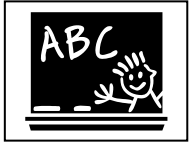


# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 18

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

### Young Voices 2019



*Huge congratulations to the 97 children who we took to Birmingham's Genting Arena for Young Voices last week. Their behaviour was outstanding and they threw themselves in to the singing and dancing with such joy and enthusiasm, they were an absolute pleasure to be with. We couldn't have done it without*

*our wonderful helpers - Mrs Hurdman, Mrs Vardy, Mrs Jones, Mrs Cowgill, Mrs Windsor, Mrs Cozens and Mrs Alcock (although I now realise they were so enthusiastic to help because they wanted selfies with Tony Hadley!) I must also give special mention to Mrs Jackson who expertly co-ordinated all of the t-shirt orders, tickets and coach bookings. And finally, thanks to Mrs Watling and Mrs Budge for registering everyone safely on and off the adult coaches.*

*It wouldn't have been the same without such wonderful parental support, and to have 185 parents, grandparents, ex-pupils, siblings and groupies in the crowd was also testament to your fantastic support for the school and our wonderful choir.*

*I have heard so many positive comments this week about what a great event it was - many saying it was the best so far, many acknowledging the incredible work that had gone beforehand to make it great, and my personal favourite was the cute one from the set of grandparents who came to support their granddaughter and said it was their best date night in years ❤️*

**Young Voices 2019 DVD** - we have the opportunity to purchase Young Voices DVDs at a cost of £9.99 each. This will open on Parent Pay on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February and close on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Please note it may take up to 6 weeks from order date for the DVDs to arrive.

### Parent Consultations

*We look forward to welcoming you to our consultation evenings next week. Don't forget to leave plenty of time before your appointment to have a look through your child's work which will be available in the hall, along with complementary drinks and biscuits and an opportunity to meet some school governors.*

*Y6 children will be developing their entrepreneurial skills again, running the Scholastic Book Fair. As usual, the children are welcome to use the playground or hall while they wait, but please remember the playground is not supervised and children are expected to follow the same rules as during the school day.*

*Out of respect for everyone, we do ask parents to stick to their ten minute appointments and tie up conversations when they hear the bell ring. Again, as usual, if you do find you need more than 10 minutes, we are more than happy to accommodate this, but outside of consultation evenings please.*

**Y4 Reading Café** - Miss Murfin and Mrs Rollins really enjoyed seeing so many parents and children at the Y4 Reading Café - we hope you found it enjoyable and informative.

### Assemblies and visitors

Next week is 'Children's Mental Health Week' and 'Safer Internet Day'. We have a range of assemblies around keeping our minds and bodies, safe and healthy. On Monday, we have visitors from NSPCC delivering the Speak Out, Stay Safe programme (information was e-mailed earlier this week). On Tuesday, we will be marking Safer Internet Day, with an assembly on Choices and Consent. Wednesday will be a Healthy Minds assembly with Mrs Kerr-Delworth. Children will also have some time in class assemblies to look further at the ideas from the Healthy Minds assembly with their individual teachers.



### Time please!

We are noticing there are more and more children arriving at the school gate after the bell has gone. School starts at 8:50 and children should be on the playground when the bell goes. Please remember the gate opens at 8:30 and there is supervision on the playground so children are free to arrive a little early. We recommend children aim to be here by 8:45 which gives a few spare minutes if traffic in the village is bad. From Monday we will be locking the children's gate promptly at 8:50 and any children arriving after this time will need to be signed in at the school office by an adult.

### BBC WINTERWATCH LIVE LESSON

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January, the Science Ambassadors watched the BBC Winterwatch Live Lesson to find out more about: adaptation, eco-systems, the environment.



Before the lesson, children found out about the wildlife in their local area. They discovered different habitats such as ponds, forests and fields and what was living there. One child also found out that there was a female falcon living locally. She could tell it was a female because it was not brightly coloured.

The children all really enjoyed the BBC Live Lesson. Here are some facts that they have learnt:

- Some animals such as foxes, dogs and cats, can grow extra fur to keep them warm.
- Everything in nature is part of an Eco-system and if one thing changes it could affect everything.
- The Wood Frog freezes itself so that it can hibernate. In spring, it starts to thaw, and all of its organs begin working again.
- If you see a hedgehog in November to March, and it is smaller than a grapefruit it has been woken up from its hibernation and does not have much energy – it needs looking after.



Written by the Science Ambassadors.

We break up for half term on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, then have INSET on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, so children return on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe