

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 29

28<sup>th</sup> April 2023



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



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

We have had an eventful week this week with visitors and experiences for children. I am really pleased with how well **The Year of Inspiration** is going. We have so many more exciting visitors lined up for the children. Each one is designed to inspire them to want to do better in the world. Whether that is seeing a sportsperson at the peak of their powers, someone caring for animals, or talking about how to be safe on and around water - the aim is for children to go away thinking 'That could be me'.

#dreamdiscoverflourish

*Simon Bolger  
Headteacher*

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### Chicks and Ducks

This week we have been very lucky to welcome some small visitors to school! We have had two groups of eggs delivered to school - one group of chicks and one group of ducklings. The children (*and adults*) have enjoyed seeing the young hatchlings emerge from their eggs.

As I write this letter, a small number of eggs continue to be incubated and we are waiting for them to hatch. When they have all fully hatched, each class will have the opportunity to handle, observe and care for the animals. This is an exciting time in school because children find this experience fascinating, exciting and relaxing. It is also an important developmental step to learn how to care for animals and to observe the stages of new life in different animals.

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### Canal and River Trust Visit

This week, we welcomed Mike and Stuart from the Canal and River Trust to talk to the children about how to behave safely around water and what to do in an emergency. They taught us their special rule: **SAFE - Stay Away From the Edge**. We have arranged for them to come back later in the term to speak in slightly more detail with our older children.

[You can find out more about the Canal and River Trust by exploring their website by clicking here.](#)

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### Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership - Steam Engine

We were hoping on Wednesday this week to have seen a vintage steam train pass through the village but it was unfortunately cancelled. I am told the brakes failed before it even departed from London. It was disappointing - but learning to be disappointed and to deal with the emotions it brings is a valuable life lesson. I was very impressed by the resilience the children showed. We tried to 'make up' for it as best we could by showing the children videos of steam trains and talking about our different experiences of trains and railways.

As part of our Year of Inspiration, and to 'make up' for it even more, I have now arranged for the rail transport manager at MVCRP to visit the school with the British Transport Police and also Network Rail to educate our children about rail safety.

With the tracks running straight through the village, it is absolutely crucial that young Lidlington villagers are educated about the dangers and precautions of railway tracks.

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### Extra-Curricular Clubs

You will have received a letter about extra-curricular teacher run clubs that are starting on 8<sup>th</sup> May. If you missed that letter, [then you can read it by clicking here](#). In the letter is a link to sign up for clubs.

Please note, if we do not have enough children sign up for individual clubs then we may not be able to go ahead with them.

Club places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. At the time of writing, some spaces have been taken up, but there are still plenty available.

Please make sure you have signed up for a club by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 9am.

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### General Reminders

- Parking on or around the zig zag lines at the school entrance and up against the nearby fence is not permitted. This not only causes congestion but also poses a significant health and safety risk to all members of the TJLS community.
- If you are parking further up Hurst Grove, please be considerate and mindful of other Lidlington residents. The last thing we want is for people to be blocked in on their driveways because of inconsiderate parking.

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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

This week's awards will be published at the start of next week.

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### Lidlington Hill Race

Good luck to everyone taking part in the Hill Race on Monday. Being new to the village community, I sadly didn't know this took place every year. But what a great tradition it is!

Moving forward, I have been welcomed on to the team to help organise next year's race as I would really like the school to have even more of a say in the organisation of the event.

*I might even lace up my own running trainers next year...*

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# Social Media Apps

What age should my child be to use these apps?



## What risks are there of my child using these apps?

Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. Risks include your child viewing inappropriate content, sharing personal information, cyberbullying and grooming.



## Reporting functions

If your child is using any of the above apps then make sure you show them how to use the reporting facilities within each app and ensure your child knows that they must tell you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Use the apps together and explore the different security and privacy settings.

## Further information

Is your child too young to use the above apps but is still asking you if they can join social media? Then you could suggest an alternative option. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created for younger children, they are grouped for ages 6 – 10 and ages 11 – 13:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

Net Aware provide further information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.

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

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
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
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Art Week</b>
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

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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