



# Joy Lane Primary School Weekly Newsletter

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

## EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our school, we value strong, positive relationships with our whole community. Communication is important to us, and we want to ensure you feel informed, supported, and heard. We have several ways for you to stay in touch with us:

- **Senior Leadership Team/Designated Safeguarding Lead** – Each morning and afternoon, members of our Senior Leadership Team are outside to greet families and say farewell. Please feel free to chat with them at any time.
- **Classroom Staff** – Teachers are available at their classroom doors (Early Years and KSI) from 8:40–8:50am and (all class teachers) 3:20–3:30pm each day.
- **ClassDojo Messaging** – You can send a short message to your child's class teacher via ClassDojo. While teachers are unable to respond during lesson times, they will check messages before and after school until 4:30pm. Please note that staff are not expected to reply after 5:00pm or on weekends.
- **School Office** – For absences, Breakfast/After School Club queries, or if you need to request a call from a member of staff, please contact the school office directly: [office@joylane.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@joylane.kent.sch.uk). (Please do not use ClassDojo for these matters.)
- **Weekly Newsletter** – Our Friday newsletter, sent via Arbor email, is our main communication tool. It contains important updates and key dates, so please make sure to read it each week. You can find it on our website too.
- **Social Media** – We love celebrating our school community and sharing events on Facebook and Instagram!

### We Want to Hear from You!

Your feedback and concerns matter to us. If you ever need to discuss something, please follow our communication protocol by speaking with your child's class teacher first. We are always happy to listen and work together to support our children and families.

### Staff Email Security

To protect staff well-being and ensure a healthy work-life balance, we do not share personal staff email addresses. Our internal email system is secured for staff use only, and external emails from outside our school community are blocked.

Thank you for your support in following these guidelines - we appreciate your partnership in making our school a wonderful place for everyone!

Best wishes,  
Ms D J Hines  
Executive Headteacher



# SWIMMING AT JOY LANE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Joy Lane Primary School is one of a handful of schools across Kent that is lucky enough to have its own swimming pool. This is fully utilised by the school and other local schools during the day and lessons are delivered to approximately 800 children every week, both during and after school.



The pool is hugely popular and has been an instrumental part of the Whitstable Community for the last 38 years.

Learning to swim is even more important for the children of coastal towns like Whitstable, and over the years, the school has taken great pride in the pool being a community resource, which has been instrumental in allowing thousands of children to learn this important life skill.

However, the revenue that the school gets from lettings is just part of the money that is needed to allow pupils at Joy Lane to swim for three terms per year. As we come to the end of Year 4, 5 and 6's weekly swimming sessions, we have noticed that in many cases there have been no contributions or payments towards lessons in our wonderful pool.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2's swimming lessons will commence in Term 4, and more information about this will follow.

Payments are to be made under the 'school shop products' section in Arbor. It gives you the option to pay for this termly or for the year.

The staff in the school office are always ready to take phone calls to help with payment for school swimming lessons if Arbor proves hard to navigate.

Best wishes

*Mark Ashley Jones*



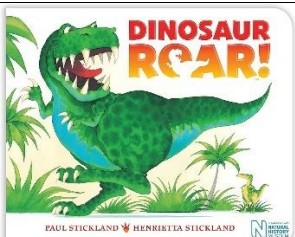


## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK & NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

We are looking forward to a fun-packed week next week 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Nursery and Reception</u></b></p> <p><i>*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.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Years 1 - 3</u></b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Years 4 - 6</u></b></p>	

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

## MUSIC – ITEMS NEEDED

Saucepans and frying pans with handles (lids optional) are urgently needed to replenish the Outdoor play kitchens and the Junk Orchestra.



## DRESS TO EXPRESS DAY – FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Children's Mental Health Week ends with Dress to Express Day next Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. The children are invited to express who they are and their uniqueness through their clothing, whether this is a sports kid, comfy clothes, fancy dress, their favourite colour, something sparkly...

## 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.



## YEAR 4 SHOW – WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Year 4 are delighted to invite you to watch their Year 4 Musical Show - Disney Spectacular!

The show is taking place on Wednesday 12th February 2025, 14:00 - 15:00, in the Joy Lane Upper School Hall (next to the School Office).

Please click [here](#) to book your tickets. Due to capacity, we can only allow a maximum of 2 adults per child.

## OPAL PLAY THANKS

Thank you for everything that has been purchased and contributed so far! The children are extremely grateful.

If you have had a clear out/spring clean over Christmas and have any of the following toys/items you need to re-home, OPAL Play would love to take them off your hands!

- plastic cars & trucks
- animals
- large dolls
- pretend tools
- metal matchbox cars



Please drop them off at the School Office for OPAL Play.

Alternatively, you can purchase something from our [OPAL Wishlist](#) if you wish to contribute.



## FRIENDS OF JOY LANE

# Wine & WISDOM

## RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED!



In preparation for the FOJL Wine and Wisdom evening we are looking for donations to hold a raffle at this event.

Do you work for or run your own business that may be able to help?

Your donation could be anything from meal vouchers, spa / beauty treatments, local shop products/ services, something that little bit special that someone would really want to win!

If you are able or know of someone that would be generous enough to support us by donating a raffle prize we would love to hear from you!



The **Winter Discos 2025** have been amazing! The joy on faces of everyone who attended was a pleasure to see! Thank you to everyone who attended, donated 'pay it forward' tickets, volunteers from FOJL and school staff - what a great atmosphere and successful event! We'll let you know next week how much it raised.

**Save the date!** This year's Wine & Wisdom is scheduled to take place Friday 14th March! Make sure the date is saved in your diary and follow our socials for more information.

**February Super Draw is now live** - one lucky supporter will win a huge Year of Adventures - or of course, a £1,000 cash alternative! You will receive one entry into this draw for each weekly ticket that you have. The more [tickets you buy](#) the more entries into the draw you will get!



More **plaques** have been added to our stage! Despite the cold, winter weather, the children access this daily for dancing with Miss Daly. You can still purchase a plaque to sponsor our stage [here](#).



## ATTENDANCE UPDATE



### Attendance data week ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

<b>JLPS Whole School attendance</b>	<b>94.4%</b>
<b>Number of Persistent Absentees (less than 90% attendance)</b>	<b>99 pupils 16.01%</b>

<b>Klee – 95.2%</b>	<b>Kahlo – 93.9%</b>	<b>Kandinsky – 90%</b>
<b>Van Gogh – 89.7%</b>	<b>Voysey – 96.6%</b>	<b>Vallotton – 91.5%</b>
<b>Picasso – 90.8%</b>	<b>Postgate – 89.7%</b>	<b>Potter – 88.5%</b>
<b>Riley – 98.3%</b>	<b>Rousseau – 87.1%</b>	<b>Ringgold – 99.2%</b>
<b>Hockney – 95.7%</b>	<b>Heron – 94%</b>	<b>Hepworth – 96.4%</b>
<b>Degas – 94.7%</b>	<b>Dali – 93.1%</b>	<b>Da Vinci – 93.5%</b>
<b>Bailey – 91.7%</b>	<b>Banksy – 98%</b>	<b>Boyce – 92.1%</b>
<b>Oysters – 93.5%</b>		



## CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

Check out the amazing author and illustrator workshops as part of the Children's Festival of Books on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 next week!



## NEW HEIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS – FREE TRIAL

Free trial sessions for Saturday morning musical theatre with New Heights Performing Arts, hosted here at Joy Lane. To book your free trial head to <https://www.nhpa.uk/home> We are looking forward to welcoming New Heights Performing Arts into school next week to lead free dance workshops for our children.



**Book NOW!**

**NHPA**  
**Saturday Morning Musical Theatre**  
**09:00am - Midday**  
**7 -16 year olds**

Where:  
Lower School Hall  
Joy Lane Primary School  
Whitstable  
CT5 4LT

\*Learn New Skills \*Make New Friends \*Grow Confidence  
\*Express yourself \*Perform in Shows \*All abilities welcome  
\*Parking available \*Payable monthly \* No joining fees  
\*SEN/disability inclusive

Book at: [WWW.NHPA.UK](http://WWW.NHPA.UK)



Scan me to book!



## TERM 3 PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Our face-to-face/virtual Parent Partnership Meetings will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Please see the details below.

\*Parents of children in Oysters, please contact the school office via telephone (01227261430) or email ([office@joylane.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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.

Bookings will close at midnight on Sunday.

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	
Reception / 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 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	
Reception / 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. There are lots of exciting things happening like the second round of Winter Discos this Thursday. Everyone had a brilliant time!

This week, we interviewed children from across the school on this week's work so let's start at Year 6 (Jessie S and Frankie A). We asked them what they have enjoyed this week and Jessie said her favourite subject was English where she is doing Macbeth. Frankie said she enjoyed Art because she found it fun! We next interviewed Year 5's Audrey - Audrey's favourite subject is Maths: 'it is fun when you are working out and correcting your answers.' Next, we interviewed Robin in Year 5, who said her favourite subject was Music: she likes singing, playing the piano and guitar. Next, we went to a Year 4 where we interviewed Sapphire, who said her favourite lesson is English because she loves writing. Following this, we interviewed Year 3 (Misty and Indie). Indie said her favourite lesson is History because they learned about the Romans. However, Misty said that her best lesson was Maths because she said it was fun! Then finally we interviewed Year 1 and Year 2 - Lance said he likes Maths and Charlie said he also loves Maths, because he likes shapes and counting!



## PARENT & CARER CHECKLIST

- Next week will be **Week 4 of the menu**.
- Be part of the **School Lottery Super Draw!**
- **Booking for Parent Partnership Meetings is open until Sunday at midnight.**
- Buy signed copies of our visiting author's books **here**.
- **It's Dress to Express Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February.**
- Please click **here** to book your tickets for the Year 4 show.
- **Saucepans and frying pans with handles (lids optional) are urgently needed to replenish the Outdoor play kitchens and the Junk Orchestra.**
- A gentle reminder to contribute to swimming payments. This **video** on Arbor shows you how to navigate the app.

