Autumn 1
October 2026

'Learning for a fuller life'

In this issue

- Message from Mr Henman
- Music
- Sport
- Year 6 Prefects
- Attendance
- Parking and driving near the school
- Safeguarding
- Breaktime snacks
- Internet Safety
- School Priorities 2026-2027
- School Lunches
- Bikes and scooter
- Nut-free School Reminder
- Dates for your diary

Taverham VC CE Junior School

Newsletter

A very warm, if slightly belated, welcome to the 2026–27 academic year at TJS, especially to all the families who are joining our school for the first time. It is hard to believe that more than four weeks have already passed! I hope all the children have enjoyed a happy and successful start to the new school year. These more detailed newsletters will be sent out each half term, providing an overview of school life and keeping you up to date with the many activities and events taking place.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of staff who joined us in September. Mrs Wenham and Mr Hall have settled into their new teaching assistant roles brilliantly and have quickly become valued members of our staff team.

The first half term has got off to a very positive start, and I have been delighted to see how well the children have adapted to their new classes and routines. A particular well done goes to our Year 3 pupils, along with children who have joined us in other year groups, for the mature, calm and purposeful way in which they have begun their time at TJS.

There is plenty to look forward to over the coming year, and we remain committed to making TJS the very best it can be for all our pupils and the wider school community. As we do every year, we have identified a small number of key priorities to guide our work and help us continue to develop and improve the school. These are outlined below.

Keeping families informed remains an important priority for us. You will already have received various emails, notifications and messages about school activities and matters relevant to your children. Our online parents' calendar, which can be found on the school website, is also regularly updated and is a useful source of the latest information. We have planned many of the major events for the year well in advance, helping families to organize their diaries and make arrangements where necessary. Please take a look at the diary dates at the end of this newsletter, as well as the calendar on our website, for details of the events scheduled so far.

We want every member of our staff team to be approachable and accessible to both pupils and parents. If you have a question, would like to share feedback or have a concern you wish to discuss, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with me or another member of staff. Alternatively, you are welcome to speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the school day. Our morning 'soft start' means that teachers are unable to have conversations with parents before school begins. However, Mrs Wilson, Mr Jones and I are always available outside in the mornings to help with any queries or pass on messages.

Best Wishes,

Paul Henman, Headteacher

Music

Music continues to play an important role in school life at TJS, and we are keen to ensure that our children have plenty of opportunities to develop their musical interests and talents. It has been wonderful to see the School Orchestra and Christmas Choir back together this term, working hard as they prepare for their performances at the Carol Service in December. Our Young Voices choir are also practising hard as they get ready to perform at the O2 in London in February!

Sport

Sport remains a key part of life at TJS, and it has been great to see the children making the most of their two PE lessons each week. Our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have also begun their swimming sessions, helping them to develop their confidence and skills in the water. Alongside these regular activities, many of our children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of additional sporting events and competitions throughout the school year.

Year 6 Prefects

In a change for this year, we have decided to have a larger number of prefects in Year 6 rather than a small number of housecaptains. Year 6 children can apply to be a prefect at any time and, if chosen, will be given roles and responsibilities around the school. The first batch of prefects have been selected with more children to be chosen next month.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital in helping children make the most of their education and reach their full potential, both in the classroom and beyond. At TJS, we place great importance on every pupil being in school regularly, as we recognise the impact that frequent or prolonged absences can have on children's learning and wider development.

We ask all parents and carers to make sure their children attend school every day unless there is a genuine reason for them to be absent. Please refer to the attached guide for further information about school attendance.

Being punctual is equally important, as it allows children to settle into the classroom and be ready to learn from the start of the day. All pupils should be in their classrooms and ready to begin learning by **8:35am**. Any child arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Parking and driving near the school

The safety of our children and families is extremely important, particularly during the busy periods at the beginning and end of the school day. We would be grateful if all parents and carers could help us keep the roads and pavements around TJS as safe as possible by following these guidelines wherever possible:

* Leave the car at home when you can. Walking, cycling or scooting to school is encouraged whenever possible.

* Park a little further away. If driving is necessary, please park on a road away from the school and walk the remaining distance with your child.

* Park considerately and safely. Please do not drive onto pavements or park in a way that obstructs roads, entrances or access for others when dropping off or collecting your child.

* Switch off your engine. If you are waiting in your car, please turn off the engine rather than leaving it running.

We would really appreciate everyone's cooperation in following these simple steps. By working together, we can help make the roads around our school safer for all children and families at the start and end of each school day. Thank you for your support.

Safeguarding Information for Parents

Please find this attached separately.

Breaktime Snacks

Many of our children enjoy having a snack during the morning break, and we are happy to encourage this. We are fairly flexible about the type of snack children bring into school, although there are some expectations around ensuring that snacks are healthy and appropriate. Please refer to the attached guidance for further information about suitable breaktime snacks.

Internet Safety

Keeping children safe online and helping them to make sensible and responsible choices when using technology continues to be an important priority for us. Internet safety is regularly discussed with pupils as part of their Computing lessons, and we also hold a whole- school internet safety assembly each term.

We will continue to share our monthly online safety newsletters with families, providing useful information and advice to help you support your children at home. If you would like further guidance or support, please visit the Internet Safety section of our school website, where you will find a range of useful resources and links.

School Priorities for 2026–27

Each year, we identify a small number of key priorities that will shape our school improvement work over the coming academic year. These areas reflect the things we believe will have the greatest impact on continuing to develop Taverham VC CE Junior School and improving outcomes and experiences for our pupils.

Our priorities for 2026–27 are:

* Enhance the high-quality provision for the most able children in school

* Continue to tighten attendance procedures in school

* To effectively meet the new inclusion requirements for schools

* Further support children to be more successful in the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

---

School Lunches

We have a new winter menu starting after half term. This will be uploaded onto our school website for you.

Please note we also have a menu change that will take place on Tuesday 20th October – lunch will be Battered fish and chips as the main along with a shortbread biscuit for dessert.

Please remember to add money to your child's Compass wallet if you would like them to order a school lunch, thank you!

Bikes and Scooters

It is always great to see lots of children cycling and scooting to school. If children are doing this, please could you remind them to always walk with their bike/scooter as soon as they come through the gates and are on the school site. This applies to younger siblings too please.

Nut-Free School – Reminder

As a reminder, TJS is a nut-free school, a policy we have had in place for a number of years. This is particularly important because we have several children with severe, potentially life-threatening, nut allergies.

We therefore ask all parents and carers to ensure that children do not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into school. This includes products such as Nutella and other chocolate or hazelnut spreads, as well as any other foods containing nuts.
Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation in helping us to keep all our children safe.

Dates/Times are subject to change. Please check future newsletters and the school website which will be updated regularly.

October	
Thursday 8th	Year 3 parent-teacher meetings
Wednesday 21st	Individual school photo
	Year 3 parent café- 1.30
Thursday 22nd	Last day of Autumn 1 half term
November	
Monday 2nd	First day of Autumn 2 half term
Tuesday 3rd	Year 6 Reading café -1.30pm
Friday 6th	PTFA Donut Sale after school
Tuesday 10th	PTFA Meeting-4pm
Wednesday 11th	Year 5 Planetarium (in school)
Wednesday 18th	Open Evening for Year 2 parents -5pm-7pm
Wednesday 25th	Flu Immunisations
	Year 6 parent- teacher meetings
Thursday 26th	Year 5 Maths café -1.30pm
December	
Tuesday 1st	Year 6 parent-teacher meetings
Thursday 3rd	Flu immunisations catch up
Friday 4th	PTFA Christmas pop up shop
Monday 7th	PTFA Christmas pop up shop
Monday 7th- Friday 11th	Christmas Lunch week
Thursday 10th	St Peter Mancroft Carol Service
Tuesday 15th	PTFA Christmas Movie Night after school
Friday 18th	Last day of term

TERM DATES

2026	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term 1	Thursday 3rd September	Thursday 22nd October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 2nd November	Friday 18th December
2027	**First day of term**	**Last day of term**
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 5th January	Friday 12th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 22nd February	Thursday 25th March
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 13th April	Friday 28th May
Summer Term 2	Monday 7th June	Wednesday 21st July
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May	

TAVERHAM

VC CE Junior School

Email: office@taverhamjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.taverhamjunior.co.uk

Tel: 01603 867740