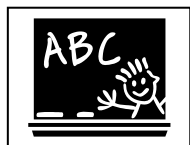


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 35

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

26th June 2015

Newsletter

Communication via the Newsletter is vitally important to keep parents up to date and well informed about what is happening in school and with regard to their children. From September, whilst we will continue to have a weekly Newsletter, this will be delivered electronically. For parents still requiring a paper copy, this will be available by collecting from the School Office.

To ensure you don't miss out, please send a message to questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Please include the name and class of pupil in the message.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

At this time of year we have a number of events going which impact on after school clubs.

Please check the following table REALLY carefully so children know which clubs they are expected to attend.

		w/c 29/6	w/c 6/7	w/c 13/7
Rounders	Monday	Y	Y	Y
Athletics	Tuesday	Y	Y	Y
Science Club	Tuesday	Y		
Writing Club	Tuesday	Y		
Eco Warriors	Wednesday	Y	Y	
Tennis	Wednesday		Y	
Cricket	Thursday	Y	Y	
iPad Club	Friday			
Soccer Stars	Friday	Y	Y	
Ski Club	Friday	Y	Y	

Teaching Groups

We are experiencing growing concerns about the perception of the third class which we have introduced across school.

With 60 children in each year group, we are keen that each of the groups stay as close to 20 children as possible. We felt it may be valuable to explain to parents how we plan Literacy and Numeracy across the year group to give a very clear picture. For both subjects, teachers plan together and differentiate 4-5 ways across the year group. There may be some children in one class accessing more challenging work for numeracy, just as there may be some in another class accessing more challenging work for literacy or vice versa. Where children have made recent leaps in progress they may move groups, just as those who have plateaued may also move to be better catered for. Children already move table groups within classes to accommodate individual needs and we see group moves as an extension of this. We acknowledge movement between teaching groups has not been particularly fluid in the past and this is something we intend to address on a more regular basis, hopefully removing the stigma some parents and children attach to the concept.

The intention of the third class is to ensure all children get access to a much higher proportion of teacher time. We would appreciate if parents could be reassured, and also in turn reassure their children that we will place them in the class that best suits their needs.

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

Y2 Transition

Transition arrangements are well underway with visits to and from the Infant school having already taken place and Y2 parents attending their first meeting this week. Earlier in the year our Transition Governors (Mrs Watling TRJS; Mrs Farrell TRIS) interviewed Y3 pupils. They came up with the suggestion of an extra event in which Y3 children hosted the first Y2 visit to TRJS. This went ahead on Tuesday

with a Treasure Hunt, followed by juice and biscuits. It was an extremely successful afternoon with many of the Y2 parents telling us on Wednesday evening how enthusiastically their children are talking about the move to Junior school. Well done Y3 pupils for being such brilliant ambassadors!



Enterprise



There is such a buzz in school due to the wide range of money making initiatives going on! Just a gentle reminder: please read the back page of your Enterprise booklet; follow the instructions and have all money back in school on Monday 6th July. Thank you!

Duathlon

Plans are steaming ahead for a fun-filled evening. Look out for more information that will be heading your way early next week. For Y6 who will on Y7 Transition visits Monday and Tuesday (have a lovely time!), parents can collect this information on Wednesday morning as you drop off the children for PGL.



Schools Association Swimming Gala



In case you didn't know already...we won!! Well done to all our swimmers for achieving their well-earned trophy which is shining beautifully in our display cabinet. Do pop in to Reception and have a look.

Thanks to Mrs Jackson, Mrs Owen and Miss Press for accompanying them.

Dove Valley

All information for those taking part on Tuesday 30th June should now have been received. Good luck everyone!

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*