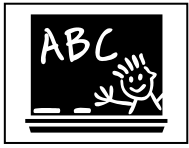


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 37

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

10th July 2015

Electronic Newsletter – two left and counting...

Please remember that from September we will not be sending a paper Newsletter on a weekly basis.

If you haven't already done so you will need to register via the email at the bottom of the page, putting SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and include your child's name and class (new or old) in the message.

We currently have just over 100 people on the circulation list, but with 240 children in school in September, there must be more to come.

Duathlon

I cannot thank everyone enough who was involved in this event and helped make it such an incredible success.

The children who competed were absolutely superb. They were incredible ambassadors for the school and we were very proud of each and every one of them. Competing in events like these is a real test of character and determination, both qualities really shone from all of our competitors. Huge thanks to all of the helpers who marshalled the event and ran stalls, especially our children who used their initiative and organised their own stalls such as Oliver H and Josh W on the penalty shoot-out, Ferris P on helium balloons, Millie W on refreshments and Jessica B & Jasmine L on sweets in a jar.

Maasai Visit

On Wednesday 8th July we welcomed some visitors to the school from a Maasai tribe. Their visit was a great success and the children thoroughly enjoyed their time spent learning about the tribe, their lives, and much, much more.

Thank you to the parents who did manage to find old phones and other electronics which the Maasai really appreciated. They have shared their vision to fund-raise enough money to build another

classroom (their school currently has two rooms), to pay a teacher and also buy pencils and paper. A gentle reminder to us all about how much we take for granted.

It was a very enjoyable morning – please chat to your children about what they enjoyed, learned and remember.

Y2 Transition

This morning we welcomed over 40 Infant children and their parents to our Open Morning. This was an opportunity to 'try out' arriving at school and finding their way to their classroom as well as a tour around the school. Our Y5 children did a commendable job – they were articulate, informative and very helpful. Well done to them all. Thank you to the Y2 parents for the number of really positive comments regarding our pupils, our classrooms and the atmosphere around school. We really look forward to welcoming all of our new children and families to school and hope you will be very happy here.

Y6 Leavers' Events

We will be holding our Leavers' Assembly on Friday 17th July at 10am and look forward to welcoming parents to that.

Bring tissues – it always promises to be an emotional event!

If there is a willing volunteer, it would be brilliant to have a DVD of the assembly. It would be preferable if it was someone in a year group other than Y6 as it is tricky to watch and video at the same time.

We will also be holding our Leavers' Parade at 3:15 on the last day of school where we would ask all parents to come down on to the playground to bid farewell to our Y6s who are leaving us.

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

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The only clubs running during our last week are Rounders on Monday and Athletics on Tuesday.

Academic Reports to Parents

You will have received your child's termly report today. Please ensure you read it in conjunction with this term's curriculum overview for a clear picture of what has been achieved this term and also with the Autumn and Spring Reports for a picture of targets, progress and achievements over the year.

Parent Pay

We are coming to the end of our first year using Parent Pay and despite a number of teething problems, we are happy with how this has worked and will continue next year. In order to run the end of year procedures any balances must be repaid to parents before restarting in next year's accounts. Thank you to those who have tried to be incredibly organised paying Dinner Money and Breakfast Club money early, but please be patient and pay once we have completed the end of year procedures! Thank you!

Afternoon Tea

On Wednesday our Eco Warriors hosted a cream tea to conclude their Eco activities for the year, and also to thank all the staff who help and support them, Mrs Gahagan, Mrs Fowler, Mr Harper and Mrs Jackson and myself. It was a very sophisticated affair!



SATs Results

I am incredibly pleased to report that our SATs results have come back into school this week. The table below shows how well our children have achieved in comparison to the national figures from 2014. Our children have worked **incredibly hard**, not just during Y6 but throughout their time here to ensure we have been able to secure the **best progress** data the school has ever seen. Thank you primarily to the children, but to all the staff and parents who have supported their success.

Figure given in % (2014 National %)	Reading	Writing	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	Maths
Level 4 (Nationally expected for 11 year olds)	93.2 (85)	93.2 (NA)	88.1 (74)	93.2 (86)
Level 5 (Higher than expected)	66.1 (44)	44.1 (NA)	71.2 (48)	52.5 (42)
Level 6 (Exceptional achievement)			5.1 (2)	10.2 (7)

You will notice we have also made great progress in one of the areas Ofsted gave us as to why we were not yet Outstanding: Pupils' attainment and progress in writing remains behind that in reading. This year the gap in attainment has been closed at L4, reduced at L5 and progress rates have increased at L4 and increased significantly at L5. Happy Days!

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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