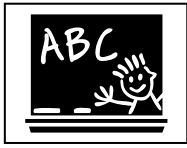


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



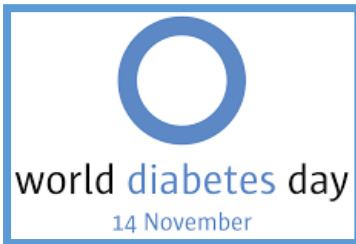
Newsletter



Issue No. 9

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th November 2017



Dress to impress - We have two opportunities next week where we are offering children the chance to wear non-uniform.

On Tuesday 14th November, we will be supporting World Diabetes Day and children can wear a onesie or #goblue - the blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes awareness. Funds raised go towards research, development and promoting global awareness of diabetes.

On Friday 17th November, we will be supporting Children in Need and children can dress in spots or 'Do their thing' wearing a favourite sports kit or costume. Donations will be gratefully received towards making children's lives better across the UK.



Please ensure on both days children are wearing suitable clothes and shoes to be warm enough inside and to play outside in the cold and wet.



Parent Governor

Don't forget the deadline for receiving Governor Nomination Forms, which should be completed and forwarded to Mrs Sharpe, is 9:30am on Monday 13th November.

Paddington 2

The deadline to sign up on Parent Pay to join the Friends on their visit to the Red Carpet Cinema to see Paddington 2 is Monday 13th November.

We are also looking for a number of volunteer helpers, so if you would be willing to help out with walking children to and from the cinema, please drop a line to

friends@trjs.co.uk Thank you.



Spring Cleaning (in November!)

Each year we spend a lot on money on replenishing our reading book supplies. From our main library, class libraries and reading books scheme collections, we lend over 1000 books every month, sometimes more than 2000. This is a wonderful reflection of the children's engagement with reading, but keeping all of these books organised, labelled and correctly stored is a mammoth task. Mrs Slater does an amazing job with our Library, holding a weekly book club for children as well as checking in and out books every day that she is here, sorting, tidying and re-shelving all of the borrowed books.

We'd like to ask if there are some parents who would volunteer to help with the task of 'spring cleaning' our reading book scheme. The job involves checking, re-labelling and repairing books, ensuring they are in the correct book band and cataloguing the books so we know where we have any gaps and can then purchase appropriately. The spring clean will be on Thursday 30th November, in return for an hour or so of your time, we can offer you copious cups of tea and some of Mrs Brammer's lovely flapjack! Please drop a line to questions@trjs.co.uk or let Mrs Sharpe know if you are able help. Thank you.

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

Christmas Cards

The deadline for orders of Christmas Cards is Monday 13th November. Slips should be returned to the office and corresponding payment made on Parent Pay. Thank you for your support of the Friends fundraising.



Parent Forum

We now have eight parents taking part in Parent Forum, but could still do with more. We would like to ensure we have a cross section of opinions and views from parents in all year groups and classes. Please consider if this is something you could give your time to, just three times a year, as we find them an invaluable opportunity to discuss the direction of the school and any changes, developments and ideas.

If you cannot make the meeting, but would like to add an item to the agenda, we will happily discuss any item raised. Please e-mail questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



Keeping up to date with advances in technology can be a full time job. Sometimes there are really positive advances which make the world a better place, however in the hands of children some advances are putting them at risk without them even realising it.

We live in a world now where mobile phones are a part of everyday life and social media is something that some people think they cannot live without. At TRJS we wanted to raise awareness to parents of a new aspect of snapchat called 'Snap Map', which has gained considerable media attention since its launch in June 2017.

Snap Map uses a device's location information to locate users on a virtual map that is visible to other Snapchat users. When first using the Snap Map feature, users are required to choose who can see their location on the map. The options include: My friends, Only me ('Ghost Mode') or Selected friends.

Dependent on the settings chosen, a user's precise location will be visible to their selected audience.

Sadly some children may have acquaintances, or even people they have never met as 'friends' on Snapchat. Consequently, this could mean those people are able to see a child's location on Snap Map.

On Snap Map, each user is represented by a 'bitmoji' (an animated avatar that can be customised). An individual's bitmoji is located on the map at their precise location- including road names on a 'street view' of the buildings and surrounding area. As a user moves, so too does their bitmoji and movements can be seen by other users as they occur in real time.

As parents, we can understand the serious risks this could create not just in terms of staying safe in a practical sense but also the emotional risks in terms of watching groups of friends having fun together, leaving others feeling excluded. We would urge you to ensure you are aware of the apps your child is using and that you have looked at the privacy settings together, understanding potential risks before children are exposed.

For more information visit:



Follow Me



Online Safety

And finally, we will be holding a Bags2School collection on Tuesday 12th December if anyone is having a pre-Christmas sort out at home of clothes, shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, soft toys, belts, curtains, towels, bed sheets – all would be gratefully received.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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