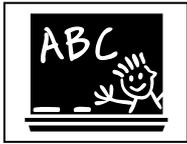


# Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 14

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

12<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### League Tables

League tables showing the performance of 11-year-olds at primary schools across the country were published yesterday by the Department for Education. Pupils take SATs tests to assess Reading, Writing and Maths. Children are expected to reach a Level 4 in all areas; those reaching L5 are exceeding expectation. You will find the league table below for our 10 closest schools:

School	No of eligible pupils	% achieving L4 in R, W & M	% achieving L5 in R, W and M	Average Point Score
Thomas Russell Junior School - Barton	65	92 (1)	37 (1)	30.5 (1)
St Peter's Primary - Yoxall	14	86 (2)	21	30.0 (2)
All Saints C of E Primary - Alrewas	55	85 (3)	36 (2)	29.6 (3)
St Stephen's Primary - Fradley	21	81	29	29.6 (3)
Rykneld Primary School	68	78	34 (3)	29.2
Coton in the Elms C of E Primary	12	75	17	28.3
All Saints C of E Primary - Rangemore	12	75	25	28.4
Rosliston C of E Primary	8	75	13	27.8
Walton C of E Primary	10	70	30	28.8
Mary Howard C of E Primary - Edingale	7	57	29	27.6

Governors and Senior Leaders at the school are really pleased with these results. They ensure that not only are children well set up to achieve at secondary school, but with the high proportion of children already at L5, we know they will thrive. Ofsted were keen for us to 'Do more to convince all parents that this is a rapidly improving school that is going to help their children to do well and stay happy, fulfilled and safe.' We are sure achievements such as those published in the league tables help to reassure parents.

### Staffing Update

On Tuesday this week, we held successful interviews for a replacement to teach Mr Rudge's class. We will welcome Miss Charlotte Marston to teach 4R in January; the class will become 4M. The Y4 children and School Council enjoyed supporting with interviews and, as always, proved insightful and perceptive. Over the last couple of weeks Mrs Stacey Sanders has also visited Y6 to get to know the children in her new class and pick up the new routines. She will start in January when 6P will become 6S. Please feel free to pop onto the playground at the end of the day and introduce yourselves to them - they will be keen to get to know parents as quickly as possible, and I am confident you will give them a warm welcome. Unfortunately for personal reasons Mr Kiley has decided to take a break from teaching. Since October Mrs Vardy has been teaching 3G whilst Mrs Gahagan is taking management release and we now envisage this becoming a permanent arrangement for the remainder of the year.

I am sure you will join us all in wishing Miss Press and Mr Rudge every success as they embark on their new adventures and we look forward to hearing how they have settled into their new jobs. We know they will both be missed by their classes and around school - goodbye and good luck to you both ☺

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

### Residential visit deposits

Please remember deposits for the Y4, 5 & 6 residential trips are due by 17<sup>th</sup> December. For those who do not have access to the internet we can produce a bar coded letter so you can use a pay point station at any local shop.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual Scholastic book fair has arrived today. Once again we are extremely fortunate to have 100% commission so for each book you buy we get the same value to spend on books in school. This year we are aiming to update some of the reading scheme books and class libraries. On Monday or Tuesday, during school time, your child will have the opportunity to look at the books for sale. After the carol service on Wednesday please join us at school for hot chocolate, mince pies and the opportunity to purchase those last minute Christmas presents or selected books. There will also be posters and stationery items on sale. On Thursday morning the book fair will be open to allow children to purchase their books. This year each person buying will also be entered into a prize draw. The prizes are book tokens to be spent in the book fair; 2 winning prizes of £10 and a runner up prize of £5. Winners will be drawn after selling on Thursday morning to allow children to choose their books and announced in next week's newsletter.

### Class Fundraising

Please can parents collect any remaining mug orders from the office as soon as possible?

Unfortunately tea towels are still to be delivered. We will send them out as soon as they arrive.

### Extra-curricular Clubs

The only clubs running next week are

#### **Dodgeball and Multi-skills.**

There will be no clubs the first week back with the exception of Choir on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January, as we are preparing for Young Voices at the LG Arena on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

We will circulate the new clubs information with the Newsletter on the first Friday back.

### Christmas Carol Service

We will be walking up to St James' Church on Tuesday to rehearse for the Carol Service and again on Wednesday for the service. Please ensure that children have warm coats and sensible shoes on both days. This year we have been rehearsing and are performing in House groups. The children are invited to wear tinsel (in house colours) to decorate their uniform / hair accessories.

### Red Carpet Cinema Visit



Thank you to the four parents who have offered to help walk groups over to the cinema, if anyone else is available, it would be really helpful.

Don't forget children can wear Christmas jumpers on that day instead of uniform jumpers. Again, they will need a warm coat and sensible shoes for the walk.

### Diary Dates

Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2:00	Carol Service at St. James' Church
	After church	Friends Mince Pies, Cakes and Hot Chocolate back at school
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	am	Red Carpet Cinema Visit – Christmas treat from the Friends ☺ Wear your Christmas jumper!
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3:30	Break up for Christmas
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	8:50	Back to School
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar		Y5 Chasewater Residential
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> May		Y4 Whitemoor Lakes Residential
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> July – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July		Y6 PGL Residential

Further information about specific events will follow closer to the time.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe