

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 31

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

14th June 2019

This year has been a fantastic one for the school:

- Achieving the best overall academic results in the school's history
- Having more children than ever attending our huge range of extra-curricular clubs and activities - Junior Jotters, Skiing, Cookery, YogaBugs, Choir, Board games, Homework and sports galore
- Rated as 5* and featured in the top 5 local schools in 'The Real Schools Guide 2019'
- Taking part in the widest range of sports events and competitions, with children from all ages and abilities levels - archery, football, boccia, athletics, swimming plus many more
- Broadening our provision for children's emotional and social wellbeing through projects such as Police Cadets, Mindfulness & Wellbeing sessions, NSPCC Speak Up & Stay Safe, Horse Therapy and working with outside agencies such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and YESS (Youth Emotional Support Services)
- Three amazing residential visits with Y4, 5 and 6 and a field trip to Poole's Cavern for Y3.
- Achieving the highest rank - Level 5 - in our Health and Safety Audit
- Developing our Forest School Area to include a fire pit and opening our Sensory Garden
- And last but by no means least ... being rated by **Ofsted** as **Outstanding**.









Governors are highly ambitious for the school and recognise that one way in which children are able to make such exceptional academic progress, regardless of ability, is due to the small class sizes and quality of provision. Although we wrote to all parents this time last year to inform you that we might not be able to afford to have three smaller classes in all year groups for core subjects, Governors have agreed a continuation of the three-class provision for another year. This is excellent news and something we believe parents will be delighted to hear.

As you will know Mrs Vardy departs temporarily in a couple of weeks to begin her maternity leave and last Friday we appointed Miss Shannon Hurdman to cover her absence. Miss Hurdman came through Thomas Russell Junior School herself, as well as completing various work experience placements and working here part time for a short while before university. Having now completed her first year of teaching, she returns as a fully qualified teacher and we very much look forward to welcoming her to our team.

Next year, we are having a move around of staff (teachers and teaching assistants) as we believe this is a valuable opportunity to broaden experiences and is good for professional development as well as sharing good practice and keeping ideas fresh.

Currently our eight full time teachers have remained with the base class, whilst our part time teachers have taken the higher ability group. Next year, four of our full time teachers will be taking the higher groups whilst the part time teachers step into their base class for English and Maths each morning. (It sounds more complicated than it is!)

Here is how it will look in practice:

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Miss Marston	Miss Press	Miss Murfin	Mrs Khalid	Mrs Preston	Mrs Clarke	Mrs Howell	Miss Hurdman
6M	6P	5M	5K	4P	4C	3EH	3SH

When we split into 3 classes for core subjects:

	Mrs Kerr-Delworth will teach 6M while Miss Marston teaches the higher group		Miss Branson will teach 5M while Miss Murfin teaches the higher group		Mrs Rollins will teach 4P while Mrs Preston teaches the higher group		Mrs Jones will teach 3EH while Mrs Howell teaches the higher group
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Teaching Assistants across school are:

					
Mrs Capper	Mrs King	Mrs Alcock	Mrs Windsor	Mrs Graves	Mrs Cozens

As always we will be asking children to express their friendship choices, then we will be looking to put together new classes, which are balanced in gender, ability, friendships and a good mix of different characters and personalities. This year we have found children more comfortable and confident about the classes they are in and able to focus on achieving their potential because we have not had any movement between classes mid-year. Once we have organised the three new classes for next year we will continue with this arrangement.

School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

School Crossing Patrol to work term time only on
 E48 EFFLINCH LANE BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD
 Monday to Friday
 Times 8.20AM TO 9.00AM
 3.00PM TO 3.50PM
 Paid all through the school holidays

Please contact Caroline Pegg - School Crossing Patrol Organiser on: 07773 791 502.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those who came along to our meeting on Wednesday 12th June, look out next week for an update on our discussions.

Lost property - we have a pair of grey size 5 Karrimor walking boots, which were left behind last Friday, either after Ski Club or Poole's Cavern. They have the name FRASER in, but no-one is claiming them.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe