

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 11

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

20th November 2020

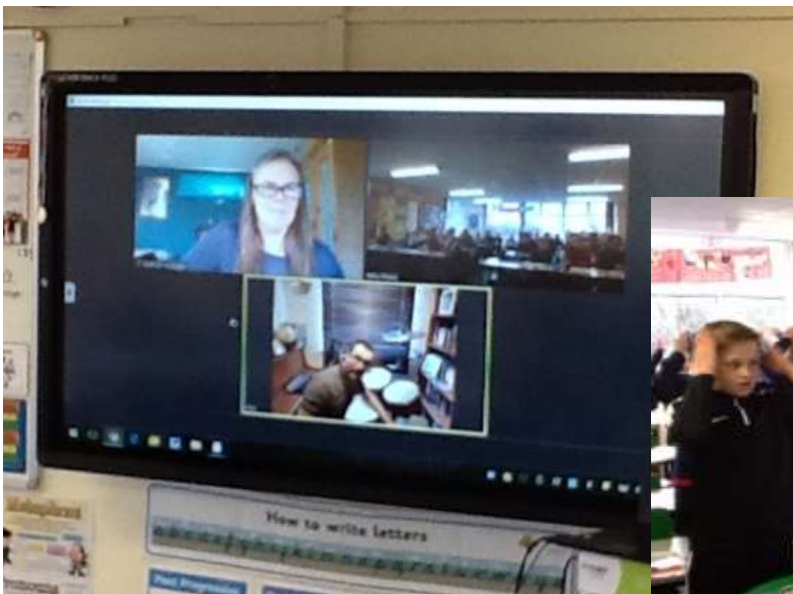
BBC 10 Pieces

Last Thursday, Year 6 took part in two workshops with Mark Sheridan and Alex Neal, who are two members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, working through an online 'Connecting The Dots' workshop. Thousands of schools apply to take part in workshops every year and we were very lucky to be selected to work with two very talented musicians.

6M worked with Mark Sheridan (a cellist) who has been a professional musician for 34 years, working all over the world, including at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. During the session, the children learnt about what it was like to be part of an orchestra, as well as carrying out different activities based on keeping time and rhythm. The children then performed a section of Holst's Mars.

6P worked with Alex Neal, who is a percussionist with over 14 years' experience working with the BBC Orchestra. During the session, Mark introduced the different instruments he uses as part of being in the percussion section as well as showing the children an extract of Mark performing at the BBC Proms. 6P then worked through activities based on John Adams' 'Short Ride in a Fast Machine'.

Year 6 were praised for their attitude and enthusiasm during the session and we have had wonderful feedback from the BBC stating, "It was wonderful to see and hear the children responding to the music and to hear their various questions. Great imaginations from those children travelling in their fast machines – we loved the pig in a mini and the lamb in a Lamborghini!"





Year 3 Diwali

In our assemblies last week, we learnt all about the festival of Diwali. We learnt about who celebrates the festival and how they celebrate it.

Year 3 had a Diwali celebration day on Monday. We had a lot of fun making our own fireworks using pipe cleaners! We also made Rangoli patterns and firework pictures out of tissue paper. Finally, we learnt a Diwali dance and created paper lanterns.

Have a look at the photos we took to show off what we had made!



Parent Governors

Don't forget we have 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.

I have attached a nomination form with the Newsletter this week. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 1st December. Please do contact us if you would like to find out more about this role.



We are delighted to share with you that Vodafone are offering 30GB data-only SIMs for 90 days up to 250,000 disadvantaged children across the UK to help them access school work from home, catch up on lost learning during school holidays and continue with their education if schools are closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. SIM cards are limited to 30GB so once that data limit is reached, no further data is available and once the 90 days has ended, any remainder of the 30GB of data will expire.

If there are any parents who would benefit from this scheme, please let me know ASAP. Your information will be handled in the strictest of confidence.



We had received even more donations to our Children in Need appeal and are delighted to announce the total is now up to £394.65. You have been incredibly generous and I know the money will be well spent. Thank you.



One day at a time...

We are really looking forward to welcoming our Year 4 children back on Monday. We'd like to say a huge well done to them all for their determination and resilience, for keeping smiling through the challenges and trying so hard with Zoom and home learning.

Thank you also to the parents and families who have juggled devices, work commitments and other things to make it possible for the children to join the Zoom lessons and for the photographs of other learning that you have sent in. Mrs Rollins, Mrs Howell, Mrs Preston and Mrs Cozens have done a wonderful job in tricky circumstances, I'm sure you'll agree, and are very excited to see the children back on Monday.

We understand JTHS and TRIS have been impacted by bubble closures and children isolating as well as us. We know the longer this second lockdown goes on and the more people are required to self-isolate, the greater the impact it has. The current uncertainty will undoubtedly be affecting everyone's wellbeing.

Please be kind to yourselves and to each other. If you are struggling - reach out to someone for help. If you know someone who might just need a little bit of kindness - pick up the phone and let them know you care.



We break up on Friday 18th December (please remember there will be no Night Owls on that evening.) Children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe