

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 10

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

13th November 2020

Remembrance Day

Thank you for your generous donations to the Poppy Appeal this week. We were pleased to see a huge number of children wearing poppies, badges and other items.



Thinking we would be unable to attend the War Memorial, we wanted to arrange some special events with the House Captains to mark the occasion. We created our own 'poppy field' making wooden crosses with lollypop sticks, poppies and glue guns, then children wrote messages of love and remembrance on them before they were placed in the ground at the front of school. You are welcome to come and have a look in the car park if you have time.



Some of our House Captains also worked at home to create PowerPoints and write poems, which we merged together into one large presentation. The House Captains then led a Zoom assembly for the children who were in school.

Thank you also to all of the children who came to school (or learned at home!) wearing their Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts uniform - it was lovely to see you looking so smart and bright.



At the last minute, we did receive notification that there had been a change in guidance, so it was possible to take the House Captains to the War Memorial in Barton to lay a wreath in a socially distanced event.

We observed the silence both there and in school at 11am.





I cannot tell you how proud we have been of our Year 4 children this week and how they have coped with their first week in isolation. The teaching staff have been absolutely full of praise at how quickly the children have adapted to Zoom learning and how enthusiastically they have responded. It has been lovely to see so many smiley faces and such fabulous work.

Parents - thank you so much to you too – we know that responding to sudden changes in arrangements can be hard, but we are grateful to you for being so supportive and on-board with what we are trying to achieve.

As the children will know, I always visit the classrooms on Friday morning to give out Headteacher's Awards. It was so lovely to pop in to all of the Zoom lessons this morning and see the Weekly Merits being awarded. I would like to award a virtual HTA to every child who has joined Zoom lessons this week, and also one to Mrs Preston, Mrs Howell, Mrs Cozens and Mrs Rollins as they have been fabulous too!



Parent Governors

Last month we received notification that two of our Parent Governors were stepping down due to changes in their work commitments. Mrs Esther Ashton has completed her teacher training and now works full time as a teacher in a local school. We would like to thank her for her contributions to the Governing Body, not least during our Ofsted Inspection and wish her every success in her teaching career.

Mr Tim Gee has also found himself working increasing hours and taking on significant additional responsibility. Having moved to a position at Apple Education before the pandemic, it was unlikely anyone could foresee the explosive growth this market would experience as so many schools launched home learning during the Lockdown and blended learning approaches when year groups / schools across the country are forced to close for isolation. Again, we would like to thank Mr Gee for his contributions at meetings; as our link governor for Sports Funding and in the wider role as Governor - we wish him every success.

This leaves us with two vacancies for Parent Governors at the school. If you would like to support the school as it navigates its way through the current pandemic and continues its journey of improvement, then please do get in touch, either with me via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk, or with our Chair of Governors, Mr Terry Wells on: governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk.



We had a lovely non-uniform day today, celebrated both in school and at home. I was delighted to see so many of our Y4 children taking part too. Your very generous donations helped us to raise £340.65, which is wonderful and I know will be put to incredibly good use.

Barton Fishing Pond - We have had a report from a member of the public that some Junior children are throwing sticks and things at the ducks and baby swans on their way home. This is obviously not the kind of behaviour we expect from our children and we would appreciate parental support in ensuring it stops.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*