

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 2

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020



I am delighted to inform you that following our votes in the classrooms, children have nominated the following as their class representatives on the School Council:

Year 3	Rhys G	Nancy B	Jude P	Freya D
Year 4	Sophie K	Jacob H	Ava E	Luca R
Year 5	Jack T	Nevaeh H	Joshua D	Lauren H
Year 6	Abbi C	Harrison M	Zaiba K	Malachy L

The children will be given their badges in assembly and we look forward to hearing their ideas in our first socially distanced meeting.

### Staffordshire Secondary School Admission - September 2021

I know that transfer to Secondary School will be the last thing that our Y6 parents will be wanting to think about as your children have only just completed their first full week in Y6. Today they will be bringing home a letter outlining the application process which must be completed to ensure your child is allocated a place. Children resident in Derbyshire will receive their letter from DCC.

The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and you will be notified in writing on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### Cold or Covid?

I just wanted to clarify the school's position with regard to attendance at school. We have been really pleased with parental response so far and in every case we feel like you have judged it spot on regarding when children can be in school and when they need to be collected or kept at home - thank you so much for this.

We totally understand that children are going to have sniffles and colds, they may be suffering from hayfever at different times of year, and we know there will be headaches and even some sickness. This is perfectly normal, particularly as winter approaches and also as many of the children have not been mixing in large groups for six months.

I have included this table which may be helpful in differentiating the symptoms of Covid-19, colds, flu and allergies.

COVID-19 compared to other common conditions				
SYMPTOM	COVID-19	COMMON COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Dry cough	Common	Mild	Common	Sometimes
Loss of smell and taste	Sometimes	Common	Common	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	X	X	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Aches, muscle pains	Sometimes	Mild	Common	X
Sore Throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	X
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Chills, repeated shaking	Sometimes	Rare	Common	X
Diarrhea, vomiting	Rare	X	Sometimes*	X
Swollen toes	Rare	X	X	X
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	X	Common	Sometimes	Common

\*Sometimes for children

Sources: CDC, WHO, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

INSIDER

The stance we are taking, is that children are alright to be in school as long as they are not suffering from any of the known Covid-19 symptoms (however mild) which are:

HM Government

NHS

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS**

**HIGH TEMPERATURE OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?**

No one in your household should leave home if any one person has symptoms.  
 Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES**

If your child displays these symptoms, however mild, they should be kept at home and a test sought. Once tested, children can return as soon as they are notified of a negative result.

We are also suggesting to parents that if they feel their child needs Calpol to get them through the day, then to please keep them at home. Calpol is likely to suppress any temperature, thus hiding a symptom of Covid 19 which we really need to be able to identify quickly.

We are aware there will be various messages on social media and in the news about positive test results and school closures. We wanted to reassure parents that if we have a need for any of our Bubbles to isolate, then we will communicate promptly with all parents, but until such time, you can rest assured we have every measure in place to protect all members of our school community.

Finally, thank you for adhering to social distancing measures at pick up times and for wearing masks if required. We will be entering and leaving school via the children's gate from Monday.

### Home – School Learning

As you will know we are trying to limit the amount of 'belongings' that children are currently bringing in to school from home. At the moment, we are encouraging a very limited list of items.

MUST have:

Waterproof coat

Water bottle

Tissues in pocket

COULD have:

Sandwich box

Snack

Small sanitising gel

NOT required:

Any stationery

Toys / Games

Rucksacks

We would prefer children didn't bring anything else to school at the moment.

Since we are not sending items to and fro, we are asking children to read their own books at home and they have reading scheme and library books in school. If you do not have any suitable books to read at home, then we are arranging to send a bag of ten home at a time which can all be read and returned to be sanitised. Please let us know if you would appreciate one of these bags whilst the library is still closed for borrowing.

Times tables – children should know their times tables up to 12 x 12 fluently by the end of Y4. We tend to find they learn them most easily in the following order: 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, but your child may find certain tables easier than others. Any support they can be given at home with learning the multiplication and corresponding division facts is great.

Website – we have uploaded the Autumn Term overviews and a 6 week overview of the spellings patterns that children will be learning in school into the appropriate Year Group tab in the 'Our Learning' section of the website. Again, any help you are able to give at home to support children learning spellings is greatly appreciated.

*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*