

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 40

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th July 2020

We have been absolutely delighted with how our children have continued to engage with the Daily Doodles and Zoom lessons throughout the final half term of the year. We know everyone is tired now - children, staff and families, so this week we award our final Rainbow Learner certificates. Next week is our last week of the Daily Doodle and you'll notice a slightly more laid back structure to the week.

Thomas Russell Junior School



Rainbow Learner

Rainbow Learners

This week we have some fabulous nominations for Rainbow Learners, not just for this week's achievements, but looking back over the whole of Lockdown.

Alice & Isabelle Ra, Alfie and Billy G, Josh & Harry D,
Libby P, Jessica G, Issy Re and Olivia S.

Thank you for all of your hard work throughout Lockdown.

School Books, Sports Kit and Musical Instrument return

Just before school closed, we gave all children the between 3 and 5 books from our Reading Scheme, Library and class reader sets such as Kensuke's Kingdom & War Horse. We would like to ask for your help in returning these books to school in the next week. Ideally, if we could have them back before we break up for summer, it would give us chance to clean and restock all of our reading materials ready for September.

Please bring school books to the entrance hall where there are some boxes in which they can be placed. Although we are normally happy to receive Barton Library books and return them on your behalf, it would be helpful if you could not send these to us now, but take them back to Barton Library when it is open.

Secondly, we will be having a Sports Kit amnesty asking parents to return any items of school competition kit that they may have found themselves with during Lockdown.

Finally, we would like to ask all children in Y5 who were learning clarinet, any in other years who were learning any instrument to return it to school (UNLESS they wish to continue lessons next year, in which case it is yours for free over the Summer)

Please could we ask you to check all of the parts are inside the box before returning, but to also remove any reeds / tissues / any items which do not belong in the case.

In order for us to keep a track of these very expensive instruments, it will be necessary for you to collect a named receipt as proof of return from an adult in the office.

All of these items can be returned between 8am and 4pm any day next week.

Cheeky request for donations too ... if you find yourself with a spare / unwanted Billionaire Boy or Mr Stink by David Walliams, we'd love to set up a class reader set of these ready for next year, so any donations would be gratefully received ☺.

September return

We are delighted to have finalised our initial plans for a full return in September. Children should by now have taken part in their 'Meet the Teacher' Zoom sessions, we have also held our transitions discussions between staff and will be moving to new classrooms in a phased system over two days next week.

The Government has published information on getting the children back to school fully in September - you can read the information here should you wish:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

In order to facilitate the recommendations, we will be making a number of small changes and some more significant ones in school and also to the structure of the school day. We will talk through these changes with the children, but wanted to give parents information to reassure them about the measures we have in place.

We will be working in **year group** bubbles; however, we will endeavour as much as possible to keep the children in class groups, when we split into our smaller groups, we will keep children from the two classes separate.

We will be asking parents for their agreement to keep children off school if they or any member of the household displays symptoms, however mild. In addition, asking you to inform us if any member of the family is asked to isolate as part of the NHS Test and Trace.

We will be operating a slightly staggered start and finish time. The Upper School day will be from 8:40 - 3:20 and Lower School from 8:50 - 3:30. Children will not be able to access the playground from 8:30 as they previously have done - if you need child care before school starts, please book Early Birds. We have tried to keep the stagger as small as possible, but still give us the best opportunity to get children in to school safely and quickly. If any start time clashes with Infant Bubble start times, then please bring your child to us as soon as you can after the Infants.

Y5 & 6 children should arrive between 8:40 and 8:50; Y3 & 4 should arrive between 8:50 and 9:00.

Please do not congregate at the gate before your start time. We will keep the register open in class for a reasonable period to help those families with multiple drop offs to make.

We will be offering a hot dinner option from Day 1 when we return and will be implementing a rolling lunch rota which takes place within a lesson time, so one class every 10 minutes will leave their classroom wash hands, go to the hall, they will have 30 minutes to eat their dinner or sandwiches, then return to class again to wash hands and continue their lesson. Tables will then be sterilised before the next class arrives. Morning and afternoon breaks will be in class groups and have been extended to 30 minutes each to accommodate for the lack of playtime at lunch. We feel this is the safest and cleanest way to operate a lunchtime whilst also being able to offer hot food, which still gives children good opportunities to play outside, getting fresh air and a run around.

Seating in class is likely to be in lines facing the front of class initially, and to begin with we are asking children NOT to bring anything with them to school with the exception of a waterproof coat and sandwich box if required. All stationery will be provided and we will let you know in September about the requirement for any sports kit and our provision for homework.



The **Summer Reading Challenge** is still going ahead this year so why not join the **Silly Squad** and use the summer break to enjoy a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter?

Because of Coronavirus restrictions, this year's campaign has now launched earlier than usual and children are being encouraged to read books they have at home, or e-books until libraries are able to reopen safely.

Visit: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> to register online, create an avatar and set your own target number of books to read. As in previous years, you will then be rewarded with a personalised certificate once you complete the challenge.

Staffordshire Library Service run a local competition for schools and in previous years, TRJS have been crowned winners many times. However, last year we fell into the Top 10 so Miss Murfin is encouraging as many of you to get involved as possible, to see if we can regain our title as 2020 champions.

Come on TRJS - don't delay, get started today!



Thought for the week:

For all those parents and carers who've been home-schooling ...

it's nearly the holiday...

don't forget to treat yourselves to some fabulous 'end of term' presents!

You have definitely earned them 😊

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*