

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 36

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

12th June 2020

Thomas Russell Junior School



Rainbow Learner

Rainbow Learners

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed we didn't share our Rainbow Learners last week. The poor weather last Friday prevented us from delivering our Rainbow Learner certificates so we wanted to keep it as a nice surprise for them ☺

Last week's awards went to: William D, Ethan H, Isaac O, Jack T, Will B, Zoe B, Bella R and Archie R

Sadly the weather isn't looking much better this week, so you might have to be patient, but we are delighted to recognise the efforts of:

Thea H, Oliver R, Charlotte & Ella C, Joshua T, William C, Erin & Dylan C, Ethan K and Georgie H

Times Table Rockstars Battle - 5.6.20

Two hotly contested battles took place last Friday as Y3 took on Y4 and Y5 challenged Y6.

In the Lower School battle, there were some superb performances from several Y3 players. Fi-Lo Ranks (aka Zachai K), Fee Rock (aka Robert B), Tom Ranks (aka Jack K-D) and Fran Hanson (aka Lily C) led the way and were supported by 31 additional players to give a total Y3 score of 25,482 points.

Some of Year 4's toughest competitors also turned out. Bluebell Riddle (aka Jessica G), Emily Dropdebass (aka Evie Ni), Axle Keene (aka Isaac O) and Donna Doyle (aka Nevaeh H) took the top spots supported by a further 35 players. Despite their efforts, Year 4 fell short of the target set by Y3. They achieved 17,390 points leaving Year 3 to take victory in the Lower school battle by just over 9,000 points. Well done Year 3.



Year 3

25,482 17,390

Year 4

In the Upper school battle, there were also some familiar names leading the charge for their year group. For Y6, King Sally (aka Abi P), Huey Spatula (aka Harry D), Libby Knapp (aka Grace C) and Jane Shomo (aka Evie W) took the top four spots and were supported by a further 22 players. Altogether, they earned 17,688 points.

In Y5, Sugar Rockula (aka Issy R), Toots Rippler (aka Elisa M), Rachel Whitesword (aka Ava B) and Alexis Dark (aka Florence C) led the way and were supported by 27 other players. When the battle ended, they had amassed 15,219 points. Which gave Y6 the victory in the Upper School battle by just 2000 points.

Year 5

15,219 17,688



Year 6

Well done to all who took part. In terms of total points earned, the finish order was as follows:

Year 3 25,482 Year 6 17,688 Year 4 17,390 Year 5 15,219

The fight for second place was close, with Y6 stealing the second spot from Y4 just ten minutes before the close of play!

Next week's battles will be: Y3 vs Y6 Y4 vs Y5



Key Worker / Vulnerable Child Provision and Y6 Opening



You will have read last week in the Newsletter about the proposals for safe opening of school to groups of Y6 children. I am pleased to say that measures are now full in place for this to start on Monday 15th June. Please also note that Key Worker and Vulnerable Child Provision is operating very close to absolute capacity. We do have a waiting list for some days, so we ask that parents notify us as soon as possible if their child will not be attending, so we can offer a place to another child from that Bubble.

Due to the increased number of children in school, we are making slight adjustments to arrival and departure procedures. If your child will be attending school in any capacity from Monday, then please ensure you are familiar with the following:

Early Birds is running from 8:00 – 8:50 and costs £3. Any child arriving in this time slot should come in through the front door and head to the hall after washing hands.

The window of arrival for **Key Worker and Vulnerable children is from 8:50 – 9:00**.

Lower School children should come in through the front door, as previously.

KW children in Upper school (Y5&6) are asked to enter the new mobile via the large gate on the car park and will be dismissed from here between 3:20 and 3:30.

This is to reduce flow within the school building.

Y6 children's window of arrival is 9:00 – 9:10. These children should know which their own entrance into the building is. They will depart via the large gate between 3:10 and 3:20.

Government Update

You may have heard the update earlier this week that the Government has dropped its proposals to get all primary school children back to school for the last month. We agree with this decision. From Monday, we will be accommodating 50 children in school most days between Y6 and Key Worker provision. To do this safely, we are using all of the physical capacity in school, with classrooms set up to accommodate desks 2m apart, different sets of toilets for different Bubbles, separate entrances, one way systems and zones on the playground. Our full staffing capacity is being employed teaching Bubbles of Y6 or Key Worker children in school as well as running Zoom lessons, planning the Daily Doodle, keeping in touch with children and families and discharging other duties. We do not have the physical or staffing capacity to safely bring the rest of the children back to school.

We are aware that the longer this situation goes on, the harder some children are finding it to remain motivated by school work at home, however have been delighted to hear how well Zoom lessons have been received. We also know we have some children who are very happy and settled in new routines at home. However your child may be feeling right now, wherever they sit on this spectrum, we are acutely aware it is likely to be very hard getting back into school and settling back to routines and learning whenever it comes.

We want to reassure parents (and children) that we understand completely and that we will be doing everything we can to make the return to school as prompt, smooth and safe as we possibly can.

Vacancies

In other plans, looking further forward, we are delighted to announce that we have two vacancies to join 'Team TRJS'.

Two Temporary Teaching Assistants (15 hours)

September 2020 to August 2021

We are looking to appoint two **enthusiastic** and **highly motivated** teaching assistants to join our outstanding school on a temporary basis. These posts are temporary due to fluctuations in numbers of SEN children in school and the availability of funding.

The successful applicants will work alongside a knowledgeable and committed team, supporting children with additional learning needs of all abilities. Experience of implementation of wave 2 and 3 intervention strategies would be welcome, but is by no means essential. The ability to use your initiative and a high level of subject knowledge in both English (Reading, Writing and SPAG) and Maths is an absolute necessity. Subject knowledge will be tested during a skills test at interview. Applications are welcome from all good or outstanding teaching assistants, regardless of qualification. Flexibility, an ability to use initiative and a shared commitment to supporting our children to achieve their full potential are essential. Training will be available for the successful applicant.

Primarily we are looking for TAs to work during morning lesson time, but there may be some afternoon support. Working hours will be spread over the week. Availability to take additional hours to support in our wrap around care with Early Birds (8:00 – 8:50) and Night Owls (3:30 – 5:45) would be advantageous.

Applicants are required to fully complete an application form and are also asked to state strengths and experience within their letter (no more than 2 sides of A4). Please do not include CVs (these will not be looked at).

Visits to the school cannot be accommodated during the Covid-19 pandemic, but there is significant information about the school on our website and in our Ofsted Report.

Applications should be sent by e-mail only to headteacher@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Closing date: Thursday 25th June at 9:30am

Interviews will take place: Wednesday 1st July – either face to face or electronically depending on restrictions.

Any appointment will be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

Additional Information

This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Further details regarding this check are available from schools or by visiting www.crb.gov.uk

This Authority and school are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*