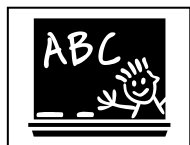


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 13

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

8th December 2017

Christmas is coming...

Carol Service - Monday 18th December at 1:45

We are really looking forward to our traditional Carol Concert at St James' Church.

The children are already working hard learning lines and preparing songs in their Houses.

In order to help parents and grandparents choose the best location to sit to see their children, please see the map of the church below:

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|---------|
| | | Alter | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Anson | Readers / Choir performers | | | | Clinton |
| | | | Aisle | | |
| | Pews | | | Pews | |
| Jervis | Pews | | | Pews | |
| | Pews | | | Pews | |
| | | | | | |
| Kitchen | | | | | |
| | | Door | | | |

Children are allowed to wear Christmas jumpers with their uniform on the last two days of school - for the Church service and for their trip to Red Carpet Cinema to see Paddington 2.

For the first time this year, we are trialling going straight home from the church. Please, could we ask if your child is having sandwiches on that day that they bring disposable lunch containers which can be thrown away and that the children do not bring any other bags or equipment to save us having to carry anything up to the church? Please just wear Christmas jumper, normal uniform and a warm coat.

Christmas Jumpers – some jumpers have been donated to Friends of TRJS and are for sale at £3 each. They are available to purchase from the school office. Please bring the correct change as there is no float for them.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Boy's reindeer jumper is TU age 12 years. | Girl's Santa's coat jumper is F&F age 8-9 years. | Girl's Santa's nice list is George age 7-8 years and is brand new with tags. | Girl's Red robin is Matalan age 6-7 years. |

2018 Calendars are also now available on ParentPay - they cost £6 for one, £10 for two, £15 for three and we are expecting them to be delivered to school next week, circulating them as soon as possible.

Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Raised bed

Thank you to Mrs Pick and Mrs England who worked like Trojans to clear and tidy the raised bed which the children would like to reinstate for vegetable growing. Thanks also to Miss Tipper for her kind donation of top soil. We could now do with a parent or two with a bit of building expertise and a power drill to help us to reposition and reinforce the sleepers before we refill the bed and begin planting. If you know of anyone willing to help or would like to nominate someone as a punishment (☺) we'd really appreciate it!

Helping Hands - Thursday 25th January - 10:00 - 11:00



Why not come along to our next Helping Hands Coffee Morning? Find out about how we are using 'Lego Talk' in school to help build children's skills in communication and sharing.

A practical session run by Mrs Jones (SENCO), Mrs Kerr-Delworth (Lead for Vulnerable Children) and Mrs King (Teaching Assistant).

Learn about how the children work with Lego to improve their communication skills, develop confidence and to support their learning. Please drop us a line to questions@thomasrussell if you would like to attend, or speak to any member of staff.

Question: Does the environment affect foot flexibility?



On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December, children in Years 5 and 6 took part the second BBC Terrific Scientific Activity of 2017, which focused on the National Curriculum unit of work: Evolution and Inheritance. The main objective was for the children to calculate how flexible their feet are and investigate if their environment has had an effect on this.

We know that our feet help us to balance, run and walk and they can be flexible or inflexible. The shape and structure of human feet are an adaptation to walking upright on two legs, but scientists think that changes to their flexibility are caused by the environment we live in.

Scientists from the University of Kent want to investigate how the environment affects foot flexibility. Their theory is that children who spend more time playing on even surfaces will have less flexible feet than children who spend time playing on uneven surfaces. The results gathered by the children at TRJS (and across the UK) during this Terrific Scientific Activity will help to give a much better idea as to whether this hypothesis is true.



To help the scientists, children in Years 5 and 6 took turns to carefully measure each other's feet, and using these measurements, they then calculated their foot flexibility.

All of the children worked hard, and it was great to see children from both year groups working collaboratively and with lots of enthusiasm. Each class's results have now been sent to The University of Kent, so that they can use them in their scientific study.



We wait to find out if their hypothesis is true...

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe