

## Thomas Johnson Lower School

Newsletter 40

21<sup>st</sup> July 2023



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



@thomasjohnsonlowerschool

### Headteacher's Introduction

The end of the school year is always an emotional time as we say goodbye to our Year 4 children - many of whom have spent a number of years learning and growing with us. Whilst it is sad to watch familiar and much-loved children leave our school community, it is important to remember they are all taking the next exciting step in their life journey. It has been my absolute pleasure to get to know the Year 4 children this year - and I will personally miss them a great deal. They have shown determination, enthusiasm and maturity this year - and their future is so bright that their going to need shades! My only regret is that I haven't been able to be their Headteacher for longer. They all leave with our very best wishes - and we are so proud of them all.

A huge 'thank you' from me to...

- The entire staff team who have given 100% this year to help every child to fulfil their potential.
- Our governors, who voluntarily give up their time to support the school, for recognising the progress we have made and both the support and challenge provided to keep us improving.
- A special thank you from me to our Chair of Governors, Dr Miles Tawell, for his always excellent advice, wealth of wisdom, and good humour. This year, he has consistently supported and encouraged me to commit to giving the children of TJLS the excellent education they deserve.
- The TJLS PTFA who voluntarily give up their time to raise funds and support the school. They have worked tirelessly this year - and we are so lucky to have such a committed group of volunteers.
- You, the parents and carers, who have supported your children by reading with them every night, practising number facts and times tables, and supporting whole school events.
- And... last but not least... the fantastic children of TJLS - who have made this year both enjoyable and successful in equal measure!

This year has also been one of personal significance for me as I have reached the end of my first full year as Headteacher of TJLS. Although I was previously a Headteacher for a number of years at another school - there's nothing like the first full year in a new school as you learn to work out how it works, what it does well and how it needs to get even better!

Thank you to every member of the TJLS community (*children, parents/carers, staff and governors*) who has either checked in with me or wished me well over the course of the year. Your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.

The **Year of Inspiration** has been a real highlight of this year for me. It has been amazing to have so many inspiring visitors in school to talk about their lives, careers and achievements. This will continue in the autumn term - and in 2024 we will have a new 'Year of...' initiative to look forward to! I am extremely proud of everything we have achieved this year as a school - and as you read the infographic over the next few pages I know you will agree that we have made so much happen this year for our children.

Although we have achieved a lot this year - there is still a lot more to do - and I have plans for TJLS that take us well into the future. I am now looking forward to a rest over the summer (*whatever that looks like with 3 children under the age of 7!*) but I am already excited about returning in September and the school achieving even more in 2023-24.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer.

Very best wishes,

*Simon Bolger  
Headteacher*

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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

## Message from our Chair of Governors - Dr Miles Tawell

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

This year has certainly been very busy for Thomas Johnson Lower School! Firstly, welcoming Mr Bolger as the new Headteacher and treating him and the staff to an Ofsted inspection in the first term. The team has worked incredibly hard to overhaul the curriculum taught at the school and develop it into the Thomas Johnson Way; a considered, tiered structure that ensures content in every subject is set out clearly. The Governors welcome the new collaborative approach between the teaching staff empowering them to do the best for each child.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Mr Bolger and all teaching staff for their enthusiasm, commitment and hard work that they have shown throughout this academic year in developing as a new team and teaching the children to such a high standard. It is important to remember the non-teaching staff within the school who work tirelessly behind the scenes, I would like to say "Thank you" to each and every one of you for your input during this last year.

We are also delighted with all the hard work and determination that each child has shown this year, I am sure that you as parents and carers are all justifiably proud of all your wonderful children! I know we certainly are and it is always a pleasure to hear the children's thoughts on the school when we conduct visits.

The Governing Body has been extremely busy throughout the year giving up their time on a purely voluntary basis to fulfil and monitor the School Development Plan and carry out various other roles. Our main objective is to be a critical friend to the school and to ensure that Thomas Johnson continues to provide an excellent education to all the children in our care and strive to continually improve that provision.

This year we have said goodbye to three governors - Tim Mason, Robert Morris and Jean Peal. All have given a great deal of support and input to the Governing Body and I would like to thank them for taking on the role and for making such a positive contribution behind the scenes. Next term we will be recruiting for a new parent governor to join us. In particular, we would like someone with finance experience, either through their job or family experience. Full governor training and support will be given so do have a think about whether this is something you would be interested in.

Finally, it only leaves me to thank you; our parents and carers, once again for your support throughout the year either through the PTFA or directly. It is clear that we have a wonderful community here at Thomas Johnson Lower School and by working together as one community, inspiring and fostering the Dream, Discover, Flourish values the school holds we shall continue to help each of our children develop a love of learning and a thirst for knowledge and discovery.

Yours faithfully,

*Dr Miles Tawell*  
*Chair of Governors*

---

### Goodbye

Today we said goodbye and good luck to **Miss Mcswiggan** who starts her maternity leave today. We are all very excited for her and her family - and we are looking forward to hearing about her imminent arrival...!

---

### Weekly Awards

Today, the **Golden Brush** was awarded to the class that has consistently been the tidiest over the course of the whole school year. Well done to... **Year 4 - Eagle Class**.

---

### Adjustment to the school day

Our school gates will continue to open at 8.40am.

- During this time, children are to be supervised at all times by their parents and carers.
- The play trail, pirate ship and field are all out of bounds during this time.
- Children must not take part in any rough play within the school site.

The doors will open and the school day will begin at 8.50am.

- Children in Year 1-4 will continue to come into school via the ramp.
- Children in Pre-School and Reception will enter via the door off the patio area - or the hall door if not fully repaired.
- Registers will open at 8.50am.
- We appreciate that some families need to drop children off at both doors - please don't worry, we will wait for you.

---

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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

The doors will now close at 8.55am.

- Almost every day, every child is in school by this time.
- Because of the number of children we have on roll, there is no reason for the door to be kept open any longer.
- The register will be taken promptly at 8.55am.

Latecomers will need to sign in at the front office.

- Any child arriving after 8.55am will need to be signed in at the front office - and a reason provided for the lateness.
- They will receive a late mark in the register.
- Any child arriving after 9.15am will need signing in as above - and will receive an unauthorised absence mark in the register.
- 10 unauthorised absences in any 12-week period will be referred to the local authority and a fixed penalty notice will be issued.

The school day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.20pm. This is 6 ½ hours per day and 32 ½ hours per week.

### Attendance

A very special well done to **Esme** (Rec), **Emily** (Y2), **Sophia** (Y2) and **Jaydn** (Y4) for achieving an attendance rate of **100%** this academic year!

A very special well done to **Jaydn in Year 4** - who has achieved an attendance rate of **100% for the past 3 years running!** In fact, he has only had 2½ days off in 5 years whilst at TJLS - meaning his overall attendance since Reception is **99.7%**. What an amazing achievement!

Well done to **Year 3** for leading the way and having the best overall attendance this year!

Hedgehog Class Reception	Fox Class Year 1	Badger Class Year 2	Owl Class Year 3	Eagle Class Year 4
93.7%	94.5%	94.5%	94.7%	94.3%
Whole school attendance = 94.8%				

Attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but also has a huge impact on the attainment and progress of children. We will be developing a revised approach to attendance in the autumn term.

For you information...

Outstanding!	Very good	Good	Almost there	Improvement needed	Concerned (attendance officer will be in touch)	Very concerned
100%	98%	96%	95%	94%	90%	85%
Equates to...	4 school days missed	7 school days missed	9 school days missed	11 school days missed	19 school days missed	28 school days missed

Attendance really does impact on children's overall progress and achievement. The most recent UK data shows that children with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6 SATs) and Key Stage 4 (Year 11 GCSEs) have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

The average attendance rate of a child meeting at least the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at KS2 (Y6 SATs) is 96.5%.

Whilst the average attendance of a child not meeting the same standards is 95.3%.

Recent research and data show anything less than this can drastically impact on a child's overall level of attainment in their Year 6 SATs and Year 11 GCSEs.

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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



**2022-23**

## *A Year to Remember...*

**59%** of Reception children achieved the age related expectation.  
(In line with the national average)

**94%** of Year 1 children achieved the age related expectation in the Phonics Screening Check. (Significantly above the national average)

**100%** of Year 2 children achieved the age related expectation in the Phonics Screening Check. (Significantly above the national average)

**47%** of Year 4 children scored 100% on the Multiplication Times Table Check (Significantly above the national average)

The average score of our Year 4 children in the Multiplication Times Table Check was **20**.  
(In line with the national average)

**73%** of Year 2 children achieved the age related expectation in **Reading**.  
(Above the national average)

**73%** of Year 2 children achieved the age related expectation in **Writing**.  
(Significantly above the national average)

**91%** of Year 2 children achieved the age related expectation in **Maths**.  
(Significantly above the national average)

## *and that's not all...*

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

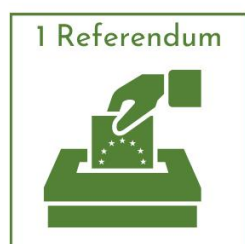
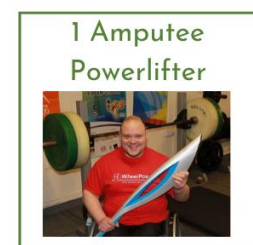
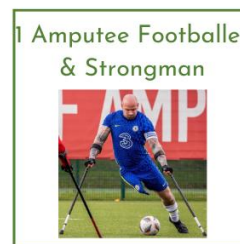
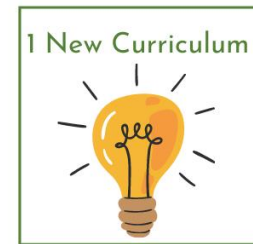
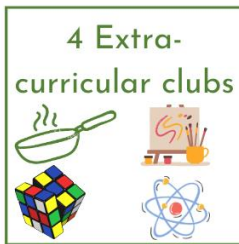
*The aim of our curriculum is to open doors of opportunity for our children*



*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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





*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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

## 2023-24 Term Dates - a reminder...

	Open 8.50am on	Closes 3.20pm on
Autumn term 2023	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Spring term 2024	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Summer term 2024	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July

### INSET Days and Bank Holidays

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September INSET Day	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November INSET Day	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January INSET Day
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March Bank Holiday	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April INSET Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday

Children in Pre-School start on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September - all other year groups start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### Dates for your diary - a full list will be published in September

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> September	School opens for Autumn 1 at 8.50am
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Selection of Year 4 House Captains
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Roald Dahl Story Day
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> September	National Fitness Day - children will take part in a sponsored HIIT workout
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> September	School individual photos - these will be in the morning
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> September	School Council Elections
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	BBC 500 Words Story Launch
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Day for prospective parents and carers
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Macmillan coffee mornings - sessions TBC
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> October	House Day
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festivals - times TBC
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half-term
W/B 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Progress consultations for parents and carers - times/days TBC
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> November	BBC 500 Words deadline
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Day for prospective parents and carers
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need - wear spots
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET Day - school CLOSED to children
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> November	SPLAT - 9-9.30am.
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Xmas Jumper Day
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS and KS1 Xmas Performance - 9.30am
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Xmas Performance - 9.30am
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day - £1 donation
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

*Dream - Discover - Flourish*

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