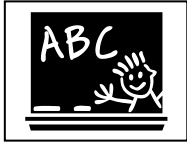


Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 10

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

23rd November 2018

Governors

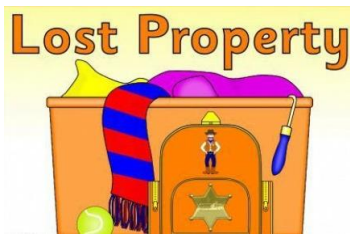
We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Cllr Lorraine Brant who has supported the school as a parent for a long time and for the last four years as a Governor. Her contributions to her responsibilities as More Able Governor and Community Engagement have been very welcome.

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors on the Governing Board at Thomas Russell Junior School. We do hope you have had opportunity to consider this role and are interested in supporting us further. For more information about the GB, you can visit the school website www.thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and go to: [About Our School > Meet the Governors](#)

Be a School Governor



A copy of the Nomination Form can be found in the Newsletters section of the website, or collected from the office. The deadline for nominations is Monday 3rd December.



We still have a large selection of lost property from the list that was e-mailed earlier this week. Please do come and claim anything that is yours.

Unfortunately we are only able to hold the lost property until 30th November, after which it will be donated to charity.

On the subject of lost property, we have had a John Taylor Sports top returned to us accidentally with our school sports kit. If you are missing a black and green top with JT logo, please come and claim it.

In Sports News...

Year 3/4 Swimming Gala 15.11.18

Congratulations to our team of swimmers who competed in the local gala. They were amazing and came second overall! A huge achievement. For some this was their first swimming gala and also their first opportunity to represent Thomas Russell Junior School. They made us proud. Congratulations go to Seb, Tristan, Eleanor, Issy, Monty, Cara, Jack and Evie. A huge thank you to Mrs Owen and Mrs Jackson for organising the team.

Year 5/6 County Table Tennis Championships 19.11.18

Wow! We were so impressed with the fantastic skills on show from our children. We were not the only ones who were blown away as you can see from the email below:

"I am writing to say how impressed I was last night by your students at the above championships. Having taught them just a little on three occasions it was my idea to give them the challenge of competition and they responded so positively in every way. Their behaviour was outstanding, their turnout immaculate, their response to victory and defeat was in equal measure appropriate. Lucas, George, Will and Ethan finished in second equal position having won two drawn one and lost one to the eventual winners Newcastle Prep School. A special mention of Ethan who playing against everybody else's fourth string player won all his matches. Mica, Charlotte, Lucy and Bella also made immense progress on the night winning one match and losing two and in all cases playing against private schools. They came 3rd. It was a privilege to watch them improve technically and grow mentally as the night progressed. You can be very proud of them and it was a pleasure to be involved with them.

Vince Evans (retired Head of PE at John Taylor High School.)"

A big thank you to the parents who drove us to the competition in Stoke and who stayed to support us. We would not have been able to enter the competition without you! Thank you Mrs Tandy, Mrs Chambers and Mrs Joubert.



Parent Forum

Thank you to everyone who came to our Parent Forum meeting. It was a really positive meeting and lovely to welcome back some familiar faces as well as a selection of new parents who haven't attended before. We had lots of lively chatter - full minutes can be found on display in the entrance hall. Key topics of discussion to outline to parents were around: Car parking, School meals, Dog walkers and the Friday mile.

Considerable concern has been raised again over **car parking** and in particular drivers attempting to turn around in the school entrance or parking blocking the turning point in the lay-by. We have a number of plans in the pipeline to help in addressing the issues, but if we could please ask **EVERY** parent to be extra vigilant of their own and others parking.



A question was raised around portions for **school dinners** and whether children were allowed more than one portion of vegetables with dinner. Mrs Brammer and Mrs



Roach are always happy to serve the children with more vegetables and there are always at least two different choices plus beans. Children are encouraged to ask for more if they would like. There is also a salad bar every day which includes a variety of tomatoes, cucumber, pepper, sweetcorn and coleslaw. There is no limit on the amount of salad a child can serve themselves from the salad bar.

Parents have noticed there is a considerable increase in the number of parents who are **walking dogs** at school drop off and pick up time. For those who are nervous of dogs, the presence of dogs can sometimes cause an issue, especially when parents have congregated and blocked the pavement making it difficult to squeeze past. Please could we ask all parents to be conscious of this; to keep dogs on a short lead and if standing waiting or chatting to move on to the wide grassed area, leaving the pavement clear for other users. There was also a short conversation about dog mess and we would continue to urge everyone to clear up after their own dogs. Please remember dogs should not be brought on to the school playground.



Friday Mile - this is something that Mrs Vardy organises. Children have the option to take part in every Friday morning from 8:30. If children arrive at 8:40, they are welcome to just take part for as long as they can. There is a marked track around the playground and children count how many laps they complete, then log this with Mrs Vardy. The Friday Mile takes place every week weather permitting, but will not be available if the playground is icy or very wet due to safety. Children can take part in normal school uniform, or if they wish may wear their trainers providing they bring their school shoes in a carrier bag.

Oops - double booked!

Thank you to the observant parent who spotted I've double booked Choir with the School Disco on 7th December. Our last after school choir of the term will therefore be next Friday 30th November.

Shoebox appeal

A parent from school is supporting the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox appeal. Please find a leaflet attached to the newsletter for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, we have shoeboxes in school which you would be most welcome to collect and fill. Any filled boxes should be returned to school by next Friday.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe