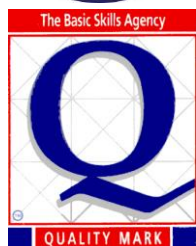




Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, teaching consistently strong, pupils well cared for, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted January 2019.



Dear Parents / Carers,

Choir Performance – Buggy Malone with JTHS

Lower School students from John Taylor High School are putting on a performance of Buggy Malone, supported by Thomas Russell Junior Choir on Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March. Each performance will begin at 7:00 and finish at approximately 8:40 with a short interval.

Parents had previously been informed of a technical rehearsal on Sunday 8th March, but choir are **no longer required** to attend this (sorry for an inconvenience if you had already made arrangements). We will be attending a full day rehearsal during the school day on Monday 9th March. Children will require a packed lunch for this day. We would like all participants to be collected from **JTHS at 5:00** on this day – please contact us if this is an issue to make alternative arrangements.

This is a superb opportunity and one which I hope the audience and the choir will thoroughly enjoy. I know the students at John Taylor have already been putting in an incredible amount of hard work in preparation, including a weekend away rehearsing at Ingestre Hall for some pupils!

Due to the hall / stage size and the fact there will be a live band accompanying the performance, numbers are limited to 80 children per night in choir. To ensure all members of the audience see the same quality performance, I am asking children who wish to take part to commit to learning the lines and a minimum of two performances. Thank you for your support and understanding in this.

Audience tickets for these performances are available via our Parent Pay at £8 each (£6 concessions). Parents and children at TRJS who are not part of the choir are invited watch the performance too.

For the evening performances, children need to arrive at 6:40 and be collected at 8:45 each evening. We suggest children bring a named water bottle and a small snack (No big sharing bags of Haribo please!). Drop off and collection will be from the side doors of JTHS Sports Hall.

We would like the children to dress up smartly for the performance, in a **black and white** colour scheme, choosing either shirt & trousers (waistcoat optional), skirt & top or a dress. Additional items such as ties, bows and trilby hats will be provided by school.

If you would like your child to be a part of the Buggy Malone production, please firstly sign up to secure your child's place in the choir using www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and the code: **fegxg**. Once you have secured the days you wish your child to perform, then log on to ParentPay and buy any adult / concession tickets that you wish to purchase.

Thank you for your support and the children's enthusiasm for choir (I did tell them the other day that they make me feel like Mr Poppy!)

Best wishes

Mrs S Sharpe

PS – please see over for advanced notice of future dates and some very exciting choir opportunities ☺

Save the dates!

Monday 16th March (day and eve) – Birmingham Symphony Hall – auditioned choir. Tickets cost £8 / £6 concessions via <https://www.thsh.co.uk/event/west-midlands-music-big-sing> if you would like to attend.

***Tuesday 31st March (eve)** – Lichfield Garrick Theatre – Rotary Schools Concert (will be same dress code as Bugsy Malone)

Easter Holiday – Bring the Noise workshops – see information below – open to all children, not just choir.

***Friday 8th May (Bank Holiday) (day)** - National Memorial Arboretum – Thomas Russell Junior have been invited to provide a children's choir to perform at VE Day commemorations. Final numbers and arrangements TBC.

And finally a very exciting invite which we received last week:

***Thursday 16th July (eve)** – Lichfield Cathedral – auditioned members of choir to form part of a children's choir singing alongside Armonico Consort (a famous professional ensemble) in a piece based on Beowulf. It has harp, piano and soprano solo, which will be delivered by Elin Manahan Thomas (who sang for Prince Harry and Meghan's wedding).

*More detail regarding signing up and auditions will follow after half term for these three events.

Bring The Noise!

Free Music & Singing Workshops at The National Memorial Arboretum

Young visitors are invited to join us for one of four very special workshops where they will learn basic music practical and theory techniques and learn two songs in a fun, learning environment. The National Memorial Arboretum is teaming up with the BBC's Bring The Noise programme to create these workshops, with the aim of enabling all children to access and enjoy music and performance. The young visitors will then perform the songs to visitors at the Arboretum, straight after their workshop, displaying what they have learnt whilst being involved in this year's Royal British Legion's Remembrance Theme: Coming Home.

When is it?

There are four workshops over the Easter period, all running from 1000-1200, with the final performance taking place between approximately 1200-1230.

Tuesday 7th April

Thursday 9th April

Wednesday 15th April

Thursday 16th April

Who are the workshops for?

Children aged from 5 to 10 years old. Accompanying adults will not be involved in the workshops, but will be expected to remain on site elsewhere at the Arboretum and will be asked to leave contact details etc. There is plenty to do and see onsite whilst the children enjoy their workshops! Accompanying adults will then get to enjoy their child's performance afterwards. Children do not need any previous musical or singing ability, just a desire to get involved and enjoy the experience!

How much are the workshops?

The workshops are completely free of charge. However, spaces are limited and advance booking is necessary. Contact education@thenma.org.uk or phone 01283 245100 to book. Please ensure that you provide an email address, phone number, adult's full name and the names and ages of your attending young singers!

Where is it?

The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance; a spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice, and fosters pride in our country. It is a living and lasting memorial. The workshops will take place in our Learning Centre with our fully qualified and experienced Family Activities & Learning Officers. The National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, DE13 7AR

What happens next...

All children who participate in a workshop will form the inaugural National Memorial Arboretum Children's Choir and will be asked to perform at our VE Day commemoration events on 8th May 2020, so please keep that date free as the BBC are hoping to cover the event!

*Now 'Nativity' fans will understand why I said I felt like Mr Poppy!
Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*