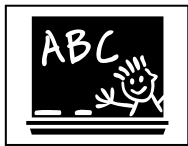


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 30

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

8th May 2015

Staffing Update

You will recall that I informed you last week that Mrs Cuthbert had been off poorly and was due to return last Tuesday. Unfortunately that was not possible as she is still too unwell. Mrs Haywood and Mrs Rumsey will continue to teach until Tuesday 19th, after which we hope Mrs Cuthbert will be back.

We are very committed to the teaching structure that we have established, splitting into three small classes for the core subjects. This has proven benefits for children in all groups and we do not want to lose the advantage that this has provided. Should we find that Mrs Cuthbert is still unwell at this point, we will secure alternative provision. This will mean we can return to the three small ability groups for the final half term of Y5 as there will be essential preparation for Y6 occurring during this time.

In further staffing news I am pleased to confirm that the governors have fully supported a move to three small classes for core subjects in all year groups for next year.

I am sure parents will appreciate this is a costly solution, but we feel there are huge benefits to all of the children having 20 children in their class rather than 30, which justify such expenditure.

This will mean we are able to provide much more personalised teaching and appropriate differentiation to meet the needs of all children and ensure the best possible progress regardless of ability. Unfortunately, we do have to be mindful that we may not be able to accommodate such a structure after 2016, depending on school budgets and government.

We will be thoroughly reviewing in all year groups which children are placed in each of these groups to ensure we still have the correct balance and can best meet the educational needs of all children. This will almost certainly mean some movement from the current groupings, as we remain responsive to the individual children who all progress at different rates and have spurts at different ages. Any movement will be communicated following assessments and transition discussions. Please trust our professional judgement on the decisions we make.

For this reason, in addition to being able to continue Mr Edwards' contract with us and welcoming Miss Press back to school, we will also be advertising for another part time teacher, conducting a similar role to that of Mrs Kerr-Delworth who some of you may already be familiar with.

Friends at Sports Day - 22nd May

We are still looking for a few more parent volunteers to help run a refreshments stall at Sports Day.

We now have a happy shopper, two setter uppers and a couple of willing sellers. Thank you!

**We are still looking for some more willing sellers (bring a friend for a 30m slot)
and a cleaner / cashier upper (no experience required)**

Please sign up at the school office if you are available for any of these tasks - thank you.

Gates open 9:30 - Parade 9:45 - Events start 10:00

We will be sending home a programme of events next Friday (15th) with your child's races highlighted.

As always we will try our best to run to time, but thank you for your understanding if there are slight alterations.

Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Odd Weather

In typical British style, it seems the weather at the moment is really struggling to decide what to do! Please help your children to be prepared for the day by ensuring they have a coat/mac and jumper in school for when they are outside in the cold as well as a sun hat for when the sun decides to grace us with its presence. It is vital all of these are labelled.

Children are not allowed to return to their classrooms during break and lunchtime so labelling is really important to help reunite children with items they have removed or lost.

Competition time!

We have already had some superb entries for our Friends of TRJS logo competition. You still have time if you would like to enter. Call in at the office for another form if required or follow these guidelines:

The logo should incorporate the image of an owl.

It should fit completely inside an 8cm square box.

It can be colour or black and white.

It should be hand drawn by the child.

Name and class should be included.

Competition entry costs £2. Please attach to entry.

Prizes include family days out and art equipment.

Closing date for entries is Friday 15th May.

Why not create your entry this weekend?

The final logo will be professionally drawn up and used on all Friends of TRJS communication.

And finally...

Next week is SATs Week (or Quiz Week as the children are now fondly referring to it!)

There will be assessments conducted in all year groups as we continue to monitor children's progress.

It is essential that all children are in school next week as they cannot take these tests at any other time. Please try to ensure they get plenty of sleep, have a good breakfast and bring a water bottle and healthy snack for during the morning.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*

Community News

My name is Danny Hickinbottom, I am a representative from the Football Club in Barton but this project is a joint project with the Rugby, Tennis, Cricket, Tug of War and Netball. The vast majority of people who are involved in the projects have attended all or some of the schools in Barton.

I hope that you would agree that Holland Sports Club is the focal point of the leisure time for a huge number of students (and their parents!), and that as the village grows in size, the sports club will need to develop to meet their needs. It is vital that the community has this opportunity to play sport to enhance their mental and physical wellbeing.

Please see below the link, which has an outline of the project and includes the video which we made (under a short time frame!). I believe that if we get the schools' backing, in addition to the huge amount of parents who are already part of the club then there won't be many other projects that could catch us! In order to make it through the final round of funding we need to gain as many votes as possible, every person who votes is able to place 10 votes.

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/3208/>

Thank you in advance for your support. Danny



PACKINGTON
—FREE RANGE—

Open Farm Sunday
7th June 2015
www.farmsunday.org

Open Farm Sunday
7th June 2015
10am till 3pm at
Packington Fields Farm
Tamworth Road, Lichfield
WS14 9PN
Free admission and ample parking

Days activities include

- Tractor and trailer rides
- Meet the Farmer
- Piglets and Sows
- Machinery displays
- Hog Roast and Ice creams
- Face painting
- Competitions
- And lots more!!

 www.packingtonfreerange.co.uk  www.farmsunday.org

