

Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 24
10th March 2023



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Headteacher's Introduction

Firstly, thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended progress consultations this week. We hope that you found them informative and useful. These meetings are essential in ensuring that we (school and home) are effectively supporting your child and targeting the same areas of development.

Secondly, I'd like to update you on the status of our library transformation. Our fantastic PTFA is supporting the initiative of turning our Computer Suite into a Library.

So far, we have created a new storage solution for our Chromebooks, removed furniture from the room - and we are in the process of auditing what books we currently have in school.

Before...



So far... but not finished...



Over the next couple of weeks, we will sort through all the books we have and divide them into two piles: **keep** and **recycle**.

This means there will be a selection of books made available for parents/carers and children to choose from and keep. Anything old, out of date or damaged will be recycled - and anything leftover can be donated to charity.

I am also looking to secure an external sponsor for the library. So, if you, or anyone you know, works for a business, company or organisation who would be interested in sponsoring our library - then please do get in touch with me.

I look forward to being able to update you with how the transformation progresses...

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

School closures due to industrial strike action

Please be reminded that school is closed next week on the following days due to industrial strike action.

Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March

We will look forward to welcoming children back on the Friday.

General reminders

- Please remember that all bikes and scooters should be left at the front of the school in the designated area by the front gate. If you do choose to leave a bike or scooter on school premises, then please remember to take it home at the end of the day.
- If your child is having a packed lunch, please remember we are a healthy eating school and encourage the children to eat a balanced diet. A lunchbox full of treats is not for a school day.
- If your child does not have a school dinner, please remember that these are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - and they are absolutely delicious. Picky eaters will be more likely to try unfamiliar foods if they see their friends eating it, so please do consider giving it a try. We are so lucky to have freshly cooked nutritious food prepared onsite by our fabulous kitchen team.
- For children in Pre-School, Year 3 and Year 4 - the price of a meal is currently £2.30 - and will increase to £2.50 from April 1st as a response to the rising cost of ingredients.

Late arrival and late collection

If, with your children, you are late arriving at the start of the day - or late collecting at the end of the day - then you must sign your child in/out using the late book at main reception.

You may not think one or two minutes matters very much - but persistent late arrival and/or late collection is a safeguarding matter and can be subject to legal action. Did you know arriving and collecting from school on time is a parent/carer's legal duty?

Science Week - 13th to 17th March

Next week is British Science Week and this year's theme is **Connections**.

In class over the course of the week, children will design a poster to enter a national competition related to:

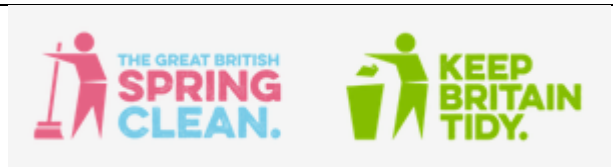
- How our body parts are connected
- Connections between actions and the impact on the environment
- Connections in the eco-system - including food chains, life cycles etc.

Each school is eligible to enter a maximum of 5 posters into the competition - so at the end of the week we will choose one poster from each class to enter.

All children in all classes will also take part in live online lessons hosted by the NFU (National Farmers' Union) over the course of the week.

The Great British Spring Clean

This is taking place between 17th March and 2nd April. Last year, 260,000 schoolchildren took part. Our Eco-Committee is encouraging all of the children at TJLS to pledge to take part this year and help make that number even bigger.



This year Keep Britain Tidy will be focusing on the pride our young #LitterHeroes have for their school and local community.

Did you know 82% of children and young people aged 6 to 17 believe they are capable of making a positive difference to the future of the planet, but more than two thirds say they need others to help them, according to a YouGov poll conducted on behalf of Keep Britain Tidy?

By empowering our children to take part, you will be supporting them to make a difference to the planet.

To take part, all you need to do is collect one bag of litter during the week 17th March to 2nd April. If you are able to take part, then please send a photograph in of your child litter picking so we can add it to our Eco-Schools display.

There are some obvious (*and not so obvious*) health and safety implications when it comes to litter picking - so please make sure you are being careful at all times. Click here to see Keep Britain Tidy's full health and safety guidance to ensure you get the most out of your litter pick: [Clean-up preparation and safety advice | Keep Britain Tidy](#)

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Malachi	Robyn	Esme
Year 1	Louisa	Isla	Benji
Year 2	Cerys	Savannah	Sam
Year 3	Elijah	Esme	Noah
Year 4	Noah	Oscar	Mikey

This week's Golden Brush winner is Eagles - Year 4 They have had the tidiest classroom and cloakroom this week.

Bronze Awards - 20 House Points

Well done to:

- Esme (Reception)
- Louisa, Freddie, Beatrice, Leo, Benji, Ty, Amberley and Cody (Year 1)
- Emily, Ruben, Sam, James, Thomas and Judd (Year 2)
- Matthew (Year 4)

Silver Awards - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Monty (Year 1)
- Angelica (Year 3)
- Summer (Year 4)

House Points

This week's winning house is **Millbrook**.

Well done everyone!



The house point results going into the final weeks of term are as follows:



258 points



275 points



294 points



253 points

It is all to play for with only a few weeks remaining!

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **93%**
(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 (99%)

Online Safety

Are you ready to be creative and design a way to travel in space?

You may have read some of Oliver Jeffers' books such as *Here We Are*. He has now teamed up with Professor Stephen Smartt and Nerve Centre to create Our Place in Space, which includes a series of online challenges that your child might like to try at home.

You can find out more here: <https://ourplaceinspace.earth/learning/monthly-challenge/challenge-4-ella-podmore>

Online Grooming

Internet Matters have produced a parent/carer guide outlining what you need to know about Online Grooming.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-grooming-guide-what-parents-need-to-know>

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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

Viewing films safely online

It is important that our children are watching films that are suitable for their age. The BBFC is the UK's regulator of film and videos and they have created this useful article answering their most frequently asked questions.

<https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>

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

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
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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