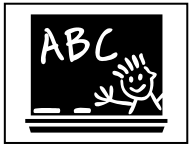


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 31

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

19th May 2017

#ready for transition - team Y5/6

At this time of year, there can be a temptation to think that schools take their foot off the pedal and relax into summer! I can assure parents that this could not be further from the truth - in actual fact this is the time that we continue to step up the pace and expectation to ensure all of our children are fully prepared for the next academic year.

This year we have decided to implement something more creative to meet two objectives:

- Y5 children will know that Mrs Mosedale left at Easter and this has left Y5 in two much larger classes for core subjects.
- For Y6 children, we had feedback in our transition questionnaire that getting organised at John Taylor with books and stationery, moving around classrooms and meeting lots of different teachers and students in a day took some getting used to.

Over the next 5 weeks, children in Y5 and 6 will be spending their maths lessons in mixed Y5/6 groups. Each ability group will be taught by each teacher throughout the 5 weeks. Mrs Kerr-Delworth is leading the team in planning and preparing a range of differentiated lessons and activities.

For Y6 this will provide an opportunity to emulate the experiences ready for September - moving rooms, changing teachers, mixing with different children and giving them a chance to polish their understanding of what it means to make a good 'first impression'.

For Y5 this will enable us to share the expertise and knowledge from Y6 pupils, provide smaller group teaching which has proven so effective and also give children a head start to meet the challenges of Y6.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Today the school is announcing an election for a parent governor. After four years of service to the school Mr Jonathan Cunningham has decided not to seek re-election due to his work commitments. The school thanks him for the work and support he has provided during his tenure. This therefore gives an opportunity for someone else to become more closely involved with the school.

The Governing Body has a responsibility to inform parents of any existing skills or knowledge that we would particularly welcome.

Mr Cunningham's departure creates a need for someone to take the lead governor role for the very important area of **SAFEGUARDING** involving child protection, Looked After Children and the Government's PREVENT strategy. It is anticipated that the new governor would also be a member of the Finance Committee. In addition, all governors are encouraged to take an interest in general school and governance issues.

The Governing Body would therefore particularly welcome the election of someone with prior knowledge or experience of **Safeguarding**. Any background in, or knowledge of, finance/banking or wider school and governance issues would be a bonus.

Please contact Mrs Sharpe if you would like any further information or governors can be contacted directly via governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Best wishes, Terry Wells, Chair of Governing Body

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



You are warmly invited to our *Helping Hands Coffee Morning* on Thursday 25th May at **9:45**. If you want to find out more about *Helping Hands*, pop into the office and pick up some information or have a look on our website.

Sports Day - you should have received your programme for the day with your child's races highlighted. Donations of cakes for the refreshments stall would be gratefully received, as would any help for half an hour manning the stall with various members of the Friends.

We will be sending children home with their PE kits next week so they can come to school dressed ready for Sports Day. (Please ensure your child wears: House colour t-shirt, black shorts and trainers. Tracksuits can be worn over the top. A cap, sun cream, snack and a water bottle is all that the children will need in a named bag.) Given the forecast we have to be aware we may need to make the decision to cancel. We will only cancel if we believe it is going to be too wet or unsafe to run the races. The decision will be made at 2:30 on Thursday 25th May and texted to all parents.

Class photos went really well on Wednesday - thank you to all of those who came to school wearing correct school uniform. The photographer was impressed, as always, with the children's ability to listen to and follow instructions. He complemented us on being one of the best behaved schools he attends - and he says he visits a lot of schools! Keep your eyes open for photograph order forms which will be sent home as soon as possible.



Bookings for Early Birds and Night Owls for Summer 2

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Early Birds event code: **by68s**
Night Owls event code: **xtmtt**



Please remember:

Y6 have Transition visits on 30th June, 3rd July & 4th July, plus PGL Wed 5th July to Fri 7th July. There will **not** be Night Owls on the last day of the Summer Term (21st July).

Skiing and Snowboarding Club – you should have received a letter directly informing you of your child's place and the group they will be in. Please log in to Parent Pay to pay and secure your place by Friday 26th May. Thank you.

We break up on Friday 26th May at 3:30 and return to school on Monday 5th June.

Please note there will not be a Newsletter next week due to Sports Day.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe