

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 6

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### We're in this together ☺

If you're anything like me, you'll feel like every time you turn on the television or listen to the news on the radio, there is another horror story about Covid-19. Increasing cases, lockdowns, changes in rules, people breaking rules, school closures, scientific advice, contradictory advice and a general sense of frustration / disagreement about what might be best for the country.

Despite everything that has changed, some things are staying very much the same - the advice on the best ways we can all work together to stay safe: Work from home if you can, don't mix in large groups, keep to outdoor spaces and well ventilated areas, isolate if your household has symptoms and get a test, wear a face covering (correctly!) and wash your hands regularly.

We are still in unprecedented times, and some of the current data is very worrying. In these scary times, we wanted to reassure parents and carers that we continue to take every step we can to ensure your children and our staff all stay as safe as possible.

**Avoid the Three Cs**  
Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:

- 1 Crowded places**  
with many people nearby
- 2 Close-contact settings**  
Especially where people have close-range conversations
- 3 Confined and enclosed spaces**  
with poor ventilation

The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.  
Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three Cs.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

- Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces
- Maintain at least 1m distance from others
- When possible, open windows and doors for ventilation
- Keep hands clean and cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a mask if requested or if physical distancing is not possible

If you are unwell, stay home unless to seek urgent medical care.

We could not be more proud of how the children have responded to their return to school - they've shown incredible resilience, are taking things in their stride and being very adaptable.

It still feels a real pleasure to have the hustle and bustle in school again, to see so many smiley faces and to hear how glad everyone is to be back.

However, we know that for some people, continued uncertainty about employment, heightened risk of the virus, restrictions on seeing wider family and friends, work pressures for managers balancing responsibilities for employees alongside family responsibilities will all be causing increased anxiety.

If you or your children are struggling and you feel we may be able to offer some support, even if just having a friendly ear to listen and reassure, or a signpost to more specific advice, then please do get in touch and we will do everything we can to help.

We're in this together ☺ World Mental Health Day ☺ 10.10.2020

## Christmas Cards

We've had an overwhelming response to our Christmas Card designs this year with more parents than ever ordering a range of items. Thank you so much for supporting this venture. Orders have now been processed and we will have items with you as soon as possible.

## Individual Photographs

Despite the absolutely torrential rain which hit the school run on Monday morning, we went ahead with individual photographs. The children were very quick and efficient seeming to enjoy the process and we have sent home some really lovely photo proofs for parents to view. The order process is online and the deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> October. All orders will be here well before Christmas and make great presents 😊

## Parent Consultations

I think the vast majority of parents and carers have now booked their appointments for consultation evenings on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. If you are yet to do so, please arrange it over the weekend so we can send electronic invites with your Zoom code next week.

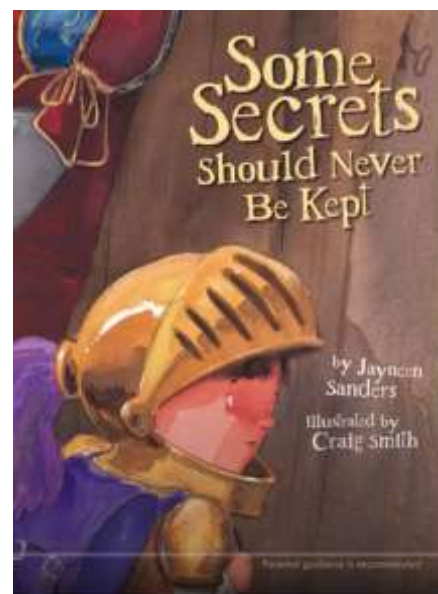
Thanks

**And finally...**next week our assembly topic is all about Secrets. We will be exploring the difference between safe and unsafe secrets. This will be supported by the use of an NSPCC approved book / audio video called '**Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept**'

The book covers the very sensitive topic of inappropriate touching.

The recommended age of use is 3 - 12.

All year groups will be watching the following book / audio video in their assemblies next week: [youtube.com/watch?v=4YjJ1MreZqs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YjJ1MreZqs)



With this Newsletter we have attached the assembly planning for next week so parents are able to view the materials we will be using and understand the context of the discussions which will be had.

As a parent, I know it can feel like there is never an appropriate time or age to talk about such issues, and the desire to protect them from knowing these problems exist is overwhelming. However, I also believe it is vitally important to give children the information to keep themselves safe, the confidence to know that they are 'the boss of their body' and the bravery to speak up if they do need help.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*

