

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 8

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

22nd October 2020



Times Tables Rock Stars 'House' Battle

By popular request, half term sees the return of one of our Rock Stars Battles!

This first battle of the 20-21 academic year will be an inter-house competition with all four houses competing directly against one another. The battle will start on the 23rd of October and will run from 9am until 5pm every day. It will finish at 5pm on Sunday 1st November. Only one house can emerge victorious as Rock Star champions. Which one will it be?

Every correct answer earns 1 point towards your house total. **As an added incentive, every correct answer will also earn one house point for the player's house.** Results will be announced during Zoom Merit Assembly on Friday 6th November.

This is sure to be a hotly contested battle so make sure you join in to help lead your house to victory. To take part, you simply need to login and play during the hours when the competition is live.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Preston on:

DPreston@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



Early Birds and Night Owls

If you would like to book for next half term, then please do so by visiting www.schoolinterviews.co.uk and using the codes below:

Early Birds - 36a4q

Night Owls - kpuym



DEADLINE FOR BOOKINGS IS FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER.

Light of Hope

This week, the theme of our assemblies has been: **Looking back & Looking forward.** We have taken part in the Lichfield Cathedral 'Light of Hope' project, making tea light holders to support moments of reflection and provide a guiding light. We encouraged children to reflect on positive ways to cope with change and loss. I have been really impressed during assemblies with their maturity and openness, especially Y6 this week who were incredibly insightful.

Being hopeful for the future is an incredibly powerful tool and we talked with the children about how having a positive, resilient mind-set can support them to tackle some big changes. As we finish this half term, we wanted to celebrate just a tiny sample of the fabulous work that the children have completed.

Y6 flower sculptures:

Year 6 have been drawing and making flowers. We were inspired by the vibrant colours and bold shapes in the paintings of Henri Rousseau. First, we drew flowers accurately from observation, using hard and soft, straight and curved pencil lines and pastels. Next, we explored the school field for different leaf shapes, carefully bashing these leaves and a selection of bright flowers onto fabric to transfer their natural dyes. Our final flower creations were made by bending and twisting wire to make a frame, covering with a sellotape 'skin' before finally layering on tissue and crepe paper with glue.



Year 5

In Year 5 we have been busy celebrating how amazing we all are by making some pop up mask faces. We wish you could have come in to school for Parent Consultations to see them all.



Amelia H – we made these pop up masks to show our smile at this time, as we can't see our beautiful face when wearing a mask. It shows that even if we can't see our smile, it still shines on even in hard times. If we can't see some of our family, we can give them this and make them smile. If we can make enough people in the world smile, then the world will smile with us. Nothing should stop us from showing our smile and feelings.



William S



Year 4

It is clear that we have some budding historians amongst us in Year 4 as this term the children have enjoyed finding out all about the Ancient Greeks. We have explored different aspects of their lives and education and considered how their lives differed depending on who they were. We have been wowed by the children's interest and enthusiasm as we have discussed topics such as the origins of democracy. We have also been asked some fabulous questions which have led to us discussing all sorts of subjects including why we can't just print more money when we need to!



The children have also learned about some of the famous Ancient Greek scientists such as Hippocrates, who left us the legacy of modern medicine.

Why not ask them about some of the new vocabulary we have learned? Ostracised, citizen, polis and pioneering are just some of the words we have discussed as part of the unit.

Here, Noah is explaining whether he would rather have lived in Ancient Sparta or Ancient Athens and why.

Thursday 7th October and Thursday 8th October
LO: To understand that lifestyle differed significantly and was dependent upon who you were.
I would rather live Athens because there was democracy and rich men could vote but in Sparta there were 2 kings that made all the decisions. Also in Athens they believed in a good education for boys from the age of 6 to 20 boys were taught to play music, poetry and philosophy. Spartan boys were sent to military school from the age of 6 or 7 learning to fight. Even though I'd like to be an Athenian I like the idea of joining the army and expanding the city. A second reason I'd like to be an Athenian boy is because you would still join the army after you'd finished schooling. Also if you were a rich man then you could just chill and chat all day talking about democracy while women did all the house work. Knowing that I'd have a voice in what the city did would also be a good feeling. In Athens the city was protected by an army but boys weren't forced to join. Even though boys were allowed to vote girls weren't it was the same with education only extremely rich rich girls had education but it was still not a lot at all. A 1st other way is that in Athens when women married around 12 to 14 the husband owned the husband's property. Where as in Sparta women could inherit property and when their husbands and children went to military school the ^{wives} could do what they want. ✓

Year 3

Year 3 have been investigating free standing photo frames. We created a prototype to investigate how to make a frame that could stand up. We then designed the final version.

The making process used lots of our DT skills such as; accurate measuring, accurate cutting, successful attachments and decorating.

An important part of DT is evaluating our products and making sure that they are fit for purpose. Some of us decided that we had made mistakes on our first frame and learnt from these to make a final version we were happy with.





Raring2Go

You can download this half term's copy of Raring 2Go via the link below to find out about events coming up in your local area.

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/burtonandashby/autumn/>

Barton Neighbourhood Volunteers

Tel. 01283 296 229

bnv – can assist anyone (young or old) having to self-isolate: (prescription collections, emergency shopping, phone support and in some cases meal deliveries).
Volunteers also welcome.



**Email: bnvvolunteers@gmail.com,
Follow us on Twitter [@bnvvolunteers](https://twitter.com/bnvvolunteers)**



Barton Network Volunteers are a wonderful group of people, who established themselves during Lockdown to help support the vulnerable and those in isolation.

Since we have come out of lockdown they continue their sterling work providing support to those in need.

I have been asked to share their information with parents for a number of reasons:

Firstly, they would love single parent families in particular to be aware that BNV exist to support families with children as well as the elderly and medically vulnerable if they can't get out

Secondly, with a view to setting up a support group or groups for information exchange and self-support with people in a similar situation - this may be of particular interest if groups find themselves having to self-isolate.

And finally, they are always looking for more volunteers to support any of the activities mentioned in the flier above but also at the moment they particularly need volunteer drivers who could give people (essential) lifts to hospital or GP appointments etc. (45p per mile remunerated).

All that remains for me to say is a huge thank you to all of our wonderful children, parents, staff and governors for their fabulous support, amazing resilience and determination to succeed throughout this challenging half term. Please get lots of rest, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you fighting fit on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe