

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 13

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

4th December 2020

Christmas celebrations

Don't forget we're having our Christmas Day on Monday 7th December. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper with their school uniform. We will be having a day making cards, decorations and listening to festive songs.



Today our School Councillors have decorated a Christmas post box for their own class. We will be collecting Christmas cards every day next week (7th to 11th Dec). Post boxes will be outside the new mobile on their way in to school. All cards will remain in sealed boxes until the following week when they will be distributed to the children.

This year, given the current restrictions, please could we ask that children do not include chocolate coins or any other edible items in the envelopes of the cards they are sending.

Children will need to write the recipient's name and class on the envelope then post it into the correct class box.

Christmas Dinner Day is on Wednesday 16th December. We do hope that as many children as possible will take part in this event. In order to ensure children remain as safe as they can be, we will be eating in individual year groups in the hall. This means the younger children will be on a slightly later sitting than normal so we would encourage them to bring a large snack or a couple of smaller ones for morning break.



If your child normally stays for dinners, you do not need to do anything. If you would like your child to have dinner as a one off on this day, then please ensure you have loaded £2.45 on to ParentPay and send us a message to say your child would like Christmas dinner by **Friday 11th December** please.

Children are encouraged to wear their Christmas Jumpers (with uniform) on this day and will no doubt be making a festive hat to wear on the day!

TT Rockstars Year Group Battle

We are now almost two weeks into our latest battle. Well done to the 108 children who have taken part so far. 😊

There has been a change in the leader board since last week and Y4 are now leading with 43,154 points, closely followed by Y6 with 37,423 points. Y5 are in third place closely followed by Y3 in fourth place but, with two weeks left to go, there is still all to play for and anyone could still take first place.



Linda Wood (aka Lana M in Y6) continues in first spot on the individual leader board with an awesome 30,764 points.

The leading players from the other year groups include:

- ☆ Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K, Y4) in 2nd place with 18,235 points.
- ☆ Bluebell Riddle (aka Jessica G, Y5) in 3rd place with 11,575 points.
- ☆ Shawn Woods (aka Lawy M, Y3) in 5th place with 6,888 points.

However, as points are averaged across every player in the year group, not just those who take part, it is vital that everyone pulls together to earn points if you want your year to take first place. Remember, any games played between 8am and 6pm will count towards the battle so log on and play!

Parent Governors Election



We received nominations for three parent governors – Mrs Hill, Mrs Keasley and Mrs Whitby, which is great news. Thank you to these parents for putting themselves forward.

As we have two vacancies, you should have received a bright yellow set of information to vote in the election.

The deadline is Wednesday 16th December.

Correct parent address and emergency contacts information

We noticed as we compiled the information for the Parent Election that we have some data on our system which we know is incorrect, either where parents have moved house or changed living arrangements.

Please could we ask that these changes are notified to us in writing or via e-mail so we can ensure important information such as academic reports are received by the correct people at the correct address. Also any changes in emergency phone numbers also need to be notified to us in writing please, to ensure we are able to get hold of the correct people in case of accidents or illness.

Burton HOPE Christmas Collection

Hi, I'm Abbi from Year 6. I wonder if you can help me support a wonderful local charity and help add some festive cheer?

Burton HOPE is a charity which provides help and food for the homeless and those in need, in Burton and close by. Last year, I was helping the homeless by making gift bags of toiletries and treats, as well as helping out with the weekend Outreach sessions. As I cannot go and visit this year because of Coronavirus, I would love to collect lots of donations for Burton HOPE. It would be amazing if as many people as possible could donate to this charity by buying a few extra tins and warm socks and gloves when you go shopping. All of the food must be in-date and able to be stored at room temperature and clothes must be clean and in good condition. Cash donations can also be made.

Donations will be collected by my Mum and I on **Friday 11th December** at drop off and pick up. Look out for the big white car by the school gate.

Items to donate:

warm socks	tinned vegetables	chocolates	single man tents	toiletries
gloves	tinned meat	biscuits	shoes (in good condition)	razors and shaving foam
hats	pot noodles	long life milk	Fruit juice	Gents shower gel
men's jogger bottoms	Pasta sauce	Tinned fruit	sleeping bags	tooth paste

Thank you in advance for your support! It is sure to be much appreciated. Abbi ☺

Coronavirus

You may be shocked to hear this, but I am delighted to say that attendance at school for Autumn 2020 is **HIGHER** than it was in Autumn 2019. This is a fabulous demonstration of the trust that parents place in us as a school to protect their children and great evidence that the measures we have in place are working.

Our teachers, teaching assistants and all of our support staff have been so diligent and pro-active in ensuring the children are kept safe, I am sure you will join me in saying a huge **thank you** to them for all of their work this term in the most unusual of circumstances.



I know everyone is getting tired now and the resolve to battle on against this virus may be wavering, but battle we must. Thank you for the immediate response to my letter on Monday regarding crowds at the school gate. There has been a notable improvement and we are very grateful for your swift action.

We are absolutely determined that all of our children and staff will make it to the Christmas break as healthy as possible. Please help us to keep our bubbles as safe as we can by following the steps below as closely as you can.

Situation	Action
Child got symptoms	Get a test and keep them at home.
Child not well but not Covid symptoms	Get a test and keep them at home until symptoms have cleared and (hopefully) you get a negative result.
Adult in the household got symptoms	Get a test and keep child at home until you get the result. If it is negative, children can come back at any point of the day.
Anyone in household tests positive	Whole household isolates for 14 days, or until NHS Test and Trace say.
Been in close contact	Isolate for 14 days (please don't come to school to drop off or pick up)
Don't know what to do...	Ask us on questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk This e-mail is answered all weekend and remember there are no silly questions ☺

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe