

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 28

21<sup>st</sup> April 2023



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



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome back to the Summer term here at TJLS. I was hoping to see a flourish of sunny, warm weather for the arrival of the new term - and I am hopeful this arrives soon!

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April, we were closed for an INSET Day. This is used as staff training. We had an excellent day together as a staff looking at how we can develop the teaching of maths across the school. We spent a good amount of time talking about the mindset and attitude people usually have towards maths. When we say things like "*I'm not a maths person*", we are accidentally communicating to children that we feel we don't have to learn maths or try hard with maths. After all, we wouldn't say "*I'm not a person who reads*" - and maths should be no different.

As a father of three, including two daughters, I am very interested in how society, schools and businesses phrase the importance of learning maths to girls.

28% of the world's scientific researchers are women - and only 14% of women chose science-related fields when entering higher education in the UK, compared to 39% of men. This tells us that women are vastly underrepresented in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). This is partly due to gender-stereotypes and the attitude of society.

### This is why at TJLS we believe everyone can be a maths person.

In fact, it is crucial for the future of our society that girls and women are provided with equal opportunity to fully develop 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies. Equipped with these competencies, girls and women can take part in STEM-related fields and be enabled to contribute to the development of the world as equal, empowered, confident, proactive and responsible citizens.

#mathseveryonecan

*Simon Bolger*  
Headteacher

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### Dogs Trust Visit

As part of our *Year of Inspiration* initiative, we were delighted to welcome Darcy from the Dogs Trust on Wednesday this week. He delivered a fantastic assembly to the whole school and then worked with every class in turn over the course of the whole day. The feedback from the children and staff was excellent. Darcy was extremely engaging and very knowledgeable and experienced.

He shared some really effective strategies for us to be able to safely behave around dogs. You can read a short leaflet for the whole family all about to help build confidence around dogs [by clicking here](#).

You can learn more about the Dogs Trust and the valuable work they do by [visiting their website](#).

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### Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP) - Steam Engine - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

The MVCRP have contacted us and invited us up to the level crossing on Wednesday next week to watch the 61306 Mayflower pass through the village. This is a great (*and rare*) opportunity for our children to see a fully operational steam train. It is estimated to pass through Lidlington at around 10.20am.

The MVCRP will support us in making sure we are safely positioned around the track - and it gives us great opportunity to teach the children about train track safety. This will be covered in assembly on Monday - and then again in classes over the course of the week.

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

### Celebrating the Coronation of HRH King Charles III

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, we will be hosting a tea party for the children at school to celebrate the Coronation of HRH King Charles III.

There will be a selection of delicious cakes and party food (*all dietary requirements will be catered for*), as well as some royal party games and other fun activities.

We are inviting children to come “dressed in their best” red, white and blue party clothes.

We look forward to celebrating this important moment in history with the children.

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### School Council Houses of Parliament Visit

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, our 8 school councillors will be visiting the UK Parliament in London. This will include a tour of the Houses of Parliament and also a workshop about law and debating.

This is an unforgettable opportunity for our school councillors and I know they are very excited about the day.

We will update ClassDojo on the day with photos to document our progress and experience.

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### Notifying the school of a child's absence

In the event that your child is unwell and unable to come to school, please ensure you notify the front office by calling 01525 402377 before 9am. This is a safeguarding matter linked to the taking of daily registers (*which are a legal document*).

We will then ensure everyone who needs to know about the absence will be informed.

If, for some reason, your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day, please let the office know beforehand of this planned absence so it can be correctly marked on the register.

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### Holidays during term time

Please be reminded that we cannot authorise any holidays during term time. Absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances - and a holiday is not classed as exceptional.

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](mailto:office@thomasjohnsonschool.co.uk)

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### Weekly Awards

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Sportsperson of the Week
Reception	Artie	Orla	Franklin
Year 1	Isla	Amberley	Grace
Year 2	Tabatha	Ruben	Everly
Year 3	Beth	Arya	Elijah
Year 4	Matthew	Ethan	Zachary

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

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### Bronze Awards - 20 House Points

Well done to:

- Violet and Miriam (Reception)

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### Silver Awards - 40 House Points

Well done to:

- Skye and Isabella (Reception)
- Tiberius, Grace, Callum and Freddie (Y1)
- Sam (Y2)
- Esme (Y3)
- Zachary (Y4)

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### House Points

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



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### 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/>

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

19 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> April	Scholastic Book Fair
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership - Steam engine passing through Lidlington
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 2, 3 and 4 CLOSED due to industrial strike action
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday - school CLOSED
1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 SATs period
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 2 and 4 CLOSED due to industrial strike action
4 <sup>th</sup> May	School referendum
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III - school CLOSED
8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Art Week
15 <sup>th</sup> May	The Great Lidlington Bake Off
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	PTFA Inflatable Fun Day
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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