

Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted 2019.



Newsletter



Issue No. 25

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

5th April 2019

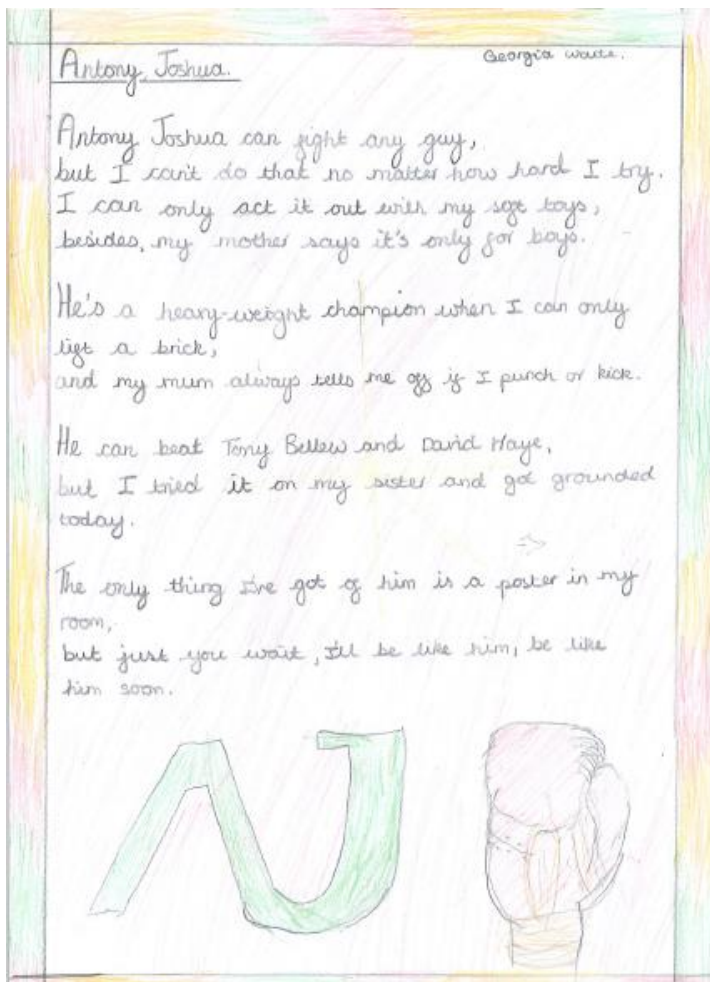
School Dinners

Thank you to those people who took the time to respond to our quick survey about sandwich bags. I can confirm that the overwhelming majority agreed with our thoughts that if parents are paying for a school dinner; they would like their child to eat a hot meal. We will therefore not be offering sandwich bags.



Poetry Workshop

On Monday 25th March, pupils from Years 5 & 6 attended a poetry workshop at Barton Library, with **Contra** - Estonia's answer to Michael Rosen!



The children enjoyed listening to Contra (aka Margus Konnula) read a selection of his school themed poems (in Estonian and English), then put their own poetry writing skills to the test, by inventing a new version of one of his favourite poems entitled 'Kristjan Palusalu' (where he compares himself to this famous Estonian wrestler). Take a look at some of the inspired poems Y6 came up with!

Contra is a laureate of the Oskar Luts Prize for Humour and the Bernard Kangro Award for Literature; in 2015 he was awarded the Estonian Cultural Endowment's Award for Children and Youth Literature. The English translation of his new children's book **"Everyone's the Smartest"** is available to buy now.



Places are still available for next half term's after school golf club, run by PGA Professional, Aaron Holtom, of East Midlands Golf Academy. The club will take place on Wednesdays from 3.35-4.35pm for 4 weeks, plus an optional session at Morley Hayes driving range (near Derby) on Sunday 26th May. The cost is £20, payable by either cheque or cash in advance. We do need a minimum of 8 children for the club to run.

Singing Playgrounds

On **Tuesday 2nd April** we were delighted to welcome vocal coaches from Ex Cathedra as part of our 'Singing Playgrounds' day. The children had a wonderful assembly and then class workshops throughout the day learning a whole host of songs and games that can be played on the playground.

The day culminated with a parent and child workshop, which the vocal coaches said was the best attended parent workshop they had run! Children in Y4&5 had the opportunity to sign up to become Playground Leaders, and they had an extra workshop with lunchtime supervisors, learning new rhymes and dances as well as developing their leadership skills. The vocal coaches were full of praise for our children and school; commenting on the exceptional behaviour, engagement and enthusiasm - they felt this was a reflection of staff enthusiasm and said how refreshing it was to be a part of a singing school. Choir even gave them a little performance of a few songs they are working on for Lichfield Garrick and they were suitably impressed.

Art Exhibition & Reading Café

On Wednesday 3rd April, we set off to Barton Library with a group of **very** excited children, keen to prepare for their **Art Exhibition**. The 3D models of their 'Heroes', which they have created at Art Club this term, were absolutely stunning, so creative and very well made. Again, thank you to Amy Harvey and Caroline Lear for their hard work running the club.

Miss Murfin also hosted a **Reading Café** for children of all year groups and their families, giving some pointer and prompts about how to further support children's learning at home and developing language choices.

It was wonderful to see the library so packed with children enjoying a range of activities and the chocolate shortbread made it even better. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it a great success.

NSPCC 'Staying Safe Online' Parents Workshop

On **Tuesday 7th May at 4pm** we are hosting an hour-long workshop delivered by NSPCC in partnership with O2 to help parents and carers learn about how to keep their family safe online. In an ever-changing and fast-moving online world, it can be difficult to know how best to keep our children safe. The session will cover up-to-date information and support, such as the importance of parental controls, and managing how long your child spends online. It will build on some of the things children learnt in their 'Speak out, Stay safe' workshops at the beginning of February and 'Share Aware' assemblies back in October.

For more information on how NSPCC work with schools, go to: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/our-services/working-with-schools/>.

The workshop is only suitable for parents, so we are offering to supervise your children while you are at the workshop (we shall watch a film), including any younger siblings of school age that can safely and appropriately be looked after by their older sibling.

If you would like to book a place - please do so at www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using code: **66ubg**
For parents coming without children, please just write 'No' in the child's name box.



Denstone Primary Maths Competition

Last week, two teams of keen mathematicians from Y4 & 5 headed to Denstone College to take part in Denstone's first ever Primary Maths Competition. Daniel, Ben, Ethan, Bill, Chloe, Jessica, Issy and Elisa were all excited, if a little nervous, about the visit.

As the bus arrived, the children were in awe of the impressive buildings and the school's resemblance to Hogwarts! We made our way inside and waited in reception. Five more teams joined us from three different schools: Fulford Primary, Denstone Prep School and Edenhurst Prep school.

After an enjoyable lunch in the main hall, we headed off to the maths block where the children enjoyed an hour of quick-fire maths questions and team games as a warm up to the main event. The competition itself involved a range of different challenges including structural design, team problem solving relays and Countdown-style mental calculations.

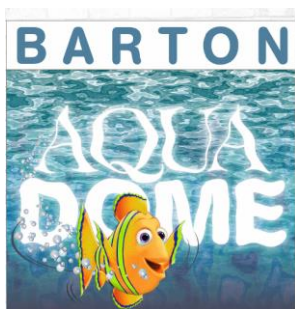
As the afternoon drew to a close, all seven teams made their way to the library to hear the results of their efforts. We were confident our teams had done well but knew there could only be one winner. Had they done enough?

The envelope was opened and, to our delight, 'The Pi Eaters!' (Daniel, Ben, Issy and Chloe) were announced as the winners. All the children were rewarded with goodie bags and the school won £200 in Amazon vouchers.



We had a super afternoon and were made to feel very welcome at Denstone. In addition to their maths abilities, our children were complimented on how well they listened to each other and discussed their thoughts and ideas. Throughout the afternoon, the behaviour of all our children was exemplary and I felt very proud to accompany them. We can't wait for the chance to do it all again next year! Mrs Preston (Maths Leader)

Headlice – just to let you know we have been told about a case of headlice in school, so please could we ask parents to remain vigilant, checking and treating their child's hair if necessary.



During the Easter Holiday, Barton Aquadome will be open for public swimming sessions from Monday 15th April to Thursday 18th April. Why not gather a little group of friends and come along for some fun. See poster attached to the Newsletter for more detail.

And finally... fancy a little bit of Cricket this summer - why not check out the information attached from Dunstall Cricket Club?

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe