

# 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

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020



I cannot tell you just how delighted we were to welcome all of our children and families, new and old, back to school this week ☺

So much has happened in the last six months and much has changed, but the familiarity of the smiles on the school gate, the chatter in the corridors, the laughter and chasing on the playground and the buzz of learning in the classroom has been a delight to witness.

It can be easy to take things for granted. As a Headteacher, I guess I took for granted that there would always be children in school, indeed on the busiest days I'm sure I even joked about how much work we'd get done if it wasn't for the children!

It serves as another gentle reminder to us all that we should not take anything for granted.

Y3 were so brave and independent. Y4 settled back beautifully after spending more time away during Lockdown than they had been here since joining. Y5 have risen splendidly to the challenge of Upper School and Y6 are delighted to be top of the school and proven great role models already! Staff have been incredibly complimentary about all of the children, their behaviour, their resilience and how quickly they have settled. We are all **very** proud.

### House and Vice Captains

Normally on the first day of term, we would hold House Meetings, giving all year groups an opportunity to meet the other children in their House. This meeting would also give our Y6 children with the opportunity to stand for the role of House or Vice Captain, then the other children would vote. This year, our brave Y6 candidates had to record a video clip of themselves, which was then played on the big screens in all classes around school to allow children to vote. Huge congratulations to all the children who put themselves forward. As with many things, the roles will be slightly different this year than previously, but I am sure they will conduct them with diligence and pride.

	Captains		Vice-Captains	
Anson	Martha A	Noah G	Joshua R	Darcy W
Bassett	Oliver K	Anna T	Siân G	Ben L
Clinton	Zoe B	Seb J	Bradley C	Daisy M
Jervis	Will B	Isabelle Ra	Issy Re	Kyon C

**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.

We do ask you stand back from the classroom doors and windows. Unfortunately, under the present guidance, we are unable to allow younger siblings to use the trim trail and adventure playground – we will notify you as soon as this restriction is lifted.

You will notice we have been using the big gate through the car park in an effort to maintain social distancing, we will continue this next week, then from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> will revert to using the smaller 'children's entrance'.

Also from this date, in a morning, we would prefer children (where possible) to walk down in to school unaccompanied. If you have messages to convey, these are best given to Mrs Sharpe, or the adult on the gate, as teachers are busy with registration and teaching.

#### Extra-curricular clubs

Our first Newsletter of the term normally always contains a huge list of clubs that are running and a booking code. Unfortunately, due to the government limitations that are in place with regard to social distancing, the requirement for thorough deep cleaning of all the classrooms at the end of the day and the restriction on activities we will not be holding after school clubs at least for the first half term, but possibly longer depending on when evidence indicates it is safer to do so.



#### Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - INSET

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Children back

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - INSET

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Children back

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Break up for Christmas

#### Spring Term 2021

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - INSET

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Children back

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Break up

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Children back

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Break up for Easter



#### Summer Term 2021

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Children back

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - INSET

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Half Term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - INSET

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Break up for Summer

Children back - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.



Parents will receive a weekly Newsletter, every Friday, via e-mail. We hope you find them a useful way of keeping up with events and news from the school as well as hearing about children's achievements and wider issues.

Take care this weekend, enjoy a good rest after a busy first week back and take time to hug those you love a little tighter and a little longer.

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*