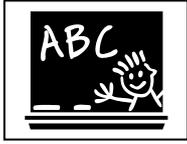


Thomas Russell Junior School

'Pupil's welfare and well-being are at the heart of the school's work' Ofsted March 2018.



Newsletter



Issue No. 37

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

22nd June 2018

Sports Day



Well done to Clinton! Our winners at Sports Day this year! Thank you to our Friends for their fantastic support and the refreshments that kept everyone going all day. The children were fantastic competitors, showing great determination and team spirit throughout the day. Thanks also to all the staff (and some Governors) who put a huge amount of work into preparation and into the day itself to ensure everything ran smoothly. Finally, thank you to our incredible team of Y6 Sports Leaders who did a brilliant job of setting up and tidying away the equipment for every event – the most organised and efficient team we have ever had!

Swimming Gala

On Friday evening, our sporting success continued with Burton Schools' Swimming Gala. A superb event in which sixteen children from across all year groups took part. We were very proud of them all – for some it was their first time representing the school in a sporting event, for some it was their last. Thomas Russell Junior School is becoming 'the school to beat' in swimming competitions and we are rightly proud of those children who competed so outstandingly well to bring home the first place trophy!



Choir performance

On Monday our success continued, with a fantastic performance from the choir at a concert at Burton Town Hall. I was really proud to see a number of Thomas Russell Junior pupils performing in other parts of the concert as members of the string groups or band. Our choir sang four songs exceptionally well, moving many of the audience to tears. The soloist and small groups were amazing. We received loads of positive feedback from everyone at the concert. On Wednesday we also received a letter from the Mayor and Mayoress of East Staffordshire, who had attended the concert, inviting the choir to perform at the Annual Christmas Charity Concert in December, which is a wonderful recognition of the standard of their performance.



Musical Showcase - Thursday 5th July - 2:15 - 3:15

Y3 and Y5 parents are invited to a 'Musical Showcase' to see the children playing the musical instruments that they have been learning this year. Y3 will be demonstrating their keyboard skills and Y5 will be showing off their clarinet playing abilities.



Please book your free place via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

using code **5pwb2**.

Space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

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

e-Safety Awareness 'Internet Legends'

This morning, TRJS pupils learnt the skills to become Internet Legends in the aim of keeping online experiences safe and secure. The five key messages:

1. Sharp - Think Before You Share
2. Alert - Check It's Real
3. Secure - Protect Your Stuff
4. Kind - Respect Each Other
5. Brave - When In Doubt, Discuss



Please talk with your children to find out what they have understood and check out more details at: <https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en-gb>

Social media and computer games

We have noticed a change in a number of children's behaviour and attitudes towards each other within school, primarily this is concentrated in Year 6, but there have been some incidents in younger years.

There has been an increase in levels of aggression and groups of children who we would normally consider to be friends and peers have become rivals. Sadly it appears there is a strong link between the issues we are experiencing in school and activities children are engaging in out of school - these include the playing of a game entitled 'Fortnite' and various social media groups. We would really like the children's last few weeks in school to be enjoyable and rewarding and would appreciate parental support in trying to regain a little balance in relationships.

The NSPCC and O2 are offering parents the following advice, in response to the concerns about Fortnite:

- *Talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen. You can use these [conversation starters](#) to help.*
- *Explore your child's online activities together. Understand why they like using certain apps, games or websites and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.*
- *Agree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games. You can use this [Family Agreement](#) template to help you get started.*
- *Manage your technology and use the privacy and parental control settings available to keep your child safe.*

Anyone looking for further online safety advice can contact the O2 NSPCC online safety helpline on: 0808 800 5002.



Come along to our termly coffee morning on Thursday 5th July 10.00am-11.00am. We use these sessions to chat about any issues you may have about you or your child; to meet up with other parents; and also to learn something new. This session we will be using 0-6 and 0-9 dice to play a variety of maths and English games that you can then play with your child at home.

Please let us know you are coming by emailing: question@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Mrs Su Kerr-Delworth (Vulnerable Children Lead) looks forward to seeing you there!

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Thank you and you and you!!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Da Rosa, one of our lunchtime supervisors, (and her mum!) who have very kindly employed their creating sewing skills to make picnic blankets for the children. Sewn out of donated patchwork fabric and backed in fleece, the blankets provide a lovely comfortable place for children to sit and eat their sandwiches outside as we make the most of the sunshine. Given the forecast heatwave we hope to get plenty of opportunities to make the most of these in the lead up to the summer holiday.



Also thanks to Mrs Pick for giving her time to run a lunchtime gardening session with volunteer children - we look forward to eating some of the produce later in the year.

If you have a skill or interest that you would like to offer to benefit school and the children, don't be shy! It may be as a one-off activity or as a series of visits, working for or with the children. We welcome all new ideas. ☺

And last but not least...

Do remember it is the very popular **Duathlon** next **Tuesday 26th June, 5pm-7.30pm**. Everyone taking part should have received the information they need. Please help us to keep to time by reading and following instructions carefully.

Always an enjoyable event, remember you can pop along to support even if you aren't taking part. There will be food and a raffle with a whole host of prizes including:

- £100 Amazon Gift Card
- Family pass for 4 to Sealife Centre
- Barrett & Coe photography session plus print
- Family pass for 4 at Adventure Farm
- Mug Tug voucher for 2
- Red Carpet cinema voucher for 2
- Toboggan run at Snowdome for 2
- £15 Waterstones gift card
- 6 Chocolate Orange Cupcakes - Bracken Cottage bakery
- Michelle's laundry voucher
- £10 Game gift card
- £10 Next gift card
- Food/treats hamper
- Pimm's set
- Prosecco
- 2 x Cadbury's Box

Let's hope the sunshine stays with us too.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe