



J1 Newsletter **Spring 1 2025**

Welcome back, Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

Science Term

The topic for Science Term this year is 'Thinking about Thinking – Celebrating the World of Neurodiversity'. It has been chosen with the intention of exploring the capabilities and differences of our wonderful brains.

J1 will be taking part in a Music and Movement workshop this term exploring our senses through movement; having our first year group assembly with a focus on 'Amazing Brains - Neurology'; as well as engaging in one of our favourite Science Term events – 'Pet Day' during Science Week.

We will also be partaking in various Science investigations throughout the term. As part of our CLPE topic this term, we will be reading "On Sudden Hill". For this, we will need boxes for science modelling – any shapes or size - so if you have any, rather than recycle them, please bring them in.

We are looking forward to exploring the world of Science!

Reading/Letterland

Please continue to learn and revise the high frequency words sent home and encourage and hear your child read daily.

We will be revising the letter sounds this term and introducing the 'Best Friends' (double consonants ss ll ff zz ck) – these are two letters but they only make one sound together, for example: 'miss' or 'well'.

Handwriting

We are working on anticlockwise turns in letters c, o, a, d, g, q and s. The children are becoming more confident and we do lots of pre-writing activities to aid their pencil control. Please continue to practise letter formation at home.

Maths

This term, we will be introducing the children to teen numbers using the Ten Town characters as well as consolidating the numbers 0-10 including number bonds. Children should be able to count objects and recognise the numbers out of sequence. We will introduce addition and undertake practical activities that explore shape, patterns, direction and measurement.

Clubs Registration

This will take place on Friday 10th January. If your child would like to register for a club, please send the correct registration fee in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name and the name of the club on it, no sooner than Friday. If sending in money for more than one club, please provide separate envelopes. A little word of warning – the clubs tend to fill up quite quickly, so your child may not get into all the clubs he/she was hoping for.

Driving & Parking

Please drive slowly and carefully on school premises. In the afternoons, children may well have games or clubs on the school fields, and we need to be mindful of their safety. Our 'drop off lane' should be used to do just that; please do not block it by parking - however briefly. If your child is not old enough or able to exit the car by themselves, please drive into the carpark, find a space and then walk them to the appropriate gate. Please remember to park considerately. The disabled parking bays should only be used by those with mobility issues or a blue badge.

Please also make use of our new pedestrian walkway to avoid walking small children through the middle of the carpark. Many thanks for your continued help with this.

Punctuality and Attendance Reminder

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for your child's wellbeing and academic progress. While we understand that children may occasionally be unwell, we encourage you to prioritise consistent attendance. Children should aim to arrive in time to settle in before lessons start at

8:50 am. Registers are taken at 8:45 am, and any child arriving after this time is marked late, missing valuable learning moments like phonics and reading. Late arrivals can disrupt your child's morning routine and impact their ability to focus and succeed throughout the day. Every minute counts—let's work together to ensure your child gets the best start to their school day!

Uniform

The Uniform requirements remain the same as last term:

Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs: PE Kit (Swimming kits will be needed for Mondays).

Fri: Full School Uniform.

Please remember that hats and blazers are part of our school uniform and should be worn to school every day. Girl's hair should be tied up using red hair bands and small bows only.

In order that any lost items may be returned quickly, please would you ensure that all items of uniform including shoes are visibly labelled. If preloved or handed down from siblings, please ensure that the previous name is removed/covered and that the correct name is visible.

Due to the colder weather, children should bring a school coat everyday as well as a blazer. Scarves must be the school scarf and gloves black, grey or navy.

Merit badges should be removed from blazers as we start afresh this term.

If it is a 'Formal Uniform' day and the weather is particularly cold, your child is able to come to school wearing their tracksuit bottoms over the top of their formal uniform and will remove these when inside the building and put them back on for playtimes and outside activities. Please note that tights or sports leggings are not part of the boy's school uniform and boys will be asked to remove them when entering the classroom.

Waterproof jackets, trousers and wellies:

Please send these in by Thursday 9th January and they will be kept in school. Please also supply an old fleece or jumper to provide an extra layer during colder Forest School sessions.

Plimsolls: These will be kept in school for dance lessons. Please remember to check sizes and provide a bigger size when needed.

Tooled Up

Tooled Up is a very useful resource that may help you answer some of those tricky questions that pop up while you are at home. We encourage you to become familiar with the website: www.tooledupeducation.com/register

School pin number: MCP0809

Diary of Events

Music and Movement workshop – Wednesday 8th January

Clubs Registration Friday 10th January

S4 Cake Sale Friday 10th January

Prospective Parents Open Day Saturday 18th January 9.15am – 12pm

Burns Breakfast Thursday 23rd January 9.15am & Friday 24th January 9.15am and 11am

Habits of Mind Week Monday 27th – Friday 31st January

Andrew Hampton Zoominar for Parents Tuesday 11th February

Half Term: 17th February – 21st February

Science Week Monday 24th – Friday 28th February

Thinking about thinking day Thursday 27th February

Pet Day Friday 28th February

FOMC Comedy Night Friday 7th March

St Patrick's Day Lunch Monday 17th March

J1 School Assembly Thursday 20th March

J1 Parents' Coffee Morning Friday 21st March

S4 Strictly St Patrick's Spectacular

Friday 21st March, 7pm

FOMC Easter Bonnet Competition Monday 24th March

Junior Prizegiving Friday 28th March, 9.15am

End of Term Friday 28th March at 12pm.

Kind regards

The J1 Team.

