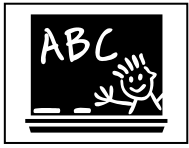


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 34

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

19th June 2015

Class Organisation

As you will know by this time of year we are looking at the organisational structure across the school to make decisions about which year group and class staff and children will be placed into. Over the last couple of weeks we have held a number of interviews and are now in a position to confirm our staffing structure for September 2015.

In **Y3** we will have **Miss Murfin** and **Mr Edwards**, with **Mrs Gahagan** teaching the additional class. **Mrs Windsor** and **Mrs Graves** (our newly appointed TA) will be supporting in Y3.

In **Y4** we will have **Mrs Vardy** and **Mrs Sanders**, with **Mrs O'Hara** (our newly appointed teacher) teaching the additional class. **Mrs Cozens** will be supporting in Y4.

In **Y5** we will have **Mrs David** and **Mrs Cuthbert**, with **Mrs Haywood** teaching the additional class. **Mrs Rumsey** and **Mrs King** will be supporting in Y5.

In **Y6** we will have **Miss Press** and **Miss Marston**, with **Mrs Kerr-Delworth** teaching the additional class. **Mrs Alcock** will be supporting in Y6.

Sadly, you will notice that Mrs Fowler will not be returning in September as she is retiring. I am sure children and parents both current and past would like to join the staff in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement. Her presence, commitment, knowledge and endless enthusiasm will be sadly missed.

The staff have already begun looking at the academic and social mix of the children (taking input regarding friendship choices) and planning the new classes and groups for September. All of our classes are full (30) and we have a waiting list for places in a number of year groups. When we split into 3 classes, each class will contain 20 children. This is the first year that we have been able to find capacity within the budget to provide the third class in every year group. We know from feedback, particularly via Parent Forum, that such small classes are really appreciated and parents can see the academic benefits for all children.

Parent Forum also discussed the range of emotions that can be experienced by children (and more often parents!) at this time of the year but please be assured that the teachers and support staff invest a huge amount of time, effort and knowledge of the pupils to create classes that are dynamic, balanced and effective learning groups so that all children can fulfil their potential. Your support (verbal and non-verbal) in reinforcing this message is really important. It was wisely identified by parents in the Forum that sometimes the children's personalities and friendship choices we see in school may not be quite the same as parents see out of school.

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Parent Forum

On the subject of Parent Forum, we had our final and very enjoyable meeting of the year on Wednesday morning. Thank you to all parents who contributed matters for discussion. Your willingness to engage in this feedback cycle is what helps us to constantly improve.

Matters discussed this meeting included:

- Timetabling parent consultations across two weeks to help parents working shifts.
- Feedback on Sports Day - this was really positive and echoed compliments we had received from other parents. Some further suggestions were made regarding refreshments.
- Update on diary dates, which parents acknowledged were on the Newsletter and the website, but a reminder would be appreciated. Leavers' Assembly is Friday 17th July at 10am.
 - Parking on Gilmour Lane – this is a persistent issue.

Parent Forum members would like to request three things:

1. That parents parking in the bay insist their children walk round and use the zebra crossing, rather than crossing in front of the parking bay.
2. That parents do not use the staff car park, or car park gates to turn around. This is an issue before and after school and also specifically at 4:30 when all children at clubs come out.
3. That parents ensure children cycling have a good knowledge of road safety before they ride unsupervised; also cyclists and scooters dismount before the zebra crossing.

Duathlon – is now FULL.

We have had an overwhelming response to the Duathlon! In the first week, we have taken entries from nearly double the number of teams than we have previously had in the triathlon after four weeks of advertising! We apologise for any disappointment if further children had thought they would like to take part.

We have some superb stalls being organised by the staff and School Council, and do hope you will come along to support and have a great evening.

ECO Crow – Scarecrow

Look out this weekend for our EcoWarriors entry to the Barton Open Garden's Scarecrow Competition who will be displayed on the church railings.

Enterprise Project

And finally well done to the 172 children who are taking part in the Enterprise Project. We already have some great prizes donated and look forward to rewarding all of your hard work.



Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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