

Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted 2019.



Newsletter



Issue No. 19

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

8th February 2019

Outstanding Ofsted Inspection

In case you missed the e-mail, the bunting, the displays, the cupcakes and huge grins this week!! I am delighted to inform you that we have been officially recognised by Ofsted as 'Outstanding' The whole staff are over the moon with the report, but we have also been overwhelmed by the amazing number of positive comments, congratulations, cards, flowers, treats and encouragement that we have received following the announcement - we really are grateful for such brilliant parental support and appreciation.

Someone asked me what my favourite sentence in the report was and whilst it is hard to choose because there are so many brilliant bits, I think it has to be the first bullet point:

This is an outstanding and improving school.

For me, this sentence epitomises everything I love about Thomas Russell Junior - the amazing staff who, even once standards are high, still always put themselves out to do more or better for the children and the marvellous children who show such spirit, drive, determination and enthusiasm, not just for their learning but for everything the school has to offer.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge this has been a long journey and some people weren't here to see us cross the finish line, but were very much a part of the path that led us here, so to past governors, staff, parents and most importantly children who have left their positive mark on making the school the place it is today - thank you!

The full report can be found on the school website. Watch out for the new banner! ☺

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many people this week at Consultations and we hope you found them a useful opportunity to catch up with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's progress, achievements, behaviour and find out a little more about what they have been getting up to. We hope you also enjoyed the chance to have a look through your child's book and see some of the superb work they have produced.

If, following the meetings, there is anything that you would like to ask or discuss further, then don't hesitate to pop in and chat to your child's teacher at the end of the day, or give us a call.

Y4 and 5 Residential visits to Laches Wood are coming up in the next half term – don't forget you can find all of the information on the school website under: Parents' Information > Residential Visits.

If you have any questions or want to discuss specific needs, please make an appointment to see either Mrs Sharpe, or your class teacher.

Healthy Minds

In our assembly on Wednesday we looked at what our minds need in order to stay healthy. Ask your children what we talked about; these pictures might help them remember! Also, ask your child to tell you about 'Finger breathing' and how it might help when our brains feel full up!



On Thursday 7th February, Year 6 watched the 500 words 2019 Live Lesson.

Choosing the genre of horror (which the majority of the country voted for [instead of a fantasy story]), children across the country, helped authors: Charlie Higson and Frank Cottrell-Boyce to write the official 500 word story in 40 minutes. There were also some amazing illustrations from illustrator: Elys Dolan - she took inspiration from viewers' ideas and put them straight onto paper.

Children in Year 6 at TRJS found that, as they were taking part, their 'creative sparks' were going off like fireworks in their heads.

Once the story was completed, there was a surprise appearance from the best-selling author: David Walliams, who read the finished story, which was named 'The Night the Village Died'. This amazing story had a surprise twist at the end.

Year 6 have now been inspired to write their own 500 word story, based on Beneath the Surface - the sequel to The Watertower.

Written by Year 6.



Doctor Who - Space, Light and Super Movers - Live Lesson

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 6 participated in a Doctor Who BBC Live Lesson. Their main challenge was to help the Doctor move a planet (Tenebrous) out of the way of the Earth's sunlight as it was orbiting at the same time as Earth.

During this lesson, Year 6 learnt a series of facts about transparent, translucent and opaque objects; the order of the planets; and The Milky Way. They were given a number of activities to complete such as checking the properties of materials e.g. if they were translucent or not by using beanbags. In addition, Year 6 were also allowed to showcase their dance moves with the Super Movers.

All of the children enjoyed the afternoon - it was a great experience. Written by Year 6

Forthcoming diary dates

<i>Friday 15th February</i>		<i>Break up for half term</i>
<i>Monday 25th February</i>		<i>INSET Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 26th February</i>		<i>Back to School</i>
<i>Wednesday 27th February</i>	<i>9:00 – 10:00/30</i>	<i>Parent Forum</i>
	<i>3:45 – 4:45</i>	<i>Y6 Reading Café at Barton Library</i>
<i>Thursday 28th Feb and Friday 1st March</i>		<i>Y5 Cycling Proficiency</i>
<i>Wednesday 6th March – Friday 8th March</i>	<i>7:00 start</i>	<i>Grease Performance with JTHS Lower School performers and TRJS Choir.</i>
<i>Monday 11th – Tuesday 12th March</i>		<i>Y4 to Laches Wood</i>
<i>Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th March</i>		<i>Y5 to Laches Wood</i>

Would your child be interested in joining a Netball Club at Shobnall Leisure Complex on Thursdays 5.30-6.30?

For girls in years 5 and 6. Costs £2 per week.

For more information, either call Shobnall Leisure Complex or chat to Mrs Pick (Chloe's mum)

Parent Forum - as you will see from the diary dates above, we have Parent Forum after half term. If there are any matters you would like adding to the agenda for discussion, then please do let us know. If you haven't been before, but would like to come along then you are most welcome - just let us know so we can ensure Mrs Brammer makes us enough delicious flapjack!

Don't forget to log on to Parent Pay this weekend and order a Young Voices DVD if you would like one.

Please look out for Early Birds and Night Owls booking information and Choir information regarding Grease tickets and permission slip.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe