

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 38

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023



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



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

This week, as part of our Year of Inspiration, we were excited and delighted to welcome **Chris Rattenbury** from a charitable organisation called Wheelpower.

Wheelpower's mission is to provide, promote and develop opportunities for wheelchair users to move more, play sport and be physically active. They are based at Stoke Mandeville, the home of the Paralympics, and work to raise awareness of disability sport. Chris is a volunteer for Wheelpower - and has worked with the organisation for over a decade since finishing his own sporting career. In 2013, he was ranked 3rd in the world for disabled powerlifting.

He talked to the children about how different sports can be made accessible for wheelchair users - and he explained how the first Paralympic Games was devised. He also brought the 2022 Paralympic Games Torch for the children to look at. For more information about Wheelpower, you can visit their website at: [www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk)

Talking of sport...

I was amazed at how well the Pre-School children were able to show engagement, concentration and determination during their Sports Day event today. They took part in events including running races, balancing beanbags on their head and the classic egg and spoon race. They were amazing!

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and families who attended, supported and motivated the children. And a huge thank you to all of the staff for organising and running the event for the children.

*Simon Bolger  
Headteacher*

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### New Classes

On Wednesday next week, we have our first transition day where children will spend the morning with their new class teacher.

Please send children into school as normal on this day and we will organise where everyone needs to go.

The class teachers for next year will be:

- Hedgehog Class - Pre-School and Reception - Miss Turner
- Fox Class - Year 1 - Miss Belam (*then in January 2024, Miss Tyrell is due to re-join us*)
- Badger Class - Year 2 - Mrs Martin
- Owl Class - Year 3 - Mrs Davies and Mrs Roy
- Eagle Class - Year 4 - Mrs Blythe

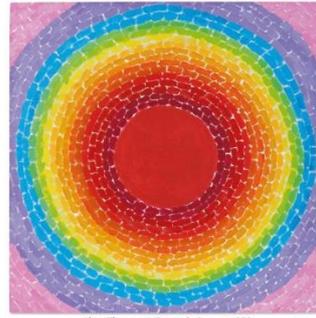
## Art Week

We are really looking forward to our Art Week next week. The theme of the week will be diversity through art - and as part of this, children will learn about some specific artists and be inspired to create their own artwork.

We will be studying the following artists:

### Alma Thomas

Alma is very well known for her colourful mandala creations.



Alma Thomas, A Fantastic Sunset, 1970  
Private Collection, Philadelphia



Alma Thomas, Resurrection, 1966  
White House Historical Association

### Faith Ringold

Faith is well known for her narrative quilts.



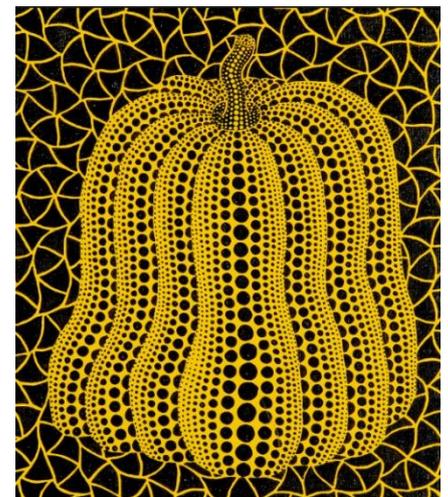
### Takashi Murakami

He is best known for his satirical, colourful, rainbow smiling face flowers.



### Yayoi Kusama

She is well known for her polka dot creations - and has been called 'The Polka Dot Princess'.



*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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

### School Picnic - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm

- On this day, parents/carers will be invited to join their children for an afternoon tea picnic.
- Children will have their lunchtime in school as normal until 1pm.
- Parents/carers can join us on the field at 1.30pm
- Please enter via the usual playground gate - and note this gate will be locked at 1.40pm.
- You are welcome to bring any sandwiches or cakes along to enjoy as a family. We will provide juice/water for all children and there will be an ice lolly for each child gifted by the PTFA.
- After the food and drink part of the afternoon, the children will come together at 2.15pm to sing a range of songs they have learned over the last year.
- We aim to finish by 3pm - at which point if you are in attendance you will be able to take your children home. Please do not leave the school premises with your child until they have been dismissed by the class teachers.
- Children without family attending or going to after school club will be dismissed as normal.
- If you, or another family member, is unable to attend this event then you can arrange for your child to sit with another family (*please let us know this in advance*) - if this is not an option then we will make provision for staff members to join these children. They will then be dismissed as normal at the end of the school day.

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### PTFA Inflatable Fun Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

- On this day, our PTFA have arranged for inflatable play equipment to be set up on the field for our children to enjoy as an end of year treat.
- Tickets are now available to purchase - and order forms were sent home with children this week.
- Please return any orders to the front office or give directly to a member of the PTFA.

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### Weekly Awards and House Points

The award winners will be announced in assembly on Monday next week.

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### Attendance - Every Minute Counts

Whole school attendance  
for this week - **97%**  
(National attendance is **96.4%**)

**Duggee The Every Day Dog**  
Awarded to the class with the  
best attendance all week.  
Owl Class - Year 3  
With 100% attendance!

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

10 <sup>th</sup> July	Art Week
11 <sup>th</sup> July	School trip to Whipsnade Zoo - Reception and Years 1-4
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 Leaving Assembly - 9.15am
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of school and non-uniform day
21 <sup>st</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays

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