are essential in ensuring that we (*school and home*) are effectively supporting your child and targeting the same areas of development. We do expect all parents/carers to attend a consultation meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to give you an opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing with their learning and to share any other key information. Meetings will be strictly kept to a maximum of 9 minutes as we must ensure we start each meeting on time.

- Please remember to arrive at least 5 minutes before the 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,
- the appointment must focus on children's learning (*if you have any other concerns then a separate meeting can be scheduled for another day*),
- Dusk Until Dawn 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.

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	George	Gia	Harley
Year 1	Tiberius	Grace	Freddie
Year 2	Brooklyn	James	Amelia
Year 3	Bella	Beth	Keira
Year 4	Mikey	Summer	Maddie

This week's Golden Brush winner is Foxes - Year 1 They have had the tidiest classroom and cloakroom this week.

Bronze Awards

Well done to **Freddie** and **Elliott** in **Year 4** - and **Tiberius**, **Isla**, **Jozefina**, **Callum** and **Grace** in **Year 1**.

House Points

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



Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **94%**
(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 (96%)

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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

Online Safety - Roblox

Roblox - updated PEGI rating

PEGI have announced a change to the age rating for Roblox. PEGI used to rate Roblox as 7+. However due to the huge level of user generated content within Roblox, PEGI have changed the rating to a Parental Guidance label (icon shown right).

You can read more about this change here: <https://pegi.info/news/pegi-changes-rating-advice-roblox>



What is Roblox?

You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.

Allowed Experiences

NEW Roblox has introduced Allowed Experiences, which allows you to select ageappropriate experiences, so your child can only join experiences that match their age set. Please note that experiences above the age restriction set may be seen in search results. Age categories available are 9+, 13+ and all ages.

You can find out how to set up Allowed Experiences here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/8863284850196-Allowed-Experiences-Controls>

What should I be aware of?

- Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other on Roblox. You can add parental controls to turn this feature off completely or add restrictions.
- Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories. If you do not want your child to purchase them, then ensure you set the Monthly Spend Restriction to zero.
- Game content - as mentioned, games are created by different users so sometimes the content may not be appropriate for your child.
- Blocking users and reporting - ensure your child knows how to do this.

What should I do?

- Play the game with your child.
- Explore the parental controls within Roblox and set as appropriate.
- Show your child how to use the Report Abuse system within Roblox to report inappropriate content and how to block other users.

Further information:

- <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

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

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
15 th & 16 th March	School closed for industrial strike action
17 th March	Coffee Morning - 9.15-10am
17 th March	Sports For Champions sponsorship forms and money returned to school
20 th March	Megan Kealy - Sports For Champions event
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 May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
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

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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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

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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