

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 33

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

22nd May 2020

The highlights of my week this week have been two videos of fabulous piano and guitar playing. A letter from a parent telling me about their family ritual of singing 'Power in Me' around the house at the top of their voices, and giving over 30 virtual Headteacher's Awards to children (and families!) who continue to excel in their school work. Coupled with more than sixty messages of support for our decision to not fully open on 1st June, it has made for a positive conclusion to a most challenging half term.

Thomas Russell Junior School



Rainbow Learner

We have nominated three individual and five sibling Rainbow Learners this week. Keep up the fabulous work - keep sending us the photos and examples of what you are up to. Remember if you are learning at home and need a lined or a squared book to make sure your standards stay as high as at school then you are welcome to pop in and collect them from school.

Rainbow Learners this week: Isla & Robert B, Issy & Jacob H, Lucas & Poppy V, William & Thomas R, Felicity & Charlotte E, Abbi C, Oliver H and Ziggy S.

We are incredibly proud of all of you - well done and thank you.

Have you sung 'Power in Me' at the top of your voice recently?

I can assure you the words have never been more poignant.

I think our star javelin throwers might have struggled for PBs in Sports Day with the wind as it has been! Today we also would break up for half term. Please find attached to the Newsletter a copy of TRJS Playful Projects.

We wanted to do something a little different to mark that next week is half term and as such, we will not be setting a Daily Doodle. However, if you find yourself at a loose end, looking for some inspiration, why not dip in to the Playful Projects and see what takes your fancy - do a different one each day, or pick one and spend a week on it.



I know during these difficult times at home, many parents are probably feeling the pressure of expectation and it is easy to slip into thinking of the ways in which you have failed, rather than celebrating what went well.

I saw this ... and thought it probably summed up parenting in some households at the moment. Although it references a girl, I am sure the parents of boys could re-write it in many ways to be true for them too.

Remember to be kind to yourself...



Summer 2 provision

Thank you to all parents who returned their completed questionnaire this week. We have 249 children in school and we received 207 responses, which is fabulous.

Through the information gathered, we have identified 25% of these are either Key Workers or Vulnerable children. We will continue to offer provision for these children throughout Summer Term - from the bookings already made, we will be running two or three classes each day in school, these numbers will increase as we know that a number of Key workers will receive notification of work patterns after 1st June.

The survey also told us that 32% of parents would not be looking for children to return to school until September and 33% of Y6 would like to return just for transition activities (whether these be virtual or physical)

43 parents wanted children to return full time, 19 part time and a further 14 would be happy with either / whatever school felt best. A small number (5%) gave a date for desired return or indicated ASAP, most said whenever it is safe (or words to that effect) and a few suggested occasional days in July to support for transition to the next year group.





The survey also asked about requirements for Early Birds and Night Owls. We can confirm that based on uptake we will be running Early Birds, but not Night Owls.

In response to the questions around Zoom tutor groups, a large percentage (over 80%) had some experience of using the software; more than 40% used it regularly. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the introduction of virtual lessons / tutor groups. We will communicate with parents of individual year groups about this from Monday 1st June.

Governors have reviewed the data from all areas of the survey. Our decision not to open to Y6 from 1st June still stands. As clearly indicated we will continue to review this on a weekly basis and will keep parents updated on our decisions going forward.

TT Rockstars

Below are the results from this week's battles.

 3EH	12,713 12,606	3SH
 4P	8,921 6,845	4R
5K	8,234 15,041	 5M
6M	3,008 4,906	 6P

A good effort for Y3 with 33 players taking part this morning. They were highest scoring year group and this battle was probably the closest we have seen yet with 3EH taking victory by just 107 points! This year group also saw the 2 highest scoring players of the morning.

In Y4, 30 children played with 4P taking victory by just over 2000 points. Year 5 saw the highest turnout with 38 players. 5M took a huge victory with 15,041 points almost 7,000 more than 5K and also making them the highest

scoring class overall. A much lower turnout for Y6 with just 10 players, however they battled strongly with 6P taking victory by almost 2,000 points.

The top 3 players for each class were:

3EH

Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K)	4,383
Milkshake Flores (aka Georgie H)	1,319
Chuck Wolf (aka William D)	1,303

3SH

Tom Ranks (aka Jack K-D)	3,699
Fran Hanson (aka Lily C)	3,073
Fee Rock (aka Robert B)	1,121

4P

Donna Doyle (aka Nevaeh H)	1,922
Axle Keene (aka Isaac O)	1,631
Zack Page (aka Harry E)	1,303

4R

Emily Dropdebass (aka Evie N)	2,347
Bluebell Riddle (aka Jessica G)	2,017
Maria Bailey (aka Lily N)	829

5K

Toots Rippler (aka Elisa M)	1,163
Smokey Starlight (aka Isaac H)	1,106
Locklan Rox (aka Alfie G)	796

5M

Tav Shellshock (aka Noah G)	3,436
Mark Kenney (aka Kyon C)	2,815
Elvis Spatula (aka Tristan S)	1,594

6M

Jazzy Solinger (aka Georgia H)	1,652
Sonny Cash (aka Oliver T)	1,096
Milkshake C (aka Isobel H)	237

6P

King Sally (aka Abi P)	2,438
Shawn O'Rock (aka Oliver R)	1,151
Libby Knapp (aka Grace C)	792

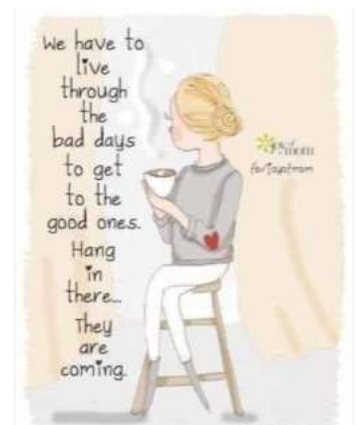
Well done to everyone who took part.

Face masks

I have been bowled over this week and last to receive gifts in to school of face masks made by two children Suhavi in Y4 and Freddie from Y6. Between them they have made enough to give one to every member of staff and also the Key Worker / Vulnerable children who are attending.

Thank you so much to both for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

All that remains is for me to wish you a marvellous half term break and to say thank you for your support, resilience and kindness in these very testing times.



Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe