

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 18

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

24th January 2020

Young Voices



We were incredibly proud of the 101 children who we took to Young Voices on Monday. They were absolutely brilliantly behaved and threw themselves into the whole experience - dancing and singing with great enthusiasm! ☺

With front seats in the choir, we felt very lucky and had a great view of all the artists and dancers on stage and could also see parents well.

Thank you to Mrs Hurdman, Mrs Howell, Mrs Capper, Mrs Cozens, Mrs Graves, Miss Hurdman, Mrs Alcock, Miss Marston and Mrs Windsor for accompanying us, to quote Ruti's song - we just couldn't do it without you!

Huge thanks also to Mrs Patrick for organising all of the t-shirts, concert tickets and coaches for both parents and children, which meant everything ran very smoothly.

And finally, thanks to the parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and anyone else who came to watch. The children love spotting someone they know in the audience and we hope you enjoyed the amazing atmosphere.

Parent Consultations

Don't forget to book your consultation appointment for 11th or 13th February. See last week's newsletter for more information. Head to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and use the code 4x4hv.

Communications

We have noticed a potential issue with the text system we use in school. When we send texts via Teachers2Parents, you should automatically receive this text message. However, we have been made aware that some parents have downloaded the Teacher2Parents app, and sadly, it seems that once you have done this, you may not receive a text, but will instead receive a notification when you log into the app. As I am sure you can imagine, it is far more useful to receive a text rather than having to log in to see if you have been sent any notifications, so you may wish to delete the app to ensure texts are received as soon as they are sent.



NSPCC Online Safety

It can be hard to know how to talk to your child about online safety. From setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps, the NSPCC have an online safety hub at www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/ to help you to understand the risks and keep your child safe.

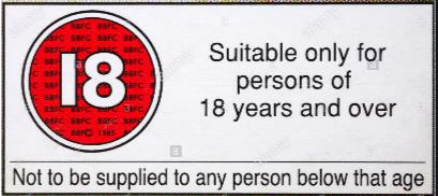
NSPCC also have a website with O2 called Net Aware www.net-aware.org.uk/. From Instagram and

Snapchat to Minecraft and Tumblr, Net Aware is a simple no-nonsense guide to social media, apps and games that young people use. You can sign up to the Net Aware Online Safety newsletter to help you stay up to date with the latest trends, new sites, and to receive safety advice and you can also download their free Net Aware

app which gives guidance on all the latest social apps, networks and games. There are also useful FAQs such as: How do I turn off location settings? My child has seen inappropriate content – what should I do?, How do I set up parental controls? and How do I keep my kids safe when they're gaming?

There is an O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline 0808 800 5002 which offers technical advice about keeping children safe online. It is a great tool for parents, providing practical, technical advice including parental controls on electronic devices, adjusting privacy settings, understanding social networks, and information about online gaming.

On a linked matter, we would also like to remind parents about the age limits on certain computer games and apps. We see first-hand how playing aggressive / violent computer games such as Fortnite, Call of Duty and similar can have a significant impact on children's behaviour and their relationships with other children. These problems can arise from playing aggressively on the playground when re-enacting scenes from games, or where there have been fall-outs online at home that spill over into school the next day. We also hear of a number of children with access to social media sites such as Facebook, Snapchat and TikTok all of which have an official age limit of 13+.



As explained above – **Net-aware** contains no-nonsense information to help parents make informed choices. Here is a snippet of their information on Snapchat:



Snapchat

The Snapchat app lets you send photos, short videos or messages to your friends. Pictures and videos, known as Snaps, usually appear temporarily before disappearing, though they can be captured via screenshots. The Stories feature lets you share Snaps in a sequence for up to 24 hours. Using the Discover screen lets you watch Stories from friends, celebrities and brands.



Official age rating



Parent age rating
[What do parents say?](#)



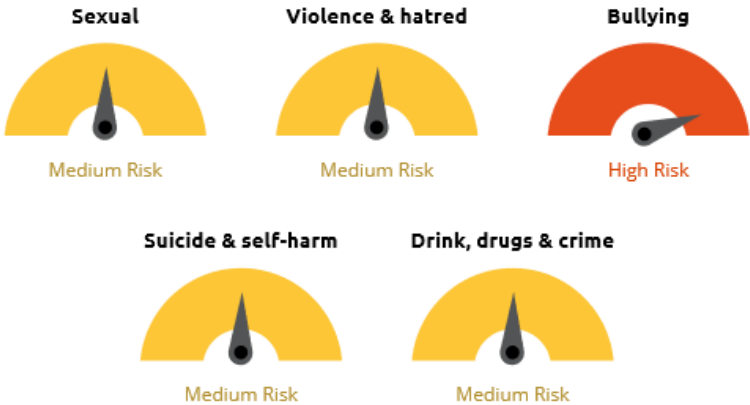
Child age rating
[What do children say?](#)

At a glance

Kids use this to...



Expert view of the risks...



We are not trying to stop children from playing computer games or using the internet. Nor are we trying to tell parents how to do their job. We want children to be able to access all of the brilliant things that are available, but we also want to teach them how to use these things safely, to have a good understanding of the risks and also the potential impacts on their wellbeing. We hope you find this useful.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe