



Joy Lane Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK & NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

We are looking forward to a fun-packed week from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February as we celebrate Children's Mental Health Week and National Storytelling Week!

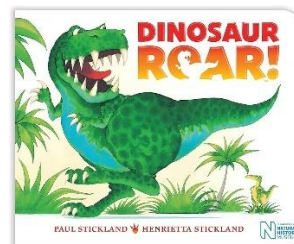
In class each day we will be completing a wellbeing and reading activity, as well as taking part in other exciting sessions.

New Heights Performing Arts will be leading dance workshops for each year group across the week, and on Wednesday 5th February, we will be hosting local author Tamara Macfarlane and entertainer Gilbert Giggles to celebrate World Read Aloud Day.

Tamara, who you may have met as the owner of Tales on Moon Lane bookshop in Whitstable, will be signing copies of her books, which the workshops will be based on.

Nursery and Reception

**Please note that Tamara Macfarlane's 'Dylan the Dinosaur' book, which is the focus of the workshop, is not available to buy. She will be selling copies of 'Dinosaur Roar', which is also used as part of the event, but Tamara cannot sign it officially as the author but can write a note to the child.*



Years 1 - 3



Years 4 - 6



You can pre-order signed copies of Tamara Macfarlane's books via a dedicated Joy Lane [webpage](#). As a bonus, 10% of all sales go to the school to spend on books.

When ordering:

- Select the 'pick up from shop' option – this way they will be delivered to the school for free
- Add in both the name of who you would like the book dedicated to and your child's full name and class in the dedication box on the payment page



PYJAMA DAY SUCCESS!

Nearly 130 pairs of pyjamas were donated for our Children's Hospital Pyjamas Appeal.



Plus, we raised £646.59 through our teddy bear/book hamper raffles and donations on the day, and another £99 via our Just Giving Page - so £745.59 in total! This has by far been our biggest ever fundraiser at Joy Lane, so thank you so much for your generosity.

JANUARY WINTER FOJL DISCOS – THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY

Tickets remain on sale for the next discos on Thursday 30th January. Ticket sales close on Tuesday 28th January at 11pm.

Times and dates for the remaining year groups are:

Thursday 30 th January
Oysters 2:00 – 2:30pm
Nursery 2:30 – 3:00pm
Year 4 3:00 – 4:00pm
Year 5 4:00 – 5:00pm
Year 6 5:00 – 6:00pm



Tickets are available via www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofjoylane and will cost £2 per person for Nursery and Oysters and £3 for the rest of the year groups. If you are struggling to find funds and would still like to attend, please use our 'Pay It Forward' scheme by emailing office@joylane.kent.sch.uk.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: MAGNETIC BALLS & OTHER TOYS

We are noticing an increasing number of children bringing in toys, teddies, fiddle toys and other items from home. Please can we ask that the children do not bring these items into school.

A particular concern is the newly popular rainbow magnetic balls, which are becoming a health and safety issue, with the report of a child swallowing one of these.

Children who have been assigned a fiddle toy in line with their Individual Provision Map will be provided with an item from the SEND team. Thank you in advance for your support.



FRIENDS OF JOY LANE

New Year = New School Lottery Super Draw!

Last few days remaining to be entered to win a huge £1000 Aldi gift card - or a £1,000 cash alternative. Make sure you [sign up](#) to take part or top up your tickets - the more tickets you have, the more chances to WIN!

Movement for Good

Please Help us! The Movement for Good Awards is a programme of giving that anyone can get involved with and nominate charities and good causes to receive funds.

The current draw is for a £1,000 donation. To be in with a chance of winning, we need to secure as many nominations as possible before the first draw takes place.

It takes just a few minutes to [nominate](#). Nominations are needed before 27th Jan! Our charity number is 286126.

Friends of Joy Lane PTA



Do you have the power to do super things for the children at Joy Lane Primary School?



Join FOJL PTA

By joining FOJL PTA you are advocating on behalf of all children at Joy Lane Primary School!



Anyone can participate - Parents, Careers, Guardians, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles

Everyone is welcome!



Volunteer

There is so much we can do together, even just one hour of your time is truly valuable and appreciated.

Bring a friend and meet new friends!



Our number one priority is supporting the school to enhance experiences for all children

If you are interested in participating we would love to hear from you!

 @joylaneschoolpta

 friends@joylane.kent.sch.uk

 @joylaneschoolpta

 www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofjoylane



ATTENDANCE UPDATE



Attendance data week ending 24th January 2025

JLPS Whole School attendance	94.4%
Number of Persistent Absentees (less than 90% attendance)	97 pupils 15.67%

Klee – 89.6%	Kahlo – 89.8%	Kandinsky – 87.2%
Van Gogh – 89.3%	Voysey – 88.9%	Vallotton – 94%
Picasso – 89.4%	Postgate – 96.1%	Potter – 94.6%
Riley – 87.7%	Rousseau – 93.4%	Ringgold – 84.1%
Hockney – 95.2%	Heron – 92.7%	Hepworth – 84.4%
Degas – 92.3%	Dali – 96.9%	Da Vinci – 90.8%
Bailey – 77.9%	Banksy – 87.3%	Boyce – 90.7%
Oysters – 91.6%		

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF BOOKS



Check out the amazing author and illustrator workshops as part of the Children's Festival of Books on Saturday 8th March. Book now to secure your space with some inspiring authors – including Anthony Browne! This event is run by Tamara Macfarlane, who is leading author workshops at Joy Lane this term!



TERM 3 PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Our face-to-face/virtual Parent Partnership Meetings will take place on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th February. Please see the details below. Booking will open today at 5pm via Arbor.

*Parents of children in Oysters, please contact the school office via telephone (01227261430) or email (office@joylane.kent.sch.uk) to make your appointment.

There is an expectation that all parents/carers attend to discuss the progress of their child at this mid-point in the year.

Wednesday 5 th February 2025	
Key Stage 1	Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm
Key Stage 2 / Vallotton (Year 1)	Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm
*Oysters SRP	Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm
Thursday 6 th February 2025	
Key Stage 1	Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm
Key Stage 2 / Vallotton (Year 1)	Virtual Meeting 3:30-7:00pm
*Oysters SRP	Face-to-Face Meeting 3:30-7:00pm

All face-to-face meetings will take place in the Upper School Hall.

HOUSE CAPTAIN CATCH-UP

Welcome to this week's Newsletter. This week is very exciting because it is less than a week until the Winter Discos for Oysters, Nursery and Years 4, 5 and 6. We hope that your children enjoyed the Winter Discos last week if they attended. Year 6 are enjoying Macbeth and the most exciting bit about it is we are going on a trip to London to learn about Shakespeare and Shakespearian times.

This week, Year 6 did something very exciting - we did KIC Theatre on Monday around the subject that we are studying right now in English and other subjects: Macbeth! Other Year groups have also had the opportunity to participate in KIC Theatre, with the themes including Harry Potter, Queen Elizabeth, Romans and space. Check ClassDojo for your child's pictures. This week, in Year 6 we have been making periscopes with mirrors, and we have also seen Year 3 carry on their theme on the Romans, which looks very exciting.

If your child has been swimming in school this year, then this is the last term of school swimming for them. If your child has not been swimming, then it will be their turn next term. We hope you have a good weekend!



WHITSTABLE UNPLUGGED: BUILDING MOMENTUM



We all want the best for our kids. While smartphones have their benefits, they also come with significant risks for children – from exposure to harmful content to sleep issues, distraction from schoolwork and negative impacts on mental health and social development*.

Inspired by the national [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) movement, Whitstable Unplugged is a local initiative aimed at fostering a healthier, more balanced relationship with smartphones and social media in our community.

Last year, we asked parents and carers across Whitstable schools for their thoughts on smartphone use, and the response was overwhelming – 88% of you said *Yes* or *Maybe* to delaying smartphone use for your kids. This shows that we're on the same page when it comes to giving our children the best start in life.

But change takes action. Here's how you can get involved:

- Sign the Smartphone Free Childhood Pact ([theparentpact](#))
- Join us for monthly 'Smartphone Free Sundays' (starting 26th January)

At our launch event in November, we saw how powerful our community is when we come together. Now, we're keeping the momentum going with regular 'Smartphone Free Sundays' on the last Sunday of each month, starting on 26th January!

You can participate in the digital detox wherever you are, but we're also thrilled to partner with Revival Food and Mood – one of Kent's top cafes and mental health hubs – to make this day even more special. You're invited to join offline activities like board games, live music, and delicious food while spending quality time with your family, all in a welcoming, tech-free space.

Let's keep the momentum up and make this movement a success together!

www.facebook.com/WhitstableUnplugged

@whitstable_unplugged

#Whitstable Unplugged #SmartphoneFreeSundays

*Learn more here: [The problem — Smartphone Free Childhood](#)



NELFT ONLINE WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to be able to share with you the workshops being offered by the Emotional Well-Being Team for Terms 3 and 4. Please note the dates of interest and keep an eye on ClassDojo for further information regarding each workshop.



Online Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

Workshops



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour 22/1/2025 10:30 – 12:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 336 234 531 867 Passcode: P7df6fg9

Understanding ADHD 4/2/2025 – 5:30 – 7:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 357 257 416 30 Passcode: nd9Xi6P7

Introduction to Autism 28/02/2025 12:30 – 2:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 342 957 959 572 Passcode: UR22px2W

Understanding Anxiety 10/03/2025 5:30 – 7:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 375 848 985 296 Passcode: 2v3dM2xX

Sleep & Autism 27/03/2025 5:30 – 7:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 380 423 848 345 Passcode: cq2qv9U5

Me & My Child: Understanding Resilience 9/4/2025 10:30 – 12:30pm

[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 320 369 568 303 Passcode: Qz9WN7Ru

**Workshop times alternate from term to term*

Our online workshops offer information around key topics to help understand what is going on for your child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

If you would like to join, please use the links above. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's school.

Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You do not need an account to join. You will need access to the internet. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending a EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools. If you require materials in another language or have any other access needs then please email:

EWTandESTenquiries@nelft.nhs.uk

We look forward to meeting you!



WHITSTABLE LIBRARY WORKSHOP



PARENT & CARER CHECKLIST

- Next week will be Week 3 of the [menu](#).
- Be part of the [School Lottery Super Draw!](#)
- Please click [here](#) to be directed to your child's Curriculum Web.
- Buy your tickets for the remaining Winter Discos [here](#). Ticket sales close on Tuesday 28th January.
- Download your own copy of Term 3's dates [here](#).
- [Booking for Parent Partnership Meetings go live today at 5pm.](#)
- Buy signed copies of our visiting author's books [here](#).

