

Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 27
31st March 2023



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Headteacher's Introduction

Here we are! The second term of the 22/23 academic year draws to a close - and TJLS continues to go from strength to strength. Last term saw the introduction of a number of new initiatives such as our behaviour approach, school rules, house points, and the introduction of The Write Stuff as our approach to writing. This term we have worked hard as a team to embed these new initiatives and make them part of our day to day approach to learning.

Only last week we were visited by a school improvement advisor from the local authority who spent the morning looking at the quality of the teaching and learning of writing across the school - and it is safe to say that he was simply blown away! So much so, that over the next few weeks we will be welcoming headteachers and staff from other schools to look at our recent curriculum successes.

I too, have been amazed at the quality of writing our children are currently producing. We have worked hard as a team to develop and raise the expectation of vocabulary taught in all lessons (*not just writing lessons*) - and it has really paid off.

The aim of the next term is to really consolidate the initiatives we have started this year - and give us a really good foundation to become an even better school in the next academic year. Over the next few weeks, a lot of our work behind the scenes will be focused upon improving our curriculum offer for the next academic year. This means carefully planning the topics children will explore, the knowledge they will be taught and the skills they will learn.

And finally, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your support over the last two terms. Being a Headteacher can at times be a strange and lonely job, filled with many highs and many lows. And like many other jobs it has its pressures and its strains - and as I am sure you will have seen from recent events in the national news that at times it can be an utterly overwhelming position to be in. I am very grateful to have your support as a parent/carer community - and from all the school staff and governors. It is my privilege to work alongside the people I do - and I try to make sure I take a moment every day to remember that.

Enjoy the Easter holidays, spend time with your family, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 18th April.

Simon Bolger
Headteacher

Before and after school supervision

We have had a growing number of children come into school first thing in the morning requiring first aid treatment because of accidents, collisions and falls taking place on the playground before the school day starts. This is something we obviously want to avoid.

The school doors open - and the school day starts - at 8.50am. I would like to remind you that until children enter the building the supervision of all children in the playground is the responsibility of parents/carers.

For health and safety reasons, the playground equipment is not to be used during this time because staff are not present to supervise any activity taking place. The same also applies after school.

Year 4 children walking home alone from May half-term

From after May half-term, we will be granting permission for Year 4 children who live in the village of Lidlington to be able to walk to school and walk home or to a meeting point by themselves. More information will come out about this in the next few weeks - and we will be teaching children strategies so they know what to do to keep themselves safe.

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Easter Bonnets

What a fantastic set of Easter bonnets we saw on display today! The following children were selected as winners from their class and received a chocolate egg as a prize.

| Pre-School & Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Malachi | Ty | Everly | Arya | Oscar |

Attendance

We are continuing to receive a number of leave of absence request forms for holidays. Please be reminded that under no circumstances can we authorise any holidays during term time.

Attendance awards

Today we awarded the following children with 100% attendance certificates. Amazingly, the children listed below have achieved an attendance of 100% since September. This means they have had zero days off this year!

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Esme Reception | Emily Year 2 | Sophia Year 2 | Cerys Year 2 | Jaydn Year 4 |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Yearly attendance so far

Our whole school attendance for this year so far is **94%**. Well done everyone! But can we raise this by the end of the year? A special well done to **Year 2** for having the highest attendance for this year so far.

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

Weekly Awards

This week, the awards go to...

| | Star of the Week | Reader of the Week | Sportsperson of the Week |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Reception | Dylan | Harley | Robyn |
| Year 1 | Benji | Cody | Louisa |
| Year 2 | Judd | Everly | Sophia |
| Year 3 | Angelica | Beth | Bella |
| Year 4 | Zachary | Seija | Marie |

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

The Beal Cup

Every term, one child in Year 4 is awarded the Beal Cup. It is named in memory of a previous school governor and is awarded to a child who has made significant progress and put in an exceptional effort.

The winner for the Spring term 2023 is **Elliott**.

Until the end of this term, he will be the proud keeper of the Beal Cup and his name will be added to the wall of winners.

Bronze Awards - 20 House Points

Well done to:

- Felix, George and Arthur - Reception
- Amelia, Ethan and Hettie - Year 4

Silver Awards - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Beth - Year 3

What a term it has been...

Let's look in more detail at some of our achievements...



The Spring Term @TJLS

2 Redborne
Sports
Festivals



1 Paralympian



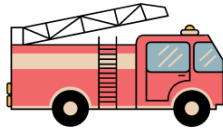
1 Gymnastics
World Champion



1 Member of
Parliament



1 firefighter visit



Over £1,500
raised by our
PTFA



1,651 House
Points Awarded



£2000 raised



1 exciting start
to the year...

2023
**THE YEAR OF
INSPIRATION**
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1 coin snake
46.1 metres
2,117 coins
£130.56



5

Children with
100% Attendance
for the whole year

1 very GOOD
report published



1 Science
Week



19 Eco-Warriors
selected

1 Library



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

1 day celebrating
books

We are so proud of our school...
And we hope you are too!

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House Points

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



387 points



440 points



437 points



387 points

As a reward for their success, the winning house members are invited to come to school on **Friday 21st April** wearing their house colour. So on this day, all members of **Woburn House** can come to school wearing **orange**.

Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance
for this week - **90%**
(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.
Eagles - Year 4 (96%)

Chains of communication

If you would like to communicate anything to the school about your child's learning, please remember that your first port of call is always the class teacher.

The chains of communication go in the following order:

1. Class teacher
2. Senior teacher - Miss Turner
3. Headteacher - Mr Bolger
4. Chair of Governors

For anything more general - such as lunches, payments or absences - please contact the main office by coming around to the front door, by calling us on 01525 402377 or emailing us at office@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk

Online Safety

Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube.

You can access the article here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube/>

Upcoming dates

19th-26th April - Scholastic Book Fair

We will be opening the school hall 3.20-3.40pm on these days so parents/carers can visit the book fair with their children. We will also arrange during the school day for all classes to visit the book fair once during the week.

Thursday 4th May - School Referendum

As adults, we will have the opportunity to vote in local council elections on this day. On the same day, the children of TJLS will have the opportunity to vote in a school referendum. We are taking £500 of the money we raised as part of the Sports for Champions Megan Kealy event - and we want to know from the children what they would like us to spend it on. In the weeks before the referendum, we will present to the children two options of playground equipment - and on Thursday 4th May they will choose their preferred option as part of a democratic process.

8th-12th May - Art Week

Over the course of this week, children will take part in a variety of artistic experiences influenced by a diverse set of artists from all over the world.

15th May - The Great Lidlington Bake Off

We are inviting children to bring in their baking creations as part of a bake-off competition. The rules will be that the cakes need to be homemade, will need a recipe and ingredients sheet provided alongside the cake on an A4

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piece of paper, and will have to be delicious. A judging panel (*which Mr Bolger has no choice but to join...!*) will sample all the cakes and choose a set of runners up alongside a star baker winner. We will then sell slices of all the cakes after school - and turn the recipe sheets into a free downloadable .pdf that we will share with the TJLS community so they can recreate all the showstopper creations at home. *Yummy!*

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

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 |
| 21 st April | House Day for Woburn. All children in Woburn House can come to school dressed in orange |
| 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 - school CLOSED |
| 8 th - 12 th May | Art Week |
| 15 th May | The Great Lidlington Bake Off |
| 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 | PTFA Inflatable Fun Day |
| 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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