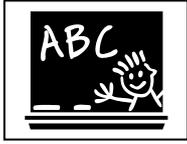


# Thomas Russell Junior School

'Pupil's welfare and well-being are at the heart of the school's work' Ofsted March 2018.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

# WELCOME

We are really pleased to welcome all of our new children, families and staff to Thomas Russell Junior School.

Each week you will receive a Newsletter which will help to keep you updated with what has happened and what is

planned. Newsletters form a vital part of communication between home and school. From next week the Newsletter will only be e-mailed. It can also be downloaded from our website or a paper copy can be requested from the School Office.

Firstly, I must start with huge congratulations to our new joiners. We have welcomed 62 children into Y3 and a couple into other year groups as well. The children have excelled themselves – they have taken on so much information, so many new rules and routines, got to know new faces, coped with a variety of changes and not only have they stepped up to our high expectations, they have done so with a smile. An absolutely brilliant first week!



### House and Vice-Captains

Our House and Vice-Captain elections are held on the first day back to school and competition is always tough for these prestigious roles. We expect these children nominated to set the highest standards of behaviour throughout the year, to represent the school and support pupils in their House to excel.

	Captains		Vice-Captains	
<b>Anson</b>	Mica C	Cameron W	Sam Y	Molly E
<b>Bassett</b>	Thomas K	Bonnie D	Imogen W	Edison G
<b>Clinton</b>	Ted B	Charlotte T	Georgia W	George K
<b>Jervis</b>	Holly H	Johnny T	George R	Laney S

Congratulations to the children nominated, we look forward to seeing your positive impact in these roles and seeing you as role models in class and around school. Responsibilities of House and Vice Captains include setting up and running some aspects of Merit Assembly, collecting trophies, organising sports events and assemblies for their houses and representing the school at events such as the Remembrance Parade.

**Open playground** - Please remember that you are welcome and encouraged to come onto the playground to collect your children at the end of the day.

**It is really important that children are collected from the playground until parents are confident their child has the maturity and safety awareness to allow them to leave school unaccompanied.**

By coming onto the playground you can make the most of the informal opportunity to see your child's class teacher if you have anything to ask or just to chat about how your children are settling in to their new class.

Younger siblings are most welcome onto the playground and may use the trim trail and adventure playground should they wish. Please ensure that they are closely supervised at all times. We would request scooters or bikes are left in the scooter park by the gate to avoid collisions on the footpath.



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It is marvellous to see the range of outstanding work that our children produce at Thomas Russell Junior School. After a long summer holiday, there is always a concern children may have forgotten the things they were taught. Here is a fine example of someone who has just moved into Y5 and certainly not forgotten a thing from Y4.

L.O. To write a recount about our first day back at school.

Monday night; the night before school. The fact was whizzing around my head, reminding me constantly. I tried to sing, but my voice cracked and shuddered. My sleep was scarce, along with my courage. With knees of jelly, I finally dozed off.

The next morning, disaster struck before I had even woken up! I awoke to find my head dangling over the edge of my bed! I must admit, my reaction was over the top. It would seem as if a hungry lion was snapping at me. SNAP! SNAP! Quickly, I jerked my head up, clambered out of bed and was ready in less than 1hr - despite my brain being as sluggish as a sloth's!

The journey was a long haul (even compared to the long car trips and high temperatures!) yet that made the arrival more satisfying. I gloomily walked around the playground for 5-10 mins, but smiles were all that was left by assembly.

He wanted to remain anonymous! I thought his piece summed up perfectly the feelings that many would have experienced on their first day back at school (and work!), but in such an eloquent way.



Parents, we understand there are lots of new routines for you too, so please don't be afraid to ask questions at any time - there are no silly questions. If you think of a question, even if it's in the middle of the night, e-mail it in to [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) and we will do our best to answer.

### Individual Photographs

A couple of years ago, we moved our individual photographs to earlier in the year following a number of requests from parents who like to give these as Christmas presents and it proved a great success. These will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September. All children and sibling groups will be taken in school throughout the morning. For those with siblings who do not attend TRJS who would like a group photo, you are invited to attend from 8:30am.



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### Getting organised!

One of the hardest things about the new school year can be getting organised and ensuring children have the right equipment, on the right days, in the right bag! Below is a timetable which we hope will be helpful to parents **and children** to be clear about what is required in school on which day for each of the classes.

	Swimming	Indoor PE	Outdoor Sports	Clarinet
3M	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	
3D	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	
4V	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	
4P	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	
5C	Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
5K	Thursday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
6P	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	
6M	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	

**Swimming kit** – swim suit or trunks, towel & hat in a waterproof bag. Brought in weekly.

**Indoor PE kit** – house colour t-shirt, black shorts & black pumps. Indoor PE kits are left in school.

**Outdoor Sports kit** – house colour t-shirt or school sports top, plain tracksuit & trainers. Outdoor kits can be brought in weekly or left in lockers if children have spare trainers.

**Please ensure all kit is clearly labelled.**

We like our children to look smart and appropriately dressed for their sports, so please save fashion wear for evenings and weekends. All jewellery must be removed every lesson, including watches. Those children with pierced ears will be expected to remove their own earrings. The school cannot accept responsibility for any items of jewellery brought into school.

You should also find a copy of your child's weekly timetable inside their Reading Record.

### Swimming



We are starting our swimming lessons on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September and once again are putting out a request for parents to act as 'Eyes'. The role of 'Eyes' is a simple yet vital one of keeping watch over the children whilst in the water. If you are able to offer an hour (or more) of your time each week, please email the school via '[questions@](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)' indicating which session or sessions below that you could help. We would not be able to offer swimming lessons without the continued and valuable support of parents, so **thank you in advance.**

Monday 1:15 – 2:20	Monday 2:15 – 3:20	Tuesday 1:15 – 2:20	Tuesday 2:15 – 3:20	Wednesday 1:15 – 2:20	Wednesday 2:15 – 3:20	Thursday 1:15 – 2:20	Thursday 2:15 – 3:20
3D	3M	4V	4P	6P	6M	5K	5C

Parent Helper request – Y3 would appreciate some help on a Friday morning from 9-11am if there are any parents with some free time able to support with reading, times tables and a bit of spelling?

### Where in the world...?

Just before the summer holiday we launched our project called 'Where in the world...?' to help children's understanding and appreciation of the amazing world they live in. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed by sending in postcards, leaflets and photographs of the wonderful places they have visited this summer. We look forward to displaying these in classrooms and hearing all about the children's adventures.

We will be continuing to drive forward addressing Ofsted's development point around the children's enjoyment and understanding in Geography this term with:

### Around the World in 80 Minutes!

House activity days where children will learn about different countries and hopefully have some fun experiencing different food, clothes, games and other interesting facts about a range of places..

### Christmas around the World

This will be the theme of our Christmas concert - we will let you know the date, time and location of this once it is confirmed.

Miss Marston will be holding **Football Team Trials** on Tuesday lunchtime next week. Those children (**Boys and Girls in Y5 or 6**) wishing to represent the school at football matches this year are required to attend. They should bring football kit, boots and shin pads to wear for the trial session. Following the trials, teams will be selected for each of the fixtures we have arranged for this half term.

Please be aware that it is our intention to field a competitive team at each of our fixtures and whilst we will endeavour to offer every child an opportunity to represent the school should they wish, we do not guarantee every child will play an equal number of matches or for an equal amount of time during the matches they are selected for. This decision is necessary to ensure our continuing success in league, tournament and cup fixtures and equally importantly, to ensure the safety of our children whilst playing against some highly competitive teams.

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### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular clubs are designed to give children access to something 'extra' that they might enjoy - they are designed to spark an interest in something new, to help them discover a new hobby or passion and to develop self-confidence mixing with a wider friendship group of children with similar interests.

If you need childcare, please do not hesitate to book into Early Birds and Night Owls who offer an amazing 'home from home' experience every day from 8:00am to 5:45pm.

I must extend a huge thank you to staff and parents who are willing to give so freely of their time to provide such great extra-curricular clubs for the children. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or telephone call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Dates running	Cost
Monday	Golf	Miss Murfin & East Midland's Golf Academy	3:30 - 4:30	All Years	17/9 24/9 1/10 8/10 plus 13/10 at Morley Hayes	£20
Monday	High Intensity Interval Training (Hiit)	Mrs Vardy	3:30 - <del>4:15</del>	All Years	5/11 12/11 26/11 3/12 17/12	
Monday	Traditional Board Games	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	All Years	5/11 12/11 19/11 26/11 3/12 10/12	
Tuesday	Fun & Games LS	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:45 - 1:10	Lower School 4V, 4P, 3D, 3M	weekly from 11/9	
Tuesday	Yoga 1	Yogabugs	3:30 - 4:30	All Years	18/9 25/9 2/10 9/10 16/10	£10
Tuesday	Yoga 2	Yogabugs	3:30 - 4:30	All Years	6/11 13/11 20/11 27/11 4/12	£10
Wednesday	Fun & Games US	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:45 - 1:10	Upper School 6M, 6P, 5K, 5C	weekly from 12/9	
Wednesday	Netball Club	Mrs David	3:30 - 4:30	Upper School 6M, 6P, 5K, 5C	12/9 19/9 26/9 3/10 10/10 17/10	
Thursday	Gardening Club	Mrs Pick	Lunchtime	All Years	13/9 20/9 27/9 4/10 11/10	
Thursday	Aerobics US	Miss Press	3:30 - 4:30	Upper School 6M, 6P, 5K, 5C	13/9 20/9 27/9 4/10 11/10	
Thursday	Aerobics LS	Miss Press	3:30 - 4:30	Lower School 4V, 4P, 3D, 3M	8/11 15/11 22/11 29/11 6/12	
Friday	Choir	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All Years	14/9 21/9 28/9 5/10 12/10 19/10 9/11 16/11 23/11 30/11 7/12	

Our extra-curricular clubs are always exceptionally popular and places are given on a first come first served basis. Previously we found some children were managing to get booked on to 4 or 5 clubs and doing something every single night, whereas others were missing out. In an attempt to create a fairer system, you will only be able to book TWO clubs this weekend. On Monday we will open up any additional availability to all children. We know parents support this decision and appreciate this attempt to create a fairer system for all.

#### Electronic Booking for Clubs

- 1) Log on to [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk)
- 2) Enter code: **37uf3**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first AND surname.
- 4) Choose child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
- 5) Receive instant e-mail confirmation of booking.



Soccer Stars are in school on Tuesday and Friday after school all year. You can sign up to their clubs via [www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk](http://www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk) Friday night will be Football all year. On Tuesdays we have a variety activities: Aut 1 - Tag Rugby, Aut 2 - Music and Fitness, Sp 1 - Tennis, Sp 2 - Athletics, Sum 1 - Dodgeball, Sum 2 - Handball.

And finally...the newsletter is not always this long, so well done if you read right to the end! ☺ We do try to keep to one page where possible but on some occasions we have lots of important information to share and we know parents find it more useful to have it all in one place rather than lots of shorter letters.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*