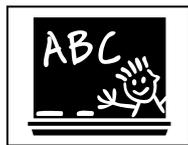


Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 38

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

29th June 2018

Aquathlon

Huge congratulations to all of the children who competed in our Aquathlon this year. For some it was their first ever entry into an event like this, others are seasoned professionals! The sun was absolutely roasting, but despite the heat, we saw some incredible displays of determination, perseverance and team work. There was a Sprint or Olympic length option and children could take part either individually or as a team. Results were announced on the night with certificates, medals and a goody bag for every single competitor.

Results were as follows:

<u>Olympic length</u> 300m swim followed by 1000m run	Individual	1st	Dylan C	10m 42s
		2nd	Will P	11m 59s
	Team	1st	Harrison J and Monty C	8m 13s
		2nd	Ben K and Callum SB	8m 32s
		3rd	Ruby W and Katie P	8m 49s
<u>Sprint length</u> 150m swim followed by 600m run	Individual	1st	Harrison J	5m 16s
		2nd	Lucas J	6m 15s
		3rd	Bella R	6m 45s
	Team	1st	Ruby W and Lottie W	4m 58s
		2nd	Lucas J and Oliver F	5m 35s
		3rd	Dylan C and Oliver M	5m 50s

Thank you to the Friends for their organisation of the bouncy castle and some superb stalls and to Mrs Brammer and Mrs Roach for the delicious food to keep everyone going. Thank you to the staff who braved their posts in baking conditions to cheer the children on and steer them in the right direction. And finally to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Owen for their superb organisation and marshalling of the event.

A marvellous time was had by all!



Forest School

You may have noticed some industrious work going on in the Calm Zone recently. School Council have been working hard to secure funding for a new Sensory Garden which will replace the Calm Zone.

Thanks to funding from the Friends, Dunstall Key Trust and Punch Taverns, we can look forward to a brand new area to complement our already wonderful grounds. Not ones to approve of waste, Forest School have taken on the task, under the watchful eyes of Mrs Jones, of

dismantling the old wooden posts to create furniture for their new Forest School zone elsewhere (more news to follow about that later!).



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ART ENRICHMENT DAY

On Wednesday 27th June, twenty children from Year 5 and 6 went along to John Taylor High School to take part in a day of enrichment art activities. The day developed the children's skills, focusing on the techniques of wax resist painting,



collage, printing and drawing. Throughout the day, the children were fully engaged in all of the activities and were a delight to work with. Each child produced a wonderful piece of art work, which showcased their talent. Thank you to Mrs Forden for hosting such an enjoyable and informative day!



National Writing Day

Miss Murfin (English Lead) organised a fun day of writing activities to celebrate this year's theme which was 'Everyone has a story to tell'. The day began with an assembly with a 'Write Off' challenge between the year groups. We all listened to a Soundscape which lasted about 45 seconds. The volunteers had three minutes to write continuously and show where the sounds had taken their imaginations.

Lucy Y3: I was running through the forest. I couldn't turn my head but I knew what was behind me. In my ear, I could imagine the banging of a drum, the twitter of a bird. I stopped, I saw, I thought.
 James Y4: The haunted house is infested with booby traps and chests with golden wire. But if you create a pin drop, the monster is released on the hunt for meat, dead or alive. If you get out with all the treasure, you'll be hunted every night at midnight...

Hannah Y5: Shipwreck – One mild, dark day a ship (the Royal Mary) sank. It was a storm earlier that night that caused this tale to happen. Everyone on board died and all their possessions were rusting at the bottom of the deep blue sea. Fish and marine life were checking out the area like a dog marking its territory...

Jake Y6: As I walked through the horrific battle field of World War II, I heard the graphic music whistling in and out of my ears. It left a tingling sound in my eardrums which was death defying...

Perhaps you can imagine the Soundscape yourself having read the children's three minute challenge?



We are holding our termly 'Helping Hands' 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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Transition visits

It has been a really busy week in school this week with lots of little visitors here on Wednesday, when our new Y3 children joined us for a swim and a treasure hunt. Our current Y3 children made excellent guides and role models, many of them are excited to be approaching Y4! We have welcomed other new faces too, re-joining us after time away and visiting in preparation for starting in other years at TRJS in September.

Also this week, many of our Y6 children have been out to visit their new High School, most are off to John Taylor, we also have those heading to Denstone and John Taylor Free School. We would like to wish our joiners a very warm welcome and our leavers the very best of luck.

'Y6 Ready' Meeting – Wednesday 4th July at 6pm (Reminder from Newsletter 36)

We would like to invite parents and children in Y5 to a meeting on Wednesday 4th July at 6pm. The purpose of the meeting is to help parents understand the expectations that are placed on children as part of the Y6 SATs Tests which they will complete in May 2019.

As a school, we strongly believe that life is about much more than SATs and this is reflected in our broad and balanced curriculum, the range of visitors to the school, our excellent selection of extra-curricular clubs and residential as well as the whole host of other activities that children get to take part in throughout their time here.

Alexander Graham Bell said "Preparation is the key to success" and Benjamin Franklin said "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail"

As a school, we would be failing the children if we were not to properly prepare them for these tests. Please be clear that for us, **preparation** does not mean teaching to the test, it means ensuring every part of the curriculum is taught as thoroughly and memorably as possible throughout the children's time here.

The evening will provide an opportunity for discussion with the Y5 and Y6 teaching teams, to look at how assessment information is formulated, used and reported and how it will be shared with parents, to help you to understand the format and structure of the tests as well as to view some of the materials that will be used in preparation. We do hope that as many parents and children are able to join us. Thank you.

Also – apologies – this event did not clash with Dove Valley Athletics until that event was moved to avoid a clash with the England match on Tuesday!

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**.*

Don't forget to sign up for tickets to our musical showcase so we know how many to expect in the audience.



Finally – we still have a few items of missing School Sports Kit and would appreciate if these could be returned ASAP. We also have loads of lost property – please ensure everything your child wears to school is named.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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