



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

I am so happy to be writing to you after a week of getting back to normal. We have treated this week as a second, first week back to school and so I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of messages which I have held back due to frustrating recent distractions.

### Open Evening

It has been great to see students back in their lessons learning with their teachers, enjoying each other's company at break and lunch times and creating a buzz around the school. That buzz reached its peak on Thursday as students and staff put on a fantastic show. It was great to see current and future families exploring the school and finding out what makes John Mason special.

### Open Mornings

We have opportunities to come and look around the school on 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October. If you know of any prospective families who would like to come and see John Mason in action, then please let them know. More details can be found [here](#).

### Eco Club



We are very proud of our Eco Club who have worked hard to have John Mason School awarded a Green Flag for 2023. The team, supported by Mr Conroy, implemented an Eco-code, designed and built bug hotels and are working hard to prevent litter and keep JMS tidy for the community and the wildlife that share it.

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**Registered Office:** Abingdon Learning Trust  
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

John Mason School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.  
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a  
company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in England and Wales: **Company No. 7931866**

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## Mobile Phones

As technology continues to advance, we learn more and more about the potential risks of mobile phones. We know that the risks of excessive screen time can lead to negative effects on physical health and mental wellbeing, so we continue to support young people to use their free time to take part in physical activities, socialise with friends and family and pursue hobbies which don't involve screens.

We ask for your support in ensuring young people leave their mobile phones out of their bedrooms and find an alternative source for their alarm clock.

## Welcome Betty



Whilst we have 180 new Year 7s and staff to welcome to JMS, the most highly anticipated arrival in September was Betty, our Therapy Dog in training. Betty is quickly getting used to working around our students. Our JMF6 therapy dog, Rory, is on maternity leave (his owner not him) and we wish Murphy a long and happy retirement.

## Mandarin Pen Pals

Year 9 students are linking up with students from Jinan Thomas School in China. They are exchanging written work, video and audio recordings and extending the JMS links around the world.

## Important Dates

5<sup>th</sup> October 6pm – Year 8 Parents' Information Evening in the Main Hall.

5<sup>th</sup> October 6pm – Berlin Trip Information Evening in the Learning Resource Centre

11<sup>th</sup> October – INSET day

19<sup>th</sup> October 4.30-7pm – New Tutors' Evening for any students with a new tutor (details to follow).

20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Berlin Trip

23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October – Half term

2<sup>nd</sup> November – Year 9 Parents' Information Evening

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September has been very busy and now we can really say the academic year is fully underway. I wish you and your families a relaxing weekend and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Alastair West  
Headteacher  
John Mason School

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