

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 24

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

29th March 2019

Self-esteem project

A little while ago I met with Amy and Joe Tipper who, through their business, were keen to support a project in school focussed on promoting children's self-esteem / confidence / resilience. This was wonderful to hear, as it is an issue that is close to our hearts and vitally important for children at this age.

We have put together an exciting programme for all of the children, which involves three separate opportunities promoting singing, drama and dance as well as a chance for every child in school to participate in Forest School sessions.

This starts next week with our Singing Playgrounds. If you have not yet signed up to the parent workshop there is more information below.

Later on in the year, we have a drama company, Loudmouth, coming to deliver a drama production and workshops focussed around confidence, self-image, anti-bullying and keeping children safe.

The children will be familiar with 'Urban Strides' from Young Voices and will be delighted to hear that they will be visiting school next year (they are fully booked up until then!) they will be delivering Street Dance workshops.

Finally, after Easter Mrs Jones will start delivering a full afternoon session of Forest Schools activities to small groups of children throughout the school, which she is REALLY excited about.

We are so grateful to Tippers Building Merchants for their generous donation and support of this brilliant project, and are absolutely sure we will see a positive impact on all of our children.

Thank you.

Singing Playgrounds

You are invited to a parent-child singing workshop on **Tuesday 2nd April after school until 4pm in the school hall** led by vocal coaches from Ex Cathedra as part of our 'Singing Playgrounds' day.

You will learn some of the songs (and actions!) that the children learnt in their class workshops. What better way to spend half an hour than in song and dance as a school community? Younger and older siblings and family members are all welcome.

For more information on Singing Playgrounds, please visit:

<https://excathedra.co.uk/education-participation/singing-playgrounds/>

To book a place, please visit www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and use code: **xa8f8**

Illness

Sadly, it seems we have a bit of a problem across school with two different sets of germs circulating. We appear to have a sickness bug, which is taking hold of quite a few children (and staff) and a cough / cold / flu like virus, which is also doing the rounds.

We still have two weeks left until the Easter break, which is often an ideal time for children to recover from these types of illness. In the meantime, please could I ask parents to remain vigilant for symptoms of both illnesses, and if their child is suffering, to ensure that they observe the full 'exclusion' periods to give their own children chance to recover at home before sending them back to school.

It is marvellous that we have such dedicated children and that they enjoy what is happening at school so much that they don't want to miss out, but hopefully by keeping poorly children at home we will avoid further spread of the germs and allow those children and staff who are healthy in school to remain so.

Dinner Money

Please note that when we return after Easter, the cost of a school dinner for the children will increase to £2.39. Unfortunately, the rising cost of food and services is making this necessary. We will be refreshing the menu and offering some alternative dishes with seasonal ingredients.

We do not currently offer children who are paying for a school dinners, the option of buying a sandwich bag, as we tend to believe that parents paying for a school dinner would like their child to eat a hot meal. However, if this is something that you would like us to add to our menu as an option then we would be pleased to hear from you via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk. Equally, if you would prefer that we continue **without** sandwich bags, please also let us know so we can gauge opinion. For reference a sandwich bag would usually contain a sandwich or bread roll with a savoury filling, a carton of juice, a traybake / cookie, piece of fruit and the option to access the salad bar that all children staying dinners can visit.

Reading Café & Art Exhibition

Miss Murfin will be hosting a **Reading Café** for children of all year groups and their families at Barton Library from 3:45 – 4:45 on Wednesday 3rd April.

In addition to this, we are excited to announce an **Art Exhibition** which can be viewed at the library at the same time to see the 3-D model **Heroes** which children have been creating as part of an after school art club run by parents Amy Harvey and Caroline Lear. Thank you for all of their hard work with this.

We do hope you are able to join us and look forward to welcoming you. Please book using the code below to help us organise refreshments.

To book a place, please visit www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and use code: **gccr7**

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe