

Issue 1

September 2023

'Learning for a fuller life'

In this issue

- Message from Mr Henman
- Message from Chair of Governors
- Attendance
- Parking/driving near school
- School Priorities
- Nut Free School
- School Dinners
- Contact Details
- Dates for your Diary

Taverham VC CE Junior School



Newsletter



A very warm, and belated, welcome back to all our families following the summer holidays and, in particular, to parents and carers of children who are new to our school. These newsletters will be sent home on a monthly basis and I hope you find them useful in keeping you informed regarding everything that is happening in school.

It's also a warm welcome to our new members of staff who started with us in this year: Miss Rees, Miss Brady, Mr Spencer, Mrs Banstead, Mrs Guy and Miss Ryder have all settled in really well to TJS.

The new school year has got off to an excellent start. I want to say a particular 'well done' to our new Year 3 children, and others who have recently joined us in Years 4, 5 and 6. They have begun their time with us brilliantly and seem to be really enjoying being at TJS.

2023-24 is going to be an exciting year at TJS with lots going on. One of our main developments is the introduction of Accelerated Reader in school and we are really looking forward to seeing how it will support children in making great progress with their reading. We are also excited about having our new dog, Billy, in school more regularly as the year progresses. It has already been evident how much he is able to support children who might be struggling for any reason.

Our parent's calendar, available on our school website, is regularly updated and is the best place for you to go for up-to-date information about what is happening in school. We will also send you emails and text messages to keep you informed. I believe that we do a good job of communicating with our community but please ask if there is anything at all that you are not sure about. Please see term dates at the end of the newsletter.

As a staff team, we want to be as approachable as possible to children and parents. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact the office to make an appointment with me or another member of staff, or speak to your child's class teacher after school. Due to our 'soft start' in the mornings, it is not possible to speak to teachers before school; however, Mrs Wilson, Mr Jones and I are always outside in the mornings to answer any queries and pass on messages.

Best wishes,

Paul Henman

Headteacher

Message from Chair of Governors

A warm welcome from the governing board to everyone starting or returning to Taverham Junior for the new school year.

For new families, the school governing board is a mixed group of volunteers from the school and local community who work with the school to support it in achieving its objectives and vision of “Learning for a fuller life”.

Another group that supports the school is the PTFA. They are also volunteers who support the school with fundraising efforts for the benefit of all the children. They are always looking for support in many different ways. Please get in touch with the school if you can offer your help.

In terms of activity, the governors finished last year by attending the year 6 leavers assembly. It was an emotional and special morning to be part of and allowed us to reflect on their journey and achievements over the last four years.

The governing board kicked off this new school year with a group training session on the latest safeguarding regulations and processes. It reiterated the importance and role we all have in ensuring that a safeguarding culture is at the heart of everything we do in and around the school.

We are excited by the schools many ideas and plans for the year ahead and we wish everyone a happy and positive year.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential, both academically and otherwise. We greatly value the attendance of all our pupils at TJS and know the damage that poor attendance can cause.

We urge all parents to ensure that children attend school every day and are only absent when absolutely necessary. Please see the attached guide for more information.

We would also like to remind our families about the importance of arriving at school on time. Children should be in their classroom, ready to start the day by 8:35am; pupils arriving after this time are recorded as late.

Please see attached documents for further information and support.

Parking/driving near the school

To ensure that children/families are safe when walking/biking/scooting to school, please could we ask all parents to observe the following as much as possible:

- If you can, please travel to school without using your car; walking, biking or scooting is encouraged
- If you have to drive your child to school, please park on a road further away from the school and walk from there
- When parking to drop-off/collect your child, please do not mount pavements or block roads/entrances
- Always turn off your engine when waiting in your car



We would really appreciate if our parents adopted these measures to ensure that the roads around the school are safe for our children before and after school. Thank you for your help with this.

Safeguarding Information for Parents

Please find this attached separately.

School Priorities for 2023-24

Every year we create a simple set of bullet points to summarise our main focuses for continuing school improvement and development over the next academic year and share these with parents. Taverham VC CE Junior School's priorities for 2023-24 are as follows:

- Successfully implement Accelerated Reader/Star Assessment program to support pupil development in reading
- Continue to implement our new approach to the teaching of writing including regular moderation to ensure accurate assessment
- Secure improvements in Maths progress for all children
- Effectively mentor and support new Early Career Teachers ensuring all elements of the Early Career Framework are implemented
- Christian ethos, vision and values of our school are maintained and school is prepared to upcoming SIAMS inspection

Nut-free School-Reminder

Because we have a number of children with severe (i.e. potentially life-threatening) nut allergies, we are a nut-free school, and have been for a number of years. Please ensure that your children do not come to school with any nuts or products containing nuts (e.g. 'Nutella' or other chocolate/hazelnut spreads).



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Dinners



Children can order their school lunch each morning with their class teacher. We are currently running the Spring/Summer menu, this will be updated after October half term.

If your child would like to have a school lunch, then please make payment via 'School Money'. The Dinner payment is set to £11.75 for a week of

lunches but you can change this to the amount of your choosing. The cost of an individual lunch is £2.35. Children will always be able to order a lunch even if you haven't topped their account up or are having issues with the app. Reminder messages for any outstanding payments will be sent each Monday for the previous week. Please note that when a balance reaches £50 a payment will need to be made before your child can continue to order a lunch. Please get in touch if you have any queries.

If your child has an allergy but does not have an allergen friendly menu then please contact the school office.

Contact Details

If your contact details have changed over the summer could you please update them with the school office as soon as possible please, or if you prefer update them on the compass app or parental portal.





Dates for Your Diary

September	
Tuesday 19 th	Year 5 Open Evening 6-7.30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Year 6 Open Evening 6-7.30pm
Thursday 21 st	Year 4 Open Evening 6-7.30pm
Monday 25 th	How Hill Trip – Y4 (classes 4H and 4P)
Tuesday 26 th	How Hill Trip – Y4 (classes 4N and 4S)
October	
Monday 3 rd	Year 3 parent teacher meetings 3.15pm – 6.00pm
Tuesday 9 th	Individual Photos
Thursday 12 th	Year 3 Parent Teacher meetings 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 17 th	Year 6 – Gressenhall Trip
Thursday 12 th	Year 3 Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday 18 th	PTFA Bingo & Chips Y3/4
Thursday 19 th	PTFA Bingo & Chips Y5/Y6
Friday 20 th	Last Day of Autumn Term 1
Monday 30 th	First Day of Autumn Term 2
November	
Tuesday 7 th	Flu Immunisations
W/B 13 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 17 th	PTFA Quiz and Chips - Adults only
W/B 20 th	Travelling Book Fair
Wednesday 22 nd	PTFA AGM
December	
Thursday 7 th	Christmas Lunch Yr3
Friday 8 th	Christmas Lunch Yr4
Friday 8 th	PTFA Christmas Pop up Shop
Monday 11 th	Christmas Lunch Yr5
Monday 11 th	PTFA Christmas Pop up Shop
Tuesday 12 th	Christmas Lunch Yr6
Wednesday 13 th	Carol Service Rehearsal – more info to follow
Thursday 14 th	Carol Service – More information to follow
Monday 12 th	PTFA Christmas Pop up Shop
Wednesday 20 th	Last Day of Autumn Term 2
January	
Thursday 4 th	First Day of Spring Term 1
February	
Friday 16 th	Last Day of Spring Term 1
Monday 26 th	First Day of Spring Term 2
March	
Wednesday 13 th	Year 6 residential trip
Thursday 14 th	Year 6 residential trip
Friday 15 th	Year 6 residential trip

Wednesday 27 th	Last Day of Spring Term 2
April	
Monday 15 th	First Day of Summer Term 1
May	
Friday 24 th	Last day of Summer Term 1
June	
Monday 3 rd	First Day of Summer Term 2
July	
Friday 19 th	Last day of Summer Term 2

Dates/Times are subject to change. Please check future newsletters and the school website

TERM DATES 2023-2024

2023/24	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 6 th September	Friday 20 th October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 30 th October	Wednesday 20 th December
Spring Term 1	Thursday 4 th January	Friday 16 th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 26 th February	Wednesday 27 th March
Summer Term 1	Monday 15 th April	Friday 24 th May
Summer Term 2	Monday 3 rd June	Friday 19 th July
INSET DAYS	<i>TBC</i>	
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	<i>Monday 6th May 2024</i>	

TERM DATES 2024-2025

2024-2025	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 4 th September	Friday 24 th October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 4 th November	Friday 20 th December
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 7 th January	Friday 14 th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 24 th February	Friday 4 th April
Summer Term 1	Wednesday 23 rd April	Friday 23 rd May
Summer Term 2	Monday 2 nd June	Friday 22 nd July
INSET DAYS	<i>TBC</i>	
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	<i>Monday 5th May 2024</i>	

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Email: office@taverhamjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.taverhamjunior.co.uk

Tel: 01603 867740

