

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 35

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

12th July 2019

Academic Reports

Today your child will have brought home their Academic Report for Summer Term. Children in Y3, 4 and 5 will also have their class organisation letter and Y6 children will have received their SATs results. There is a pink reply slip in the envelope and we would appreciate if all parents could acknowledge receipt of the report.

SATs Results

We are delighted to announce another year of Outstanding SATs results. The children have worked exceptionally hard to beat their own PBs and have reaped the rewards of their dedication and hard work.

Expected standard in Reading, Writing + Maths combined - 65% National, 86% at TRJS = 21% above National and a 3% increase on last year.

Reading - 73% National, 92% at TRJS = 19% above National, 2% less than last year.

SPAG - 78% National, 94% at TRJS = 16% above National, maintaining the standard set last year.

Maths - 79% National, 91% at TRJS = 12% above National and a 3% increase on last year.

Writing - 78% National, 94% at TRJS = 16% above National, 1% less than last year.

For those considered to be working at 'greater depth', (110+) I can report the following:

Combined R, W & M at 'greater depth' = 22% at TRJS (9% Nationally last year) and a massive 75% of our children achieved GDS in at least one subject.

Reading - 48% at TRJS a 4% increase on last year. National last year was 28%, so we are 20% above.

SPAG - 57% at TRJS up 5% on last year. National last year was 34%, so we are 23% above.

Maths - 37% at TRJS up 4% on last year. National last year was 24%, so we are 13% above.

Writing - 63% at TRJS a 10% increase on last year. National last year was 20%, so we are an incredible 43% above!

Overall, these are exceptional results and we are so proud of the children and everything they achieved. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to these results throughout the children's time at Junior School.

Y2 Open Morning

We were absolutely delighted with a number of our Y5 children who took the opportunity to apply for a job as a tour guide. Some of their letters were absolutely marvellous – beautifully written and rather entertaining. The children received a huge number of compliments from visiting parents, where they were described as articulate, well-mannered, polite and very informative. Thank you to all of the children who took part, showing themselves to be such marvellous ambassadors for Thomas Russell Junior School.

Archery Day

On Tuesday, we held our reward day for the children who had taken part in raising money for the Enterprise Project. The children had an absolutely brilliant day and again were praised for their listening skills, behaviour and attitude. We also used it as a CPD opportunity to get a couple of members of staff trained to deliver sessions themselves and have bought some sets of equipment so we can offer opportunities for archery during PE or as an after school club.

Celia Warren – Visiting Poet



On Tuesday 9th July, Year 4 enjoyed a visit from the poet Celia Warren. The whole year group were treated to some performance poetry from Celia where the children both listened to and participated in performing some of Celia's work such as: The Water Dragon, Pelican and Dear Alien, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Many of the children also asked Celia questions about her work. The Year 4 staff were delighted by the thoughtful questions the children had composed, for example: "Where do you write your poems?"

"Who inspired you to become a poet?"
"What is your favourite word?"
"What made you want to write poetry for children?"

Some of the children also took part in a poetry writing workshop with Celia in which they composed a poem about an iron dragon entitled "Clunk The Dragon". This was a wonderful opportunity to learn from a professional, how to write a poem and for the children to hear that a poem often goes through several drafts before an author is happy with it. Following the workshop, we have been delighted to see some super poetry performances in class and that a number of children have spent time at home composing their own poems.



Arrangements for the final week:

Monday

Move Up Morning

Move Up Morning will be on Monday. Children will have a chance to meet their new teacher(s) and the rest of the children in their class. For children in Y4, Mrs Preston and Mrs Rollins will be taking the year group since Mrs Clarke is still off, but she will be back with us in September.

Leavers' Lunch:

This takes place on Monday and Y6 children have selected the menu. If your child usually has sandwiches, but you would like them to have a dinner on that day, please log in to ParentPay and add £2.39. Thanks.

Tuesday

Aquathlon

As you will know, the Aquathlon has been rearranged for Tuesday 16th July. We are delighted to have a band of parents helping to set up the course and act as marshals for the event. It would not have been possible without their support.

The organisation of the waves and competitors is exactly the same as was published originally. The only change will be the start time, which instead of being 5:00 will now be 1:20. Today your child will have brought home a copy of their new start time(s).

Because this event is now taking place during school time, we will be keeping the gates closed and locked to ensure the children's safety. Any parents on site to help or spectate will be required to sign in at the front of school. We ask all spectators to make their way to the playground / field and remain in this area. It will not be possible to take children from school until the normal end of school time.

As explained in Newsletter 32, children who are not participating in the Aquathlon will be offered a variety of options including spectating / supporting with marshalling and lane counting / supporting younger participants and indoor classroom activities should they wish.

We will be running a stall towards the end of the afternoon (selling hot dogs and burgers as well as refreshments and sweets), so children could bring some money with them if they would like to visit the stall. Parents will also be welcome to visit the stall at the end of the day if they have not been to the event. We hope to start at 1:15 and complete presentations by the end of school, however we would ask for your understanding if we are running a tiny bit late.

Wednesday

House General Knowledge Quiz - don't forget to swot up on your general knowledge, Mr Men characters and marshmallow stacking techniques! The Quiz and dexterity challenges are anticipated to be great fun!

Y6 Swimming Gala - don't forget to bring swimming kit and an extra towel for the final swim session at Junior School

Thursday

Leavers' Disco - please could parents note that there are **no** mobile phones allowed at the disco next week. There will be a photo booth for any pictures that children may want. Also, no money is required - drinks will be provided and the bar will not be open to children. Details are on the invite. It is essential that all children are collected from the Bowls Club by an adult at 8pm.

Friday

Leavers' Assembly - 10am. Bookings for this event are absolutely essential. Please print your confirmation, or have it available on your mobile phone to gain entry on the day. Sign up for your tickets at www.schoolinterviews.co.uk code: **eabrj**. Please note tickets are limited to **TWO** per family.

ParentPay

Please can we ask all parents to log into their ParentPay account and ensure the balance of their account will be zero by Friday 19th July. Any positive balance can be credited forward, but in order to finalise the end of year accounts, any debts must be paid in full. Thank you for your help in making the end of processes manageable for us.

Parents of Y6 children are invited to purchase the **Leavers' DVD** (at a cost of £5) which will include a copy of the Leavers' Assembly and some photos of our visit to Standon Bowers and other highlights. Please log in to ParentPay by TODAY (12th) to make your purchases.

Library Book Amnesty

We are holding an amnesty over the next week. We would like to ask parents and children to have a good look through bookshelves at home and check that you do not have any school library or reading books. We are also happy to return any books that children / families may have borrowed from Barton Library for you. There is a box in the entrance hall if you could please just pop anything in there that you find - no questions asked ☺

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe