

# Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted 2019.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 29

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Well done - we made it to the end of the first week of Summer Term! Do not underestimate your achievements! Normally at this point most teachers and teaching assistants would reward themselves with some kind of naughty treat, generally in a large glass or of the chocolate variety. Tonight parents, since you have been home schooling this week, you have Mrs Sharpe's permission to succumb and treat yourself - whilst simultaneously moaning, it's only been five days - how can I possibly be THIS tired.



For those of you who were subject to an unannounced Ofsted visit this week, I hope you were kind to yourself in your self-evaluations ☺ There have been some entertaining new categories floating around social media this week. We promise there is absolutely no judgement coming from us (especially given that most of us are parents too, and have racked up our fair share of home schooling fails this week!)

If you have found yourself wondering this week: "What's the difference between a clause and a conjunction?". Can't tell your parenthesis from your passive voice or simply can't remember which was a noun and a verb, then there are some helpful guides for parents available on the plazoom website.

<https://www.plazoom.com/collections/free>



### Safety first

On a much more serious note, we know that some children and families may be finding lockdown much harder than others, please follow the NSPCC link if you would like any advice on how to talk to children about coronavirus, lockdown for separated families, keeping children safe, how to cope with tantrums, online safety and much more.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

### Do not suffer in silence

Government officials have been very clear that the household isolation instruction because of coronavirus **does not** apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse. Those at risk of, or experiencing, domestic violence are allowed to leave the home during lockdown and seek support and refuge. For more advice visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse>

Refuges will remain open and Police continue to support any individual who is experiencing abuse of any description. Please do not suffer in silence.

If you are in immediate danger, dial 999. If you cannot speak, then cough or tap the receiver.

National Domestic Abuse Helpline - Freephone 0808 2000 247

Domestic abuse affects men too: Respect Men's advice line - Freephone 0808 8010 327

And there's a sad truth that sometimes parents need support in dealing with abusive children:

<https://www.facebook.com/PEGS-Child-to-Parent-Abuse-Support-111995540438423/>

## Term dates

I know many parents (like staff) will be counting the days until we can get back to school and resume some kind of normality, even if that is a new normal. However, there will be a huge number of families who have had holiday plans cancelled or disrupted and may be looking to move bookings into 2021. If this is the case, it may be helpful to have the term dates to hand.



### Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - INSET  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Children back  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - INSET  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Children back  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Break up for Christmas

### Spring Term 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - INSET  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Children back  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Break up  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Children back  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Break up for Easter



### Summer Term 2021

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Children back  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - INSET  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Half Term  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - INSET  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Break up for Summer

We return for the following academic year on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, but will have INSET and Twilight sessions so children will return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Please note: These term dates and INSET Days are the same for TRJS and TRIS, but JTHS may plan their INSET slightly differently. These are correct at time of publication, however based on the current situation may be subject to change.

## Communications

Thank you so much to all of our fabulous families who have been in touch, sharing the children's work, photographs of the things they have been getting up to and sending e-mail messages about learning, how you are coping at home and keeping us updated. We are really pleased to hear from you. If you haven't been in touch yet, please just drop us a line to let us know you're OK, what you've been up to and if there's anything you need from us.

We have circulated all staff e-mail addresses and they continue to be available on the website. We have been communicating with parents via the e-mails provided, however we are finding an increasing number of children now have e-mail addresses. So far, we have found they are using these brilliantly to communicate with their teachers and teaching assistants and they should be commended on their engagement and diligence in this very unusual situation.

Going forward we wanted everyone to be aware of two things. Firstly, we will assume parents are happy and give consent for children to use their own e-mail addresses for child to teacher communications. Secondly, as we are using parents' e-mails sometimes to communicate with children, should we wish to communicate directly with a parent with a message 'not for the child's eyes', we will ensure this is clearly indicated by writing PRIVATE in the subject line.



## Rainbow Learner

We have been really pleased and impressed to hear from so many of our children who are engaging with the Daily Doodles, developing a whole host of life skills (particularly in the kitchen) and generally making the best of a very unusual situation. We have nominated nine Rainbow Learners this week (although for every one we picked, there could have been ten more!) Please keep up your fabulous work and keep sharing with myself and your teachers.

Rainbow Learners this week are: Will C, Ava & Harry E, Faith C, Evie Ni, Kyon C, Alfie L, Jessica W and Orla L

### TT Rockstars Battle

Today's Rockstars battle saw the biggest turnout yet, as 132 children played to help take their house to victory. As a result of this great turnout, every house scored more points than in the previous two weeks combined!

The scores from this latest round were: Anson 22,549, Bassett 24,628, Clinton 17,586 and Jervis 17,899. Adding these points to the total carried forward from the previous rounds sees Bassett as the clear winners accumulating a massive 50,000 points. Anson took a very credible second place with nearly 43,000 points. The race for 3<sup>rd</sup> place was exceptionally close with Clinton taking third from Jervis by just 647 points.

|                 |         |        |
|-----------------|---------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Bassett | 50,023 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Anson   | 42,947 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Clinton | 35,092 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Jervis  | 34,445 |

Well done to everyone who took part. It is a super way to practise your times tables practice whilst also competing for your house.

A special mention goes to the following children who all scored 1000 points or more for their house this week (it is super to see some Y3 names in this list too 😊):

|                               |                                |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| King Sally (aka Abi P)        | Tav Shellshock (aka Noah G)    | Fats Stump (aka Max C)         |
| Milkshake Soto (aka Daniel C) | Cheese Presley (aka Riley R)   | Emily Dropdebass (aka Evie Ni) |
| Syd Hart (aka Giles T)        | Lachi Gross (aka Oliver F)     | Elvis Spatula (aka Tristan S)  |
| Bluebell Riddle (aka Jess G)  | Rusty Hall ( aka Freddie J)    | B Berry (aka Olivia G)         |
| Tina Vanilla (aka Jacob C)    | Paddy Ivory (aka Lucas J)      | Tom Ranks (aka Jack K-D)       |
| Boston Baird (aka William P)  | Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K)     | Sydney Davis (aka Olivia S)    |
| Freddy Domino (aka Orla L)    | Jazzy Solinger (aka Georgia H) |                                |
| Axle Keene (aka Isaac O)      | Pat Hunter (aka Malachy L)     |                                |

Rockstar battles will be continuing each week throughout this half term.

Next week, the competition gets serious as TRJS compete in an inter-school 'Top of the Rocks' battle against other local schools...watch this space for further information.

Come on TRJS – we can do this!! 😊

Thank you for all of your support, feedback and engagement in this really difficult time. Please do stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do to support.

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*