

TYLERS GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



"Be yourself, be anything, we are the future."

NEWSLETTER
24th October, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

These autumn storms and today's crisp brightness mark that unmistakable feeling that our first half-term has flown by. What a terrific start it has been. Our pupils have settled maturely into their new classes, getting to know their teaching team, navigating new routines, establishing strong habits and embracing fresh challenges in both learning and forming friendships. They should be really proud of themselves – *TGMS Terrific Learners*, indeed!

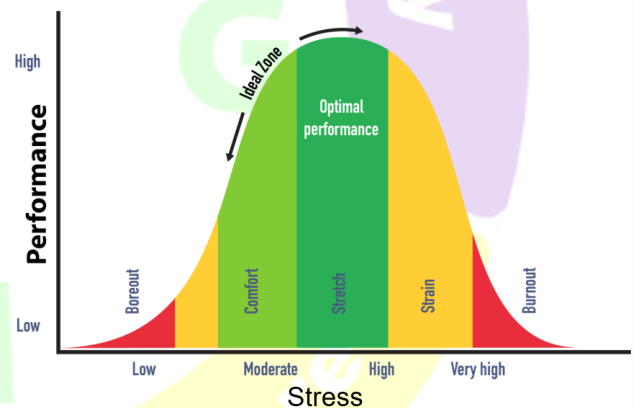
I want to take a moment to thank you, our parents and carers, for the vital role you've played in helping your children adjust so confidently. Your patience as we've welcomed new members to our Office and Premises Teams, and your gentle reassurance at home as your children face new expectations, friendships, and moments of healthy challenge, have made all the difference. TGMS feels as full of energy and purpose as ever, and that is down to the strength of this whole community: pupils, staff, and families together.

I wish you all a happy, restful, safe and well-deserved half-term break.

Mr Isaacs
Headteacher

Quality of Teaching: Teach Like A Champion @ TGMS

If my own child came home and told me that school was teaching them that "stress helps you learn," I'd probably have a few questions! So, this week, in my teaching and assembly, I've been helping pupils unpack and rethink that idea. Using the Yerkes–Dodson Curve (see diagram), I explained that while too much stress can hinder us, a healthy level of challenge (the kind that stretches us just beyond what feels comfortable/easy) actually enables our brains to perform and learn at their best. In other words, a bit of positive pressure can be a very good thing.



At our Welcome Meetings, I briefly mentioned how we're using Teach Like A Champion (TLAC) as our pedagogical model to strengthen teaching and learning at TGMS. After training directly with TLAC's author, **Doug Lemov** (pictured with us, left), Mrs Campbell, Miss Billinghamurst, Mrs O'Dowd and I have been supporting staff as they explore and apply key TLAC techniques that help build pupils' habits of attention and healthy academic challenge.

As part of our school focus this year on Habits and Attention, we've created a new Parent Guide to explain how these principles shape daily learning at TGMS. The guide introduces the Yerkes–Dodson Curve; the science behind how healthy challenge supports performance, and explains our five core TLAC techniques, known as our *TGMS Fab 5*. These simple, shared techniques help pupils focus, listen, and contribute confidently, and the guide offers practical ideas for how families can reinforce similar habits at home. You can read the full 1-page guide on our website, [here](#).



Over recent weeks, staff have been studying, discussing and practising these shared techniques with great enthusiasm, and the results are already visible. During recent lesson observations, I saw not just excellent teaching but, for the first time, a recognisable consistency across classrooms; teachers using common language, routines, and expectations that pupils are beginning to recognise and respond to automatically. For those of us who teach across year groups, this has been particularly exciting to see: pupils' growing familiarity with these habits is freeing up their working memory, allowing them to concentrate more deeply on the learning itself.

It's an inspiring start to the year that shows how deliberate, well-researched teaching and a culture of positive challenge can help **every pupil** rise higher. I must admit that I am pleasantly surprised (but really pleased) with how far we've already come and how the pupils are responding, and even more excited about what lies ahead! A huge shout out to our teaching staff who, as ever, demonstrate a commitment and openness to developing their personal practice for the benefit of the pupils and the school.

Y3 Harvest Assembly and One Can Trust (OCT) Collection

Our Y3 pupils and staff were extremely excited (and nervous) to perform their Harvest Assembly to the school and their parents yesterday. And didn't they deliver! At TGMS, we pride ourselves on putting on excellent shows and performances, and it seems that our new Y3 cohort will be no different – well done, Y3 pupils!

To the rest of the school, thank you so much for your generous donations to our One Can Trust collection. It is fantastic to promote charitable choices to our pupils, and the donations will do so much good for those in need.

We were delighted to welcome Jo from OCT to school yesterday, and she spoke so insightfully to our Year 3 parents and staff about the charity's crucial work locally, supporting over 500 people per week, half of whom are children. She said a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection and shared the ways the charity supports families across Bucks. To learn more about OCT, which is far more than a food bank, whether donating, volunteering or helping spread the word, please visit their website at onecantrust.org.uk.



School Travel Plan Updates (from Miss Baker and School Council) + Regional STARS and Parking Project

I don't think I've ever seen as many pupils cycling to school as I have this term! It's been fantastic to witness so many of our children making healthy, independent travel choices, whether that's cycling, walking, or meeting parents responsibly at the school gates or a designated point nearby. These habits not only support well-being and independence but also help us to be considerate neighbours. In fact, the number of local emails about parking issues (such as driveways or pavements being blocked) has been notably lower this term, which is a real testament to our families' efforts. So, a huge thank you to the vast majority of parents who continue to set such a positive example and make the journey to school safer and calmer for everyone.

We're thrilled to share that TGMS was nominated for a Regional Award this month! Our School Council (above) joined the virtual ceremony and enjoyed a special celebration party here at school to mark the occasion. While we didn't bring home the trophy this time, we're incredibly proud of the nomination and extend our warm congratulations to Turnfurlong Infant School, a fellow Buckinghamshire school, which won for the South East.



Alongside this, our pupils have been out and about in the community promoting our School Travel Plan. Following our successful Modeshift Month letter competitions ([see our website for our winners' entries](#)), pupils have been visiting local residents and asking them to proudly display our bright, pupil-designed signs encouraging safe and sustainable travel. Keep an eye-out: you might just spot one on your way to school! And finally, the next thing to look out for in November is Road Safety Week.

Online Safety (pupils' personal devices) and Artificial Intelligence Updates

As a school, we continue to work closely with our colleagues across the **Chiltern Area Partnership (CAP)** to strengthen both our online safety education and our collective approach to supporting families in the digital age. While TGMS remains at the forefront of teaching pupils how to navigate the online world safely and wisely, we know that we must also support parents in the growing challenge of delaying their child's entry into the smartphone (and, by extension, social media) world. As we've discussed, the evidence is now overwhelming: both are linked to increased risks for children's mental health, attention, and social development at this age.

With this in mind, I want to give parents advance notice that from September 2026, TGMS will be aligning with many of our CAP partner schools by no longer accepting smartphones among the small number of devices pupils are permitted to hand into the office (Appendix 5: [Online Safety Policy](#)). We recognise that some children may need a smartphone for health, safety or affordability reasons, and these cases will be reviewed individually.

To support parents, you are invited to a **free live online workshop on Tuesday, 4th February 2026 (7–8.30 pm)** with [Papaya](#) to launch the *Guiding Digital Childhoods* Voluntary Register and to share practical guidance, such as how to set up a smartphone to function as a "dumb" device and better alternative starter options for older primary pupils. More details will be shared next half-term, but please make a note in your diaries.

Finally, please look out for our upcoming TGMS Artificial Intelligence Principles, which will explain how AI is beginning to be used by staff to support teaching and efficiency, and how we will approach AI education with pupils in line with DfE and Ofsted guidance.

British Values @ TGMS: Pupil Democracy and Leadership, and Open Events

This term, pupils have been exploring the British Value of Democracy, and it's been a pleasure to see them so engaged in learning how British democracy works, from law-making to the role of the monarchy. Beyond the theory, our pupils have lived *democracy in action*: developing classroom charters, standing in elections, and voting for their peers. House Captains have had a mention, but I also want to celebrate our newly elected School Council and Sports Council members, who have each earned their important roles through fairness and respect.

Looking ahead, our House Captains will soon take on one of their most exciting duties: touring prospective parents during our **Open Days on the 19th and 24th November**, sharing all that's special about TGMS and their own learning journeys. Please do spread the word to families seeking a Year 3 place for next year!

Personal Development @ TGMS

In education, Personal Development refers to the many ways a school helps pupils grow beyond the academic curriculum, supporting their character, confidence, well-being, and understanding of the world around them. It's about nurturing compassionate, responsible young people who are ready to contribute positively to society; this is an area that TGMS truly excels in, so much so that an entire newsletter could easily be devoted to it!

Below are just a few highlights from this half-term that capture the richness and variety of our pupils' personal development experiences at TGMS. A huge thank you to our fantastic staff and dedicated parent volunteers, whose enthusiasm and support have made these exceptional opportunities possible.

Science Day: We ended the half-term with an exciting " <i>Big Mistake</i> " Science Day, discovering how many famous breakthroughs began as accidents, and how perseverance turned them into success. A huge thank you to the real-life scientists who volunteered their time to come into school and inspire our pupils by sharing their careers.	
Autumn Arts: Creativity continues to flourish at TGMS, with skill and imagination displayed across our classrooms.	Y6 Rainforest Trip: Y6 visited the Living Rainforest, spotting reptiles, tropical birds, and even an elusive sloth!
REACH Experience Days: Pupils immersed themselves in history through hands-on learning: Y5 explored Anglo-Saxon life, Y4 journeyed through Ancient Egypt, and Y3 stepped back to the Stone Age.	TGMF Sports Partnership: Year 3 <i>kicked off</i> this year's sports tournaments with Manor Farm Junior School, showing fantastic football skill, teamwork and sportsmanship.
Forest School: Our first Y3 and Y4 groups have loved their Forest School sessions this half term, learning through nature and teamwork. It's our aim for all pupils to have the opportunity to take part in this enrichment by the end of Y4	Pupil Leadership: It's inspiring to see so many pupils developing leadership across the school, from House Captains and Councillors to Well-being Mentors, Digital Leaders, Music Council members, and Assembly Scribes.
District Football: Our Y5/6 footballers proudly represented TGMS in the Wycombe District Tournament, earning an impressive 3rd place (girls) and 4th place (boys) finish.	Staff-led Clubs: Our autumn term clubs are well underway, with pupils throwing themselves into new challenges and experiences with enthusiasm.

Well Done, Year 6!

I would like to dedicate the final report box to our Year 6 pupils. Two weeks ago, they found out the results of their Secondary Transfer Tests, dealing with the news of whether they achieved a qualifying score or not. I think you would agree that this is an extremely challenging process for a 10-year-old to have to cope with, including dealing with the aftermath: understandable comparison with peers and coming to terms with how their secondary school choices may be affected. Not easy.

Yet we couldn't be prouder of them. They have shown wonderful resilience, empathy, support and celebration of one another. Their reaction to this has filled us all with pride and admiration, with the quality of their characters on full display. In our view, every single secondary school that receives a TGMS pupil is extremely fortunate.

Quick News and Dates for your Diaries:

- **TGMS Open Days:** 6th of November (9.15-10.30 am) and 24th of November (2.00 – 3.15 pm). Please encourage any prospective parents who may be interested in our school to attend. Building on my Information Presentation, the House Captains will be ready to deliver parent tours
- CAT4 test results for Years 4 and 5 have been shared with the relevant parents today. Please see our website for details: <https://www.tylersgreenmiddle.bucks.sch.uk/secondary-school-transfer-11-info/>
- FOTGMS: What a wonderful time the pupils had at this week's Halloween Discos! Please see the FOTGMS [Website Page](#) for further updates and dates.
- *Wakeup Wednesdays:* Please see our [website](#) for the latest Online Safety tips.
- **Trip and Event Updates** (subscribe to our [Diary Dates page](#) on the website):
 - FOTGMS Hotdog Day: 5th of November (book your hotdogs and volunteer at [PTA Events](#)).
 - Whole School Assessment Week (Y3-5 pupils sit NFER assessments in Reading and Maths; Y6 sit past SATs papers): Week beginning 10th of November.
 - TGMS Book Fair: Week beginning 10th of November.
 - Community Remembrance Service (on the Common, opposite TGFS): 11th November, 10.45 am. We will be walking the whole school to the Common, and we will need **a couple of parent volunteers per class** to help. Please complete the [Google Form](#) to register as a parent volunteer, and we will be in contact after half-term to organise.
 - Poppy Appeal: On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we are selling various items in preparation for Remembrance the week after half-term. Suggested donations are between 50p and £1.



- Road Safety Week: Week beginning 17th of November.
- Virtual Reality (VR) Day for Y4-6: 20th November.
- **Parents' Evening:** 3.30-7.30 pm on the 26th of November **and** the 1st of December.
- **FOTGMS Christmas Fair: 5th of December**
 - 14th of November: Mufti Day in exchange for Secret Wrapping Room Presents
 - 28th of November: Christmas Jumper Day in exchange for Tombola wine and chocolates.
- Y3+5 Christingle Service @ St. Margaret's Church: 9th of December, 9-11 am.
- Y4+6 Carol Service @ St. Margaret's Church: 10th of December, 9-11 am.
- Children's Carol Service (more details TBC): The evening of 18th December.
- **Y5 Winter Production** (more details TBC): Final week of term.
- **Parent Feedback:** As a reminder, we will run the Parent Survey in December rather than waiting till the end of the year, meaning we can act on your feedback. However, I'd like to say a big thank you to parents for not waiting to bring me feedback, both positive (there has been an overwhelming amount – thank you!) and constructive.