

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

6th September 2019

WELCOME

We are really pleased to welcome our new children, families and staff to Thomas Russell Junior School.

Each week you will receive a Newsletter, which will help to keep you updated with what has happened and what is planned. Newsletters form a vital part of communication between home and school. From next week, the Newsletter will only be e-mailed. Please ensure you have received a copy this week electronically, and if not, let us know via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk so we can update our records. The Newsletter can be also be downloaded from our website or a paper copy can be requested from the School Office.

We were delighted on Wednesday this week to welcome 63 new children into Y3. They have had a fantastic first week, settling brilliantly into so many new routines with confidence and smiles. The children's behaviour has been excellent and they have been really friendly and polite which is superb!



House and Vice-Captains

Our House and Vice-Captain elections were held on the first day back to school and competition is always tough for these prestigious roles. We expect the children nominated to set the highest standards of behaviour throughout the year, to represent the school and support pupils in their House to excel. Collectively, the staff reported that the children gave some excellent speeches and were really well prepared for the House Assemblies.

	Captains		Vice-Captains	
Anson	Orla L	Ethan J	Oliver F	Thea H
Bassett	Daniel C	Bella R	Abigail P	William Y
Clinton	Holly B	Dylan C	Oliver M	Maria P
Jervis	Bill S	Connie W	Isobel H	Lucas J

Congratulations to the children nominated, we look forward to seeing your positive impact in these roles and seeing you as role models in class and around school. Responsibilities of House and Vice Captains include setting up and running some aspects of Merit Assembly, collecting trophies, organising sports events and assemblies for their houses and representing the school at events such as the Remembrance Parade.

Open playground - Please remember that you are welcome and encouraged to come onto the playground to collect your children at the end of the day.

It is really important that children are collected from the playground until parents are confident their child has the maturity and safety awareness to allow them to leave school unaccompanied.

By coming onto the playground you can make the most of the informal opportunity to see your child's class teacher if you have anything to ask or just to chat about how your children are settling in to their new class.

Younger siblings are most welcome onto the playground and may use the trim trail and adventure playground should they wish. Please ensure that they are closely supervised at all times. We would request scooters or bikes are left in the scooter park by the gate to avoid congestion / collisions on the footpath.





Parents, we understand there are lots of new routines for you too, so please don't be afraid to ask questions at any time - there are no silly questions. If you think of a question, even if it's in the middle of the night, e-mail it in to questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and we will do our best to answer.

Individual Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 26th September. All children and sibling groups will be taken in school throughout the morning. For those with siblings who do not attend TRJS who would like a group photo, you are invited to attend from 8:30am.



Getting organised!

One of the hardest things about the new school year can be getting organised and ensuring children have the right equipment, on the right days, in the right bag! Below is a timetable which we hope will be helpful to parents **and children** to be clear about what is required in school on which day for each of the classes.

	Swimming	Indoor PE	Outdoor Sports	Clarinet
3EH	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday	
3SH	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday	
4C	Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday	
4P	Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday	
5K	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday
5M	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Tuesday
6P	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday	
6M	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	

Swimming kit – swim suit or trunks, towel & hat in a waterproof bag. Brought in weekly.

Indoor PE kit – house colour t-shirt, black shorts & black pumps. Indoor PE kits are left in school.

Outdoor Sports kit – house colour t-shirt or school sports top, plain tracksuit & trainers. Outdoor kits can be brought in weekly or left in lockers if children have spare trainers.

Please ensure all kit is clearly labelled.

We like our children to look smart and appropriately dressed for their sports, so please save fashion wear for evenings and weekends. All jewellery must be removed every lesson, including watches. Those children with pierced ears will be expected to remove their own earrings. The school cannot accept responsibility for any items of jewellery brought into school.

You should also find a copy of your child's weekly timetable inside their Reading Record.

Swimming



We are starting our swimming lessons on Monday 9th September and once again are putting out a request for parents to act as 'Eyes'. The role of 'Eyes' is a simple yet vital one of keeping watch over the children whilst in the water. If you are able to offer an hour (or more) of your time each week, please email the school via 'questions@' indicating which session or sessions below that you could help. We would not be able to offer swimming lessons without the continued and valuable support of parents, so **thank you in advance.**

Monday 1:15 – 2:20	Monday 2:15 – 3:20	Tuesday 1:15 – 2:20	Tuesday 2:15 – 3:20	Wednesday 1:15 – 2:20	Wednesday 2:15 – 3:20	Thursday 1:15 – 2:20	Thursday 2:15 – 3:20
6M	5M	5K	6P	4C	4P	3EH	3SH

Football Team

Miss Marston will be holding **Football Team Trials** on Thursday lunchtime next week. Those children (**Boys and Girls in Y5 or 6**) wishing to represent the school at football matches this year are required to attend. They should bring football kit, boots and shin pads to wear for the trial session. Following the trials, teams will be selected for each of the fixtures we have arranged for this half term.

Please be aware that it is our intention to field a competitive team at each of our fixtures and whilst we will endeavour to offer every child an opportunity to represent the school should they wish, we do not guarantee every child will play an equal number of matches or for an equal amount of time during the matches they are selected for. This decision is necessary to ensure our continuing success in league, tournament and cup fixtures and equally importantly, to ensure the safety of our children whilst playing against some highly competitive teams.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular clubs are designed to give children access to something 'extra' that they might enjoy - they are designed to spark an interest in something new, to help them discover a new hobby or passion and to develop self-confidence mixing with a wider friendship group of children with similar interests.

If you need childcare, please do not hesitate to book into Early Birds and Night Owls who offer an amazing 'home from home' experience every day from 8:00am to 5:45pm.

I must extend a huge thank you to staff who are willing to give so freely of their time to provide such great extra-curricular clubs for the children. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or telephone call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Dates running
Monday	Fun & Games Lower School	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:45 - 1:10	4C, 4P, 3SH, 3EH	weekly from 16/9
Monday	Netball	Mrs Howell	3:30 - 4:30	6P, 6M, 5M, 5K	9/9 16/9 23/9 30/9 7/10 14/10
Monday	Forest Schools	Mrs Jones	3:30 - 4:30	All	4/11 11/11 18/11 25/11 2/12 9/12
Monday	Traditional Board Games 1	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	All	9/9 16/9 23/9 30/9 7/10 14/10
Monday	Traditional Board Games 2	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	All	4/11 11/11 18/11 25/11 2/12 9/12
Tuesday	Gifted and Talented Clarinet Group	Miss Williams	3:30 - 4:10	By invitation	
Tuesday	Dodgeball	SoccerStars	3:30 - 4:30	Please sign up directly with SoccerStars	
Wednesday	Fun & Games Upper School	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:45 - 1:10	6P, 6M, 5M, 5K	weekly from 18/9
Wednesday	Art Club	Mrs Clarke	3:30 - 4:30	All	11/9 18/9 25/9 2/10 9/10 16/10
Wednesday	Henna Club 1	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	All	11/9 18/9 25/9 2/10 9/10 16/10
Wednesday	Henna Club 2	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	All	6/11 13/11 20/11 27/11 4/12 11/12
Thursday	Archery	Mrs Preston	3:30 - 4:30	All	12/9 19/9 26/9 3/10 10/10 17/10
Thursday	Gifted and Talented Keyboard Group	Miss Williams	3:30 - 4:10	By invitation	
Friday	Bananagrams	Miss Murfin	12:45 - 1:10	All	weekly from 13/9
Friday	Choir	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All	20/9 27/9 4/10 11/10 18/10 8/11 15/11 22/11 29/11 6/12
Friday	Football	SoccerStars	3:30 - 4:30	Please sign up directly with SoccerStars	

Our extra-curricular clubs are always exceptionally popular and places are given on a **first come first served** basis. Previously we found some children were managing to get booked on to 4 or 5 clubs and doing something every single night, whereas others were missing out. In an attempt to create a fairer system, you will only be able to book TWO clubs this weekend. On Monday we will open up any additional availability to all children. We know parents support this decision and appreciate this attempt to create a fairer system for all.

SoccerStars and G&T Music do not count in the TWO clubs.

Electronic Booking for Clubs

- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Enter code: **45zh3**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first AND surname.
- 4) Choose child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
- 5) Receive instant e-mail confirmation of booking.

THE EASY WAY TO BOOK
PARENT EVENINGS
Now you can book teachers for the times that suit you. Simply enter the event code and press "Go".

Enter code...



New parents should have received a letter this week which is personalised to their child, containing a username and a password to access Parent Pay. We would appreciate if everyone could set up their log in, even if their child will be having sandwiches as it will be needed for trips, residential visits, purchasing any tickets and other payments in school.

Early Birds and Night Owls payments can be made via ParentPay too. If you intend to pay for either of these with Childcare Vouchers, please do not add any credit via ParentPay as you will receive an invoice for sessions used at the end of each half term. Please contact Mrs Patrick on lpatrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk to arrange Childcare Voucher set up.

Term dates for 2019 – 2020

Autumn 2019

Return to School: Wed 4th September
Break up for half term: Friday 25th October
Return to School: Monday 4th November
Break up: Friday 20th December

Spring 2020

Return to School: Monday 6th January
Break up for half term: Thurs 13th February
Return to School: Monday 24th February
Break up for Easter: Friday 3rd April

Summer 2020

Return to School: Monday 20th April
Break up for half term: Friday 22nd May
Return to School: Monday 1st June
Break up for Summer: Friday 17th July

INSET Days: 2nd September 2019, 3rd September 2019, 14th February 2020, 3rd July 2020, 20th July 2020

Don't be caught out (like I was!) – **2020 May Bank Holiday** has been moved to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The early **May Bank Holiday** in **2020** will move from Monday 4 **May** to Friday 8 **May**.

SATs Week for Y6 children falls on Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May.

And finally...the newsletter is not always this long, so well done if you read right to the end! 😊 We do try to keep to one page where possible but on some occasions we have lots of important information to share and we know parents find it more useful to have it all in one place rather than lots of shorter letters.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe