

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 34

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Happy Half Term!

I trust all of our families have had a happy and healthy half term, enjoying the sunshine and a bit of a rest from school work. Well done if you took part in any of the 'Playful Projects', don't forget to send any pictures or messages to the subject leaders as I know they would love to hear how you did! If you simply kicked back, played in the paddling pool, got up late and generally had a good rest, then well done you too - sometimes that's exactly what we all need.

As we move in to the new half term, I just wanted to outline a little bit of what to expect in the Zoom sessions we are starting, as well as asking for a little help from home, please.

On the back page of this Newsletter I have attached a poster which we would appreciate if all parents could go through with their children if they haven't already done something similar. I think it is well known about washing for 20 seconds and singing the Happy Birthday song, but I hope this reminder of the six step process will help children to ensure they are protecting themselves, their families and the other people they meet with their handwashing technique.

As more children begin to return to school, we would like to reiterate that anyone with symptoms of coronavirus (however mild) should be isolating at home and obtaining a test as soon as possible.

As the new Track and Trace system is implemented by the Government, it is essential that anyone who is asked to isolate as a result of contact tracing does so immediately, and under no circumstances should children or adults come to school if they have any symptoms or if they have been asked to isolate.

Thank you very much for your help with this - it is very much appreciated.

Looking for a bit of support?

At TRJS, we will always do all we can to help and support, however, we understand sometimes it might be more helpful to chat to someone else, offload your worries, look for solutions to difficulties you are experiencing, or just have a listening ear in these really difficult times.

Feel free to approach the team below for confidential guidance, support and advice.



08000 562 561  
HELPLINE

[https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/individuals/telephone-support?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIzfK6\\_YjC6QIVDPIRCh0yqgvvEAAYASAAEqlaHPD\\_BwE](https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/individuals/telephone-support?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIzfK6_YjC6QIVDPIRCh0yqgvvEAAYASAAEqlaHPD_BwE)



Staff are really looking forward to seeing their children's smiley faces over the coming days as we embark on our Zoom tutor groups and teaching.

Children do not need to set up accounts, create log ins or anything too technical (we hope). If they have a computer with camera access then fabulous, if not, they can still join in on audio, even if they can't be seen.

Over the next few days you can look forward to receiving an 'invite' from your child's teacher. Invites will be sent to parents' e-mail addresses. This will provide a web link and a Zoom code / password combination. You can use either route to access the session. The invite will include the time the session starts. It may also include information on resources children should have to hand to help the session run smoothly, such as pencil & paper.

We are using a version of Zoom which is dedicated for Educational use. We have a TRJS specific account, so only authorised staff can set up meetings. We have enhanced security settings in place to prevent 'Zoom barding' and all sessions will be recorded.

When your child logs in to the session, they will be placed into a waiting room. It would be helpful when your child enters the waiting room if you could ensure they have typed their own name as the name they wish to join under. This will help the teacher to identify and then admit them to the group. After they believe all attendees are present, the meeting will be 'locked' so nobody else can access the session.

We would advise that Zoom sessions work best in a quiet room if possible, without the distraction / noise interference of siblings / TV etc.

Please remember children often behave very differently in front of their parents - at one end of the scale, deferring to a parent before answering a direct question from another adult and at the other end of the scale, refusing to engage in something when a parent asks, but being far more compliant and co-operative when a teacher asks. It might be advisable while children embark on this new adventure to just set them up and leave them to it, so they are not so self conscious in how they engage in discussion.

After teachers have all run their initial tutor groups, we will get back to parents with any helpful hints which we think might help sessions to run more smoothly.

This is a new venture for us too - we hope to have things working smoothly from day one, but please be patient if there are any hiccups.

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*



HM Government



## Coronavirus

**Wash your hands with soap and water more often for 20 seconds**



Palm to palm



The backs of hands



In between the fingers



The back of the fingers



The thumbs



The tips of the fingers

Use a tissue to turn off the tap.  
Dry hands thoroughly.

CORONAVIRUS

**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**