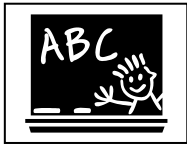


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 36

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

3rd July 2015



Duathlon

Don't forget we are holding our first Duathlon on Tuesday 7th July.

Gates open at 4:30. Duathlon commences at 5:00. Please do come along and support even if you are not taking part.

Lots of staff and governors will be there marshalling the event or running various stalls: face painting, tombola, raffle, refreshments, sweets, burgers and hot dogs, penalty shoot-out. If you do find yourself with time on your hands and would be happy to man a stall for 20-30 minutes while someone takes a quick break, just offer and I'm sure your help will be much appreciated.

The School Council will be running a Teddy Tombola, so if you have any new or nearly new teddies we would be grateful for your donations, or if baking is more your thing, then any cakes for the cake stall would also be most welcome.

We are looking forward to a successful event to celebrate the end of another great year at Thomas Russell Junior!

Maasai Visit

On Wednesday 8th July we will be welcoming some visitors to the school from a Maasai tribe. Their visit will begin with a 30 minute assembly, including a slide show, singing, dancing (jumping) and a little audience participation.

Following this we will have 4 x 30m workshops in year groups where children will learn a little more, participate in some dancing, have chance to look at artefacts – spears, swords, beaded jewellery etc.

The group are not asking for handouts or charity, but would like the opportunity to buy items which

are very expensive and difficult to get hold of back in Kenya. If any pupils / parents know anyone who may be thinking of selling any old cameras, phones, laptops, tablets etc. that they would be willing to give the Maasai the opportunity to buy them before they sell them elsewhere, I know they would appreciate that. If you have any of these items, please either let us know via [questions@](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) or pop into school with them.

Alternatively you can support their trip and find out more by attending the event at JTHS on Wednesday evening:



Meet The Maasai

Dance, Song and Story Telling



Venue: John Taylor High School

Date: Wednesday 8th July 2015

Time: 7.00 —9.00 pm

Cost: Tickets on the door

Adults - £1.50

Concessions - £1

Refreshments on sale

All proceeds will help support the work of the Oloip Dance Troop and World Challenge Student of JTHS

'Our aim is to help raise funds for various Maasai communities to lift them out of poverty, to improve access to education, and to preserve our culture and traditions.'



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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please check the following table carefully so children know when their club finishes.

At TRJS, we are very lucky that so many of our staff invest time and effort to run these extra-curricular activities so I know you will join me in passing on thanks and appreciation to the staff involved.

		w/c 6/7	w/c 13/7
Rounders	Monday	Y	Y
Athletics	Tuesday	Y	Y
Science Club	Tuesday		
Writing Club	Tuesday		
ECO Warriors	Wednesday	Y	
Tennis	Wednesday	Y	
Construction	Wednesday	Y	
Cricket	Thursday	Y	
iPad Club	Friday		
Soccer Stars	Friday	Y	
Ski Club	Friday	Y	

Academic Reports to Parents

You may be aware we intend to publish our Summer Term Reports to Parents on Friday 10th July. Within the information you will also receive a letter informing you of which class your child will be moving in to for the next academic year.

We will be holding our Move Up Morning on Monday 13th July so that teachers and new classes can begin getting to know each other. Following a request through Parent Forum, which we trialled last year, we will be sending home a class list after Move Up Morning, so you will know who else is in your child's class.

Children's Books

A couple of years ago, in partnership with the Infant School, we trialled a new approach where children continued working in their literacy and numeracy books after they moved up to Junior School. This proved very effective and helped us to secure better than expected rates of progress in Year 3. It also highlighted potential for a similar approach which could be shared with classes throughout our school. For the last academic year, all children's Literacy and Numeracy books were passed up to the new teachers and children continued to work in them. Not only did these provide a useful reminder of standards of written work achieved to prevent slippage over the

summer holiday, but also they proved an aide memoire for children of their learning, for example in mathematical concepts. We believe this system is really valuable and will be continuing it again this year. Parents should therefore expect to receive less books home at the end of the academic year. We will ensure retained books are kept safe and they will be sent home once they are no longer in use.



Sun Safety

What a heatwave we have enjoyed/endured (depending upon your personal preference). We have seen some super sensible behaviour from the children this week, the majority of whom have had a water bottle in school (refilled many times), worn a sun hat and chosen one of the many shadier spots of the outdoor play area. Thank you for supporting this by sending pupils properly equipped to manage the day. We do have a large collection of unclaimed/unnamed water bottles if you are missing one. Please pop in to collect.



Women in Engineering Week

TRJS was represented by Lucy S, Hannah C and Holly R from Y6 as female students from across Burton primary

schools got involved in Women in Engineering Week at the JCB Academy. For more information see the Burton Mail website.

Dove Valley Athletics

On Tuesday 30th June, the athletics team comprising of 32 children from TRJS headed to John of Rolleston to take part in the annual Dove Valley Athletics competition. The event is always one of the most competitive and hotly contested of all the Dove Valley sports. Having done so well in the football, cricket and the dodgeball, we were the team to beat. I am over the moon to report that after some brilliant performances from children in all year groups, Thomas Russell Junior School won!! What a fabulous end to the sporting year! Thank you to all the children, staff and parents who supported this event.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*

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