

Friday 18th July 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

The final week of the year has been a fantastic culmination of hard work for students across the school. On Friday night 13 JMS students joined The Mighty Orchestra at the National Festival of Music for Youth. I have been lucky enough to see a video of some of their performance in the Birmingham's Symphony Hall. It was absolutely spellbinding. Just up the road, at the Birmingham Alexander Stadium, more JMS students were competing for Oxfordshire in the English Schools Athletics Championships. With incredible performances, including a personal best we could not be prouder.

Back in Abingdon this week saw the Sports Days 1 and 2 with the whole school making their way to Tilsley Park on Tuesday. The support that every student gave to competitors broke volume records, but more importantly we were treated to the opportunity to see history being made with two long standing school records being broken. I'd like to thank the PE department for the fantastic work they have done in running the most incredible Sports Day I have ever been to.

Wednesday night saw the drums return from our Sports Day supporters, and back in the hands of the Music Department where we had the privilege of hearing students performing in the Young Musician of the Year competition. Again, we were treated to some incredible talent playing a wide range of genres and consistently showcasing incredible talent. Thank you to all students involved and the Performing Arts Department for once again creating an evening to remember.

As the school year draws to a close, we have some fond farewells to say. Andrew Stanger, Qasim Gul, Emmanuel Yeboah, Ellis Stacey, Kat Wilson, James Thompson, Tingting Yin, Ruby Ludlam, Lucy Foster, Gilly Green, Gaby Kitto, Andrew Holme, and Lucy Dasgupta are leaving JMS at the end of the year, with a wide variety of destinations. I'd like to thank them for all that they have done for our school during their time with us and wish them every success in the future.

Staff have been busy planning for our return and we look forward to welcoming Year 7, 11 and 12 back on 3rd September with the whole school returning on the 4th September. But for now, I'd like to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable summer holidays.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher



PE Round up

We enjoyed a fantastic couple of days this week for sports days. Thank you to all students who participated and supported each other whilst demonstrating our school values of Opportunity, Respect and Determination.

Congratulations to Ock who won the overall sports day cup but also to Rosti in Year 7 who broke the Y7 high jump record that had stood since 1999 and Kyla in Year 10 who set a new school record for the 300m which had stood since 2008.

Kyla had represented Oxfordshire in the English Schools Athletics events held in Birmingham at the weekend where she ran a Personal Best time in the 300m.

We have also had over 80 sports leaders supporting Primary sporting events this term along with being crowned the Year 8 Quad Kids Athletics County runners up.

We look forward to more sporting success and celebrations next academic year and thank you for your support.

Message from the JMA

It was great to meet so many Year 6 students and their families at the recent Transition Day and welcome them to the JMA community. We had a very successful preloved uniform sale where we sold items for £1 each. This supports families financially, raises funds for the JMA and helps the environment by reusing clothing. We have now extremely low stock, especially branded items like sports tops, jumpers, and polo shirts. To insure we can have more preloved uniform sales at upcoming events we would love to receive any clean and wearable donations to replenish our stocks. Please drop off items at school reception.

Thank you to everyone who's contributed to the JMA's success over the year. Have a great summer break and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Jane, JMA Chair

Message from Music

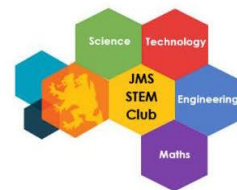
In March 2024 we had the pleasure of joining 12 primary schools and 3 other secondaries to make a **Mighty Orchestra**. At 300 strong, we performed at the Oxford Town Hall which was a resounding success. The ensemble performance was entered into the Music for Youth Festival, and we were thrilled to find out that we had been invited to perform on 11th July at Birmingham Symphony Hall as part of Music for Youth's National Concert. On Friday 11th July, 13 students from John Mason travelled to Birmingham. The students showed exceptional maturity and excellent mentorship of the younger student they were with. They absolutely led by example and were a credit to our school.

The Mighty Orchestra was created by Helen Eccleston (Abingdon Music Centre) and facilitated in part by Radley College. Thames Valley Youth Orchestra also participated in this event and we are so thankful to have been part of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Music for Youth awarded John Mason School an official certificate to acknowledge our involvement and we were pleased to present this at our Young Musician of the Year Competition and we hope to proudly displaying it in reception for all to see.

STEM club

A big well done to Leo who has won this year's student of the year in STEM. It was very difficult to choose this year, as we have had 30 students attend STEM club and loads of STEM events, such as British Science Week. Leo was chosen for his dedication to STEM club and participation in other STEM events.



STEM club will be back on next school year, Wednesdays 3:10pm-4:10pm

We hope you have a lovely summer.



Important Dates:

Monday 1st September – INSET Training for staff - School closed to students
 Tuesday 2nd September – INSET Training for staff - School closed to students
 Wednesday 3rd September - Start of term for Year 7, 11 & 12
 Thursday 4th September - All students return to school

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/calendar/>

Term dates for the academic year are on our website:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/term-dates/>

Term dates for the next academic year are now on the website:

[Term Dates 2025-26](#)

**Abingdon
& Witney
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Adult
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Family Learning Online Workshops Sept-Oct 2025

Workshops are held online using Teams.

These workshops aim to help you feel empowered at managing those tricky situations knowing you are doing the best for your child and yourself. You will gain insight into how to strengthen your family's self-esteem and resilience; and practise strategies to encourage positive behaviour.

CODE	COURSE TITLE	START DATE	TIME
P07905	Emotional Regulation	Mon, 8/9/25	12:00-13:30
P07909	Positive Discipline	Mon, 15/9/25	12:00-13:30
P07915	Implementing Effective Routines	Mon, 22/9/25	12:00-13:30
P07917	Developing Resilience	Mon, 29/9/25	12:00-13:30

Mystified by maths? Homework a nightmare? These workshops explain the current teaching methods used to help you feel more confident in supporting your child.

P07907	Year 5 and 6 Maths - Column Addition and Subtraction	Mon, 8/9/25	19:00 - 20:30
P07911	Year 5 and 6 Maths - Multiples and Factors	Mon, 15/9/25	19:00 - 20:30
P07913	Year 5 and 6 Maths -Long Multiplication	Mon, 22/9/25	19:00 - 20:30
P07919	Year 5 and 6 Maths -Long Division	Mon, 29/9/25	19:00 - 20:30
P07921	Year 5 and 6 Maths -Division with remainders as fractions and decimals	Mon, 6/10/25	19:00 - 20:30

To enroll, contact Oxfordshire Adult Learning by phone.



01235 216 278

Visit the website and search 'Family Learning'

www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk