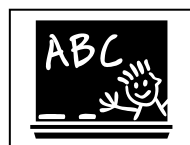


# Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 20

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017



### Early Birds and Night Owls booking

Booking is now open for Spring 2

Please log in to [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk)

Early Birds code: yyzp5

Night Owls code: w3q76

Early Birds costs £3 per session from 8:00 - 8:45.

Night Owls costs £8 per session from 3:30 - 5:45.



### Attendance

As parents will know legislation changed a few years ago now, withdrawing entitlement to 10 days leave during term time. From this time, we have worked hard with parents to encourage 100% attendance in school, unless in the case of illness or exceptional circumstances. I wanted to thank all parents who have responded with positivity and understanding to this change. I know recently we have had a large number of children absent with cold and flu symptoms or sickness. Pleasingly I can still confirm that our attendance is better at this point in the year (96.4%) than it was last year (94.9%).

### Extra-Curricular Activities

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

Week commencing		*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							
	Art 2			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Mario Kart 1	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		
F	Choir			Y	Y				

### Safety near the pond!

We are very lucky to have the lovely fishing pond outside of school, however I have been asked to remind parents (and children) that the wooden jetties can become very slippery and children should not be playing or climbing on them.

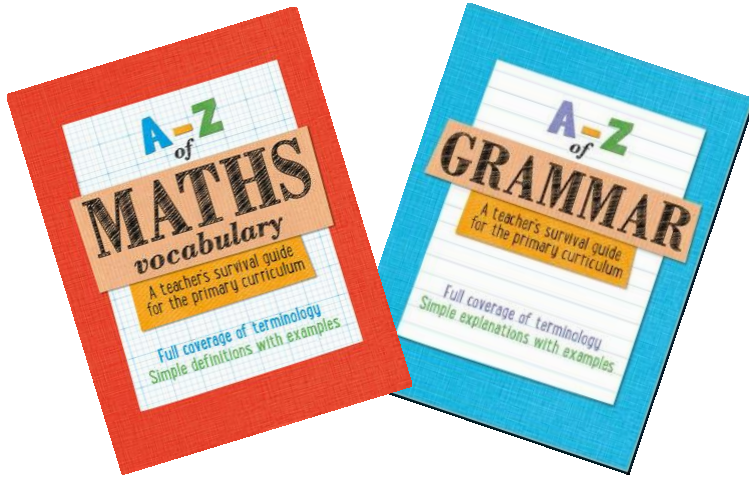


As you know you are most welcome to come in to the school grounds whilst you are waiting to pick up your children.

There is a huge field at the top of the path where younger children can play and run around. You could also walk down on to the playground if you would prefer and children can even make use of the trim trail and climbing frame if closely supervised. We just ask that you keep younger siblings away from the classroom doors and windows whilst lessons are still underway.

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

## A-Z Guides to help at home



Last week at Parent Forum, we had a long conversation about the expectations placed on children educationally and how 'expected' standards are now higher than ever.

There is no shame in admitting that as adults some of us didn't learn the terms and vocabulary that children are using until we were at high school or college (if ever!)

We sold these guides a year or so ago and a couple of members of Parent Forum said how useful they still find them for supporting with homework.

We have managed to source a company who will offer a discount for bulk purchase. The cost will be £4.00 for the A-Z of Maths & £3.20 for the A-Z of Grammar.

If you would like one, or both, please select the item(s) on Parent Pay before 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### Headlice

Sadly we still have headlice in school. Reported cases are currently in Y3. We would urge all parents to check their children's hair thoroughly and treat if required.

Headlice can be painful and uncomfortable for children, causing severe itching. Left untreated it is likely headlice will be passed to other family members and friends, making it very difficult to eradicate from school unless every person infected gets treated.

## Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat

Thomas Russell Junior Choir and students from John Taylor High School are putting on a joint performance of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> & Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Due to the high level of demand for tickets, there will be 3 performances. One at 7pm on each evening and one at 5pm on the Friday evening. The performance lasts just over 1 hour.

This is a superb opportunity and a first for our choir, so I hope the audience and the choir will thoroughly enjoy it. I know the students at John Taylor have already been putting in an incredible amount of hard work in preparation.

Tickets for these performances are now available via our Parent Pay at £6 per adult and £4 concessions. Please note there is an initial limit of 1 ticket per choir family for the 7pm performances and unlimited tickets for the 5pm performances.

Parents and children at TRJS who are not part of the choir are invited come and see the 5pm performance on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis, please book ASAP to avoid disappointment.

### INSET Day

Please remember that the children finish school on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February as Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February is an INSET day. You will see cars in the car park because staff are all in training.

We return to school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*



## Governor's Corner by Elaine Watling

### Homework Expectations

Why does our school set homework and what are its expectations?

Homework is set weekly by your child's teacher. It may be differentiated to suit your child's individual ability and needs, or it may be open ended for children to complete as much (or little) as they are able. It could reflect work that has been covered in class that will be familiar to your child, or it may be revision or practical application of class based learning. We do know however that methods change and it can sometimes be difficult for us as parents to understand the terminology now being used in teaching. The school have sourced two excellent books to help you – information can be found in the Newsletter.

#### The purpose of homework

- To encourage parents to have a direct involvement in their child's learning
- To foster home/school links and encourage communication between teachers and parents
- To encourage children's self-discipline and organisation in preparation for their secondary education.

#### Communication

Staff encourage you to communicate your thoughts with them as this helps them to understand your child better. You might need clarification in a certain area or want to discuss something your child found difficult or particularly easy.

You can do this in any of the following ways:

- The purple homework book
- The reading diary (this has some very useful information in the centre pages)
- By chatting to the class teacher on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day
- By phone
- By email ([questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk))

#### My Maths

My Maths is a computer based program used as a tool for practicing areas of Maths covered in class. It isn't necessary to complete every task set up on the system. There will be tasks set at your child's level and there will be some more difficult or easier tasks which could be used as extra practice or increased challenge if you wished to, but working through every single task is certainly not the aim. Guidance on which to complete will be written in the homework instructions for that week. There is a built-in tutorial along with practice questions on each section. These are very useful if you're unsure, or you need to build up confidence before attempting the real thing.

We would like to assure you that we continually assess the amount of homework set, through marking, taking feedback, parental questionnaires and Parent Forum. We strongly value your options as parents and use your feedback for improvements.

We will shortly be running a **Parent Workshop** (date tbc) which will centre around PHSE (Personal, Health and Social Education) and Children's Wellbeing. We hope to include a session on homework and how to help your child at home, so please join us if you can.

Contact Governors on: [governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)

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## Half Term Kids Fun Camps



**Date:** Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd February

**Time:** 9.30am - 12.00pm

**Venue:** Barton Tennis Club

**Cost:** 1 Day £12 / 2 Days £20

Pre-Pay online to book a place  
<http://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/zoeedwardscoaching>

Or please, get in touch to book

[Email:zedwards837@gmail.com](mailto:zedwards837@gmail.com)  
[Tel:07971898645](tel:07971898645)

Equipment is provided free of charge and please bring a water bottle and snack and suitable clothing for all weathers

Zoe Edwards

## Girls Dance Holiday Camp



**What:** A fun filled day of Dance, learning new routines and moves, followed by a group performance. Age 5+

**When:** 20th February 2017  
9.00am-3.00pm

**Where:** Queen Street Community Centre,  
Burton on Trent DE14 3LW

**£10 for the day**

**Early Bird discount £8 when booked before 30th January**

To book your place please contact 01283 440041  
or  
[Sophie.cardon@burtonalbionct.org](mailto:Sophie.cardon@burtonalbionct.org)





### BURTON ALBION COMMUNITY TRUST HOLIDAY COURSES

**MEET  
BURTON  
ALBION FC  
PLAYERS**



- Competitions
- Prizes
- Billy & Bettie Brewer

Mixed and Girls Only Camps

**February Half Term**  
**Monday 20th -**  
**Friday 24th February**  
**£50 for 5 days**  
**£12 per day in advance**  
**£14 on the day**

*Please provide the following:*  
Packed Lunch / Drinks / Shin pads /  
Moulded Boots / Trainers and any  
medication

Mixed and Girls Only Camps

**Venue:** Burton Albion  
Community Football Centre  
DE13 0AR  
**Time:** 8:30am-3:30pm  
**Ages:** 5-12  
**Abilities:** All

*The days will include the following:*  
Skill development sessions / Small Sided  
Games / Challenges / Tournaments

To book go to [BurtonAlbionCommunityTrust.co.uk](http://BurtonAlbionCommunityTrust.co.uk) | 01283 565938 | Charity Number 1142920



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