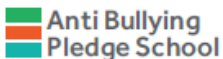
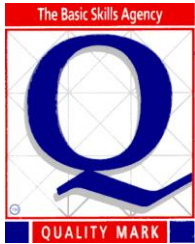




# Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, teaching consistently strong, pupils well cared for, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted January 2019.



Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe  
Deputy Headteacher Miss C Branson



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17 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to start by thanking parents for your support and understanding in what is proving to be a very concerning time for the school, community, country and the world.

In these unprecedented times, extraordinary measures are necessary to protect the most vulnerable and the ill. However, we are also aware that the impact of closing schools where it is not absolutely necessary may further compound issues. We still have many of our children who are well enough to be here and many parents who are relying on the services we provide to ensure their children are safe and cared for whilst they work to earn a living. We will endeavour to remain open for as long as it is deemed safe and sensible to do so.

For those who have either taken the decision to self-isolate, or who are isolating as members of their family are showing symptoms of Coronavirus, we want you to know that we fully understand and appreciate your decision. Please be assured that during this period we will not be pursuing any fines or action for non-attendance. The Government has published guidance for households: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We appreciate there will be a number of families who are concerned about the impact that absence from school will have on children's learning and as such have compiled a set of suggested activities (overleaf). We hope these will continue to support learning, but will also help to keep children active, stimulate their minds and promote a sense of wellbeing, all of which will be vitally important in the coming days and weeks.

Unfortunately, in the current climate, it does not feel responsible to continue with our planned residential visits for Y4 and Y5 children next week. I have managed to negotiate a refund for parents of 70% of costs, however I am sorry to say that we do stand to lose the 30% non-refundable deposit. We feel very sad that it has come to this, and appreciate there will be a number of very disappointed children, however we feel it is the safest decision in light of the information we have and we hope you will understand.

Lichfield Garrick concert on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March has been cancelled.

We will obviously keep parents updated as the situation progresses and with any updates / announcements by the Government.

In the meantime – wash your hands, stay healthy and look after each other.

Yours sincerely  
*S Sharpe*  
Mrs S Sharpe

<p>Dig out the recipe books and make something delicious. Or if you're feeling adventurous - plan and prepare a three-course meal.</p>	<p>Find a skipping rope (or make one). Go out in the garden and see how many times you can skip in 1 minute, take a 1 minute rest then repeat.</p>	<p>Make bird feeders or even get a grown up to teach you how to use a saw and make a wooden bird house.</p>	<p>Write a play script for two characters, then make puppets so you can act it out. Polish your performance before entertaining the rest of your family.</p>
<p>Make a PowerPoint about one of your hobbies or something you are interested in. You could do some internet research to find out more information.</p>	<p>Choose a reading book from your shelves that you used to really enjoy, but haven't read for a while. Find somewhere quiet to relax and enjoy.</p>	<p>Have a bath with those bath toys you always used to enjoy, or ask an adult to light a couple of candles for you and enjoy some relaxing music.</p>	<p>Choose a favourite poem or a mindful thought. Write it up neatly on paper and decorate with beautiful patterns.</p>
<p>Spend 15 minutes sorting your toy cupboard and choose three games you would like to play throughout the day, then tomorrow pick 3 more.</p>	<p>Listen to an audio book, then draw a picture of a scene you can imagine from what you've heard.</p>	<p>Go out in the garden and create a bug hotel from leaves, branches and bark.</p>	<p>Listen to a selection of Disney songs. Pick the most motivational or inspiring song. Learn it as a family and sing it out loud each day until you feel confident.</p>
<p>Do something kind for someone in your house. You could make them a drink, tidy their pots away, polish their shoes or make their bed.</p>	<p>Make a YouTube video of your very own dance or any skill you can demonstrate.</p>	<p>Build a fort from chairs, blankets and cushions. Have a carpet picnic inside and plan an adventure. Then pack everything away!!</p>	<p>Learn some Yoga poses and try these for a few minute every day along with some breathing exercises. Get the whole family involved for some super relaxation.</p>
<p>Go out in the garden. See how many 'keepy-uppies' you can do. Or sit quietly and think about what you can hear, see and smell.</p>	<p>Sort out all of your art and craft materials into neat piles, then make a dream catcher, a football stadium with play-doh players or some sock puppets.</p>	<p>Collect up all the felt tips and pencil crayons you have. Sharpen the pencils and check all the felt tips work. Design a bedroom, playground or a map of a new village.</p>	<p>Play cards - snap, patience, go fish, rummy, happy families or make up your own game.</p>
<p>Set a treasure hunt for your family to follow. Why not put some delicious treasure at the end of the trail.</p>	<p>Play hide and seek, hotter / colder, murder in the dark or a memory game like Kim's game - choose 10 things and place them on a tray, then cover, remove 1 and try to guess what it was.</p>	<p>Use a tea bag to colour some paper brown, then use that to make an Egyptian scroll, a treasure map or a poster advertising an ancient event.</p>	<p>Create a picture using mosaic tiles make from card, paper, plastic or foil. Create your own sewing, weaving, pom-poms or knitting.</p>