

Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 26
24th March 2023



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Headteacher's Introduction

What an exciting week we have had in school! The children thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon on Monday with Gymnastic Tumbling World Champion, Megan Kealy. She delivered an exciting, engaging and inspiring assembly to the children where she talked about how she got started in gymnastics, her training, her diet, her achievements and her attitude. She even showed us how to perform a forward roll, a cartwheel and a walking handstand!

After the assembly, every class took it in turns to join Megan for a fitness circuit. She did a brilliant job at motivating the children to try their best. They did four exercises for 60 seconds at a time: spotty dogs, press ups, mountain climbers and star jumps. She reminded children that they were all champions for trying their hardest and for raising money for the school.

And so to the fundraising...

Firstly, thank you so much for supporting the children to raise money for this event. We raised an incredible **£1000** for the school and **the same amount again** to go towards funding Britain's future athletes. Over the next few weeks, we will decide how best to invest this money back into the school.

Thank you for all your efforts and contributions - it is very gratefully received. Megan was also delighted with how well we had done - and she said what a fantastic time she had at TJLS.

*Simon Bolger
Headteacher*

Easter Bonnet Parade

There is a change of start time to the one previously published on Class Dojo.

The Easter Bonnet Parade will now start at 2.45pm on Friday 31st March. The gates to the playground will open shortly before this.

The reason for this change is that we will be setting up for a short singing performance - and the afternoon start will give us adequate time to get this ready properly.

We are all going to cross our fingers that the weather is good for the afternoon! However, if the weather is not great then we will advise you in advance and attempt to hold the parade only at the end of the school day.

Fire drill

Last Friday we held a practice fire drill. The children were absolutely fantastic at leaving their classrooms quietly and sensibly. Amazingly, we evacuated the building in less than 2 minutes!

We talked to the children about why we practice and what we do if there was a real fire.

Music lessons

We are in the process of organising music lessons through Inspiring Music. They are a separate organisation to the school and the booking of lessons has to be done directly through them.

Miss Belam has uploaded a useful set of videos to Class Dojo explaining the process.

Holidays during term time

Please be reminded that we cannot authorise any holidays during term time. Any of leave of absence must be requested by filling out the relevant form.

If you need one of these, then please email the office: office@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk

Term dates

Please be reminded of the term dates for the remainder of the academic year:

Term	Open AM on	Closes end of PM on
Spring 2 - 2023	Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Summer 1 - 2023	Tuesday 18 th April	Friday 26 th May
Summer 2 - 2023	Monday 5 th June	Friday 21 st July

Monday 17th April is an INSET Day, Monday 1st May is a Bank Holiday and Monday 8th May is a Bank Holiday.

Weekly Awards

The names in **green** are from last week - and the names in **red** are from this week

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	-	Orla	-
Year 1	Jozefina	Cody	Ty
Year 2	Quinton	Thomas	Tilly
Year 3	Beth	Mila	Esme
Year 4	Maddie	Toby	Jaydn

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

Bronze Awards - 20 House Points

Well done to:

- Artie, Dylan, Orla, Malachi and Gia (Reception)
- Cerys, Brooklyn, Noah, Everly, Caleb, Joshua, Quinton, Tilly, Brody, Lolade, and Zachary (Year 2)
- Hettie (Year 4)

Silver Awards - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Mikey (Year 4)

House Points

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



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



333 points



364 points



383 points



328 points

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

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.
Owls - Year 3 ★(100%)★

Dream - Discover - Flourish

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

Online Safety - Minecraft

It is important to check the age ratings of any games children play. Minecraft is rated by PEGI as 7+ or 12+ depending on which game version you are playing. The Apple Store rate it as 9+ and the Google Play Store rate it as 10+.

It is important to remember that when rating games, PEGI do not take into considerations the communication features of the game. Minecraft does include a chat facility, which adds further risks of seeing inappropriate language/content. This can be switched off.

Minecraft remains ever popular and can be a great learning tool that is often used in schools to teach planning skills, recreate famous buildings in 3D and coding. Players use building blocks (*a bit like Lego*) to create their own worlds.

Which mode?

You can choose between Creative or Survival mode. Creative mode removes the survival elements of the game so may be a more appropriate mode for your child to play.

What else do I need to be aware of?

Multiplayer. Children can interact with others (*including strangers*), you can switch this option off within settings or choose to play offline.

Block and report players. If your child is playing with others, make sure they know how to block and report players within the game.

Additional purchases. Be aware of in app purchases and the purchase of additional items to support (*although not needed*) game play.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (*don't include their age/birth year*) rather than their real name for their profile. Talk to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to share personal information.

It is important children know they can talk to you or a trusted adult if anybody or anything is making them feel uncomfortable both on or offline.

Do not forget to make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on the device your child is using to play Minecraft as well.

Further information can be found here: [Is Minecraft safe for children? | NSPCC](#)

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

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

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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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