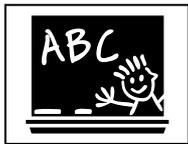


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 28

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

28th April 2017

Welcome Back! It was lovely to see everyone return to school safe and sound after the Easter Holiday. Although there were some very sleepy looking faces, clearly it had been a good break.

I'm sure many of you have been commenting on how quickly this year is flying by! Summer Term is always a busy one, so please find Diary Dates below which will help you to plan for all of the events.

Diary Dates

Mon 1 st May	Bank Holiday School Closed	
Tues 2 nd May	9:00	Drop off Y4 AT Whitemoor Lakes
Wed 3 rd May	3:00	Pick up Y4 from Whitemoor Lakes
Mon 8 th May – Thurs 11 th May	SATs Week for Y6 children	
Fri 12 th May	Circus Skills – Show for Y4-6	
	Workshop Day for Y6 Y3 - Poole's Cavern Trip	
Wed 17 th May	am	Whole School and Class Photos
	3:45 – 4:30	Friends' Meeting Cake and childcare provided
Thurs 18 th May	9:00	Y5 Maths Masterclass at JTHS
Fri 19 th May	Sports Day Programmes out – this helps parents to plan if they can't stay all day.	
Wed 24 th May	House Maths Day	
	Day in mixed age House Groups completing team investigations and challenges. (Just for the children)	
Thurs 25 th May	9:00	Y6 Maths Masterclass at JTHS
	9:30 – 10:30	Helping Hands Coffee Morning
Fri 26 th May	SPORTS DAY (Parents invited)	
	Gates Open 9:30 Parade – 9:45 Events – 10:00 – 12:00 Afternoon Parade – 1:30 Events – 1:40 – 3:00 Children remain in school until 3:30	
	Break up for Half Term	
Mon 5 th June	8:50	Back to School
Mon 12 th - Fri 16 th June	My Money Week	
Wed 14 th June	9:00 – 10:30	Parent Forum
Tues 20 th June	Friends' Duathlon After school (time tbc)	
Mon 3 rd July & Tues 4 th July	Y6 at JTHS Transition Days	

Tues 4 th July	6:00	Dove Valley Athletics
Wed 5 th July – Fri 7 th July		Y6 to PGL Boreatton Park
Thurs 6 th July	9:00	Y5 Maths Masterclass at JTHS
Tues 11 th July		Reserve Duathlon date
Thurs 13 th July	9:00	Y6 Maths Masterclass at JTHS
	9:30 – 10:30	Helping Hands Coffee Morning
Fri 14 th July	Summer School Reports out	
Mon 17 th July	Move Up Morning in new classes	
Tues 18 th July	4:00 – 5:00	Parent Consultations
Thurs 20 th July	eve	Y6 Leavers' Disco
Fri 21 st July	10:00	Y6 Leavers' Concert
	3:15	Leavers' Parade Break up for Summer NO NIGHT OWLS

British Weather

As you will have seen this week, we can experience four seasons in one day at this time of the year. It would be really helpful if parents can help children ensure they are prepared for all weathers. We will still go out to play in light drizzle, so a thin waterproof at the bottom of a child's bag is really useful.

Please also ensure your child has a sun hat and suncream available as the weather gets hotter. We are really lucky to have such incredible outside space and we like to be able to get out and use it as much as we can in the summer term.

Summer Uniform

Experience has shown us that during the Summer Term, standards of uniform can drop. Please help us to maintain our high standards by checking the list below for suitable attire.

Uniform consists of:

- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or tailored shorts
- Optional school tie (with a formal shirt)
- School sweatshirt or cardigan (available from Pupil Schoolwear – Swadlincote or Clothing 4 Ltd – Burton)
- In the summer term a green gingham or green and white striped summer dress is permissible
- Children should come to school in sensible shoes, preferably black or grey with black, white or grey socks or tights.

We would particularly appreciate parental support on selecting suitable footwear for the Summer – open toe and slip on shoes are not appropriate for children running around and climbing on the adventure playground.

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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please see below the brilliant selection of extra-curricular activities our staff are offering for the Summer Term. We are really grateful to staff for giving so freely of their time to provide such fantastic opportunities. Clubs are booked on a first come first served basis. In the interest of being fair to all, we are offering the chance to book TWO clubs per child this weekend, and then will open up additional availability for further bookings.

Many clubs have limited availability, so book early to avoid disappointment:

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Booking code: **xwnw7**

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Dates running
Monday	Mathsmania / Homework / Handwriting	Mrs Sharpe	12:45 - 1:15	Weekly
Tuesday	Gymnastics 1	Progressive Sports	3:30 - 4:30	2/5, 9/5, 16/5, 23/5
Tuesday	Gymnastics 2	Progressive Sports	3:30 - 4:30	6/6, 13/6, 27/6, 4/7, 11/7
Wednesday	Knitting	Mrs Gahagan & Mrs Preston	12:45 - 1:15	Weekly
Wednesday	Art	Mrs Sanders	3:30 - 4:30	10/5, 17/5, 24/5, 7/6, 14/6, 21/6
Wednesday	Coding / Computer Programming	Mr Edwards	3:30 - 4:30	3/5, 10/5, 17/5, 24/5, 7/6, 14/6, 21/6, 28/6
Thursday	Cricket & Rounders	Miss Marston & Miss Press	3:30 - 4:30	18/5, 25/5, 8/6, 15/6, 22/6, 29/6
Friday	Junior Jotters	Miss Murfin	3:30 - 4:30	5/5, 19/5, 9/6, 16/6, 23/6, 30/6, 7/7, 14/7.
Friday	**Skiing and Snowboarding (£30)**	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 5:30	9/6, 16/6, 23/6, 30/6, 7/7

All clubs are open to all children across school. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend EVERY week for the FULL session. We require a written note or telephone call from a parent for all absences.

Organisation of Skiing and Snowboarding Club requires all ability groups to be full. Please book via the system then you will be sent a further form to complete in order that children can be sorted into groups. Only once activity and ability groups are all agreed will the item then be added to Parent Pay.

Origami club

DofE Students

Saturdays 11:15 to 12:00!

For children of ages 8+

Dates:
1st April
22nd April
29th April
6th May

Barton Library Dunstall Road, Burton-On-Trent DE13 8AX

Week 1 - Animals part 1 - easy
Week 2 - Animals part 2 -

Come and join this week!

This is a free club but it is recommended that an adult stays with the child

Lunchtime Awards for the week:

The following children have been noticed by our Lunchtime Supervisors for their behaviour, attitude, manners or helpfulness and have received the Lunchtime Award. This is a lanyard which children can wear for the day and it means they get to go to the front of the line with a friend the following day.

Isobel H, Harrison G, Laura L, Sam G, Freyja M, Henry D, Ella C and Harley M

See you on Tuesday (not Monday!) either at Whitemoor Lakes or in school!

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

Governor's Corner by Jane Budge

Cursive Handwriting

What is cursive handwriting and what are its benefits?

Cursive handwriting is a style of writing in which all the letters in a word are connected or joined up. The National Curriculum requires that all children are taught cursive handwriting from reception age. You will probably have noticed in your own children that, at first, it's all about learning the movement rather than neatness. Children are encouraged to play with writing. For example, they might trace the letters in books with their fingers; they might form letter with their fingers in the air, in sand or in paint. The idea is to encourage the development of their gross and fine motor skills so that they can recognise the patterns and shapes of letters and then make them themselves. This is taught alongside phonics so that children can learn a sound *and* how to write it.

When children come to Thomas Russell Junior School children continue to be taught handwriting and have the opportunity for lots of practice. For quite a while, it can look like an inky spider has run amok on a sheet of paper but, with perseverance, there are *lots* of benefits to being able to write cursively. Here are some of them.

- Lots of children confuse letters like b and d, f and t, q and t. In cursive writing, the letters have different start points which can make them easier to for children to distinguish.
- Writing cursively, children learn to write blocks of letters like sh and th. Over time, children learn the sequences for longer, more complicated words and “muscle memory” means that the process becomes more automatic and spelling improves.
- This same process can be helpful to dyslexic pupils; it a valuable technique for remembering how to write letters in the correct sequence.
- Cursive handwriting should result in clearer, more legible work.
- Cursive handwriting should mean that your child can eventually write more quickly for longer periods because it's a sequence of uninterrupted movements.

At secondary school, your child will no longer be taught handwriting skills. However, the cursive skills that they have learnt at Thomas Russell Junior School should stand them in very good stead as they will be well-practised in producing work that is neat and readable and they should also have the stamina to quickly for longer periods of time – an invaluable skill for the demands of secondary school!