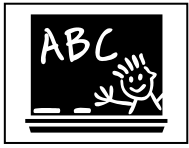


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 19

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

3rd February 2017

Technology Investment



I am pleased to announce that today we have had three more Smartboards installed in school. This brings our total investment up to 9 boards in main classrooms and also the large Smartboard in the hall.

Governors have now directed more than £40,000 of funding into this area and I am really delighted that their commitment to funding technological investment, led by Mr Edwards (ICT Leader), is helping us to stay right at the forefront of educational facilities.

The investment has been supported by the operation of Early Birds and Night Owls and represents Governors' commitment to the reinvestment of profits back into the school to benefit all children.

We are finding the new boards to be far superior in display quality and functionality than our previous ones. Children often found it tricky when they worked at the old ones because of the shadow they cast in front of the projector.



These new touchscreen versions can be operated by pen or by hand and the children have described them as being like a giant iPad. They can also be seen much more clearly without needing to close all of the blinds in the classroom.

As we have come to expect, the children have an innate ability to operate them! Staff are trying their best to keep up and have further training planned to ensure they are used to maximum capacity.



Over February half term we are also having a new curriculum server installed at a cost of £12,000. We hope this will improve the operational capacity of the computers in the ICT suite and classrooms as well as the effective use of our three trolleys of iPads.

I am sure you will agree it is wonderful to be able to offer such marvellous ICT facilities

to the children, whilst still being able to manage an ever decreasing budget to operate our three class model in core subjects with 20 children per group.



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

Parent Forum - We had a great meeting on Wednesday 1st February with a small number of people at our Parent Forum. Minutes will be available shortly on the notice board in reception and on the website. You would be most welcome to come along if you wanted to join us and I can assure you of a very warm welcome. Our next meeting isn't until 14th June, but in the meantime if you do have any questions, queries or comments then please feel free to send them in to questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk, or pop in for a chat - we are always happy to listen.

One key topic of conversation was residential visits and school day trips which we will be asking all parents about in the near future, so please look out for a brightly coloured questionnaire.

World Book Day - We will be marking World Book Day in school with a week of work based around a book. The week (from 27th Feb - 3rd March) will include a range of activities, which Miss Murfin our Literacy leader has planned, a visit to the library and also some visitors in school. We will not be having a non-uniform day.

Science Week - 13th - 17th March. Miss Press has some super activities planned, as well as a visit to the school which we hope is going to stun and impress many children and staff. On Monday 13th March our hall will be transformed into a giant observatory / planetarium which we are incredibly excited about. This is a busy week with the Joseph performance at JTHS from choir children too, so children will take part in a whole school science day on Friday 24th March.

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief falls on Friday 24th March when children are invited to wear a Red Nose if they have purchased one. (Please ensure they are labelled!) They can also opt to wear non-uniform and dress in red if they would like to make a contribution to Comic Relief.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please check the grid below to confirm which dates our clubs are on to avoid confusion.

Week commencing		THIS WEEK 6/2	13/2	Half Term 27/2	6/3	13/3	20/3	27/3	3/4
M	Easter Craft				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Forest Schs				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
T	Gymnastics 1		Y						
	Gymnastics 2			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
W	Art 1	Y	Y						
	Art 2			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Mario Kart 1	Y	Y						
	Mario Kart 2			Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
	Netball				Y	Y	Y		Y
	Tennis				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Th	Football			Y	Y		Y	Y	
	Science	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
F	Choir	Y		Y	Y				

Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe



February Half Term Session – FA National Football Centre

The FA Skills Team is delivering a holiday session for children during the upcoming half term break.

DETAILS:

Date: Friday February 24th 2017

Venue: St. George's Park, Sir Alf Ramsey Way, Newborough Road, Needwood, Burton upon Trent, DE13 9PD

Time: 10.00am-2.00pm (7-11 year olds)

Cost: £10 (payable on arrival / sign in)

To book a space for your child, please enter your postcode on our FA Skills webpage – www.thefa.com/skills. Alternatively you can click/type the following link to be taken directly to the page – <http://faskills.thefa.com/SkillCentres/Staffordshire/StGeorgesPark>

Children wanting to take part **MUST** book online beforehand, if you require further details or assistance please contact Brent Freeman via email - Brent.Freeman@thefa.com