

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 15

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

17th December 2020



We are pleased to inform you that booking for Early Birds and Night Owls for Spring 1 is now **open**.

You can access the booking system by visiting www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Early Birds – z82wp
Night Owls – gv5qp



Deadline for bookings is Sunday 3rd January.

Christmas Dinner Day

We had a wonderful Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. Huge thanks to Mrs Brammer and Mrs Roach who worked tirelessly to cook a fabulous dinner. The children seemed to enjoy sitting as a year group, wearing wonderfully festive hats they had made and using their own decorated placemats.



I would like to thank the whole team who have worked in the kitchen and our Lunchtime Supervisors. They have done an amazing job in this current climate ensuring the children have been kept as safe as possible while they eat.

I know there are still schools who do not have capacity to provide hot meals, so it has been marvellous to have a team that have pulled together to make this possible for the children.

Parent Governors Election



Thank you to all of those parents who took the time to vote in our election. I can confirm that the successful candidates are Mrs Hill and Mrs Whitby. Thank you also to Mrs Kasley for standing. We look forward to welcoming them on board.

You never know, we might meet face to face next year!

At this point, I would also like to offer my thanks to all of the members of the Governing Body. I am certain when they joined the GB, whether that was recently or years ago, they never anticipated they would be responsible for making some of the decisions that have been required this year.

We have faced some incredible challenges, not least during the Lockdown, managing home learning and provision for Key Worker children but also facilitating a safe return for last year's Y6 children.

Then onwards to a whole school return, with rigorous risk assessment and copious changes.

Thanks to the Governors for supporting all of this work so fully.

TT Rockstars Year Group Battle

I am delighted to announce Lana M in Y6 as our 'in school' winner of the TT Rockstars Battle and Robert B in Y4 as our 'home learning' winner of the Battle.

We have been really pleased to see some children have absolutely thrown themselves into this battle and competed fiercely to secure their place on the leader board. Top 10 places went to Robert B, Lana M, Zachai K, Lawy M, Jessica Go, Oliver Je, Ethan K, Isaac O, Nancy B and Jessica W.

Year 4 took top place as overall winning year group, followed by Y6, then Y3 and Y5.

Parked cars

Please could I ask parents / relatives who are picking up children from school to ensure that their car engines are **turned off** as soon as they park and only started as you leave.

I understand it is really tempting in this cold weather to keep the heating going so the car remains toasty, but this is not only incredibly bad for the environment, it also means that parents and children who are waiting nearby are forced to breathe the fumes given off. Some waiting toddlers / infant children are not far from the height of the exhaust pipe and I hate to think about the harm it may cause. You will undoubtedly have seen in the news this week about the health impacts of living in high air pollution areas – let's do our part to keep Barton air clean.

Christmas cards and gifts

Please can I say a huge thank you to parents and children, on behalf of myself and the other staff for the kind and thoughtful gifts, cards and messages we have received this week.

It is really heart-warming to know how much you appreciate all we have done this term.



Staggered return and rapid Covid testing

Over the coming days you will undoubtedly read much in the news about how some schools will operate a staggered return to school in January, about rapid Covid testing and who knows what else. Please try to shield the children from too much discussion about this or the prospect of future isolations.



We are really keen that our children come back to school in January and begin to appreciate the permanence and regularity of being back in school. Undoubtedly, the memories of Lockdown, and for some periods of isolation, have affected our children to varying degrees.

We want to move in to 2021 feeling confident and determined that we can and will get through this. I know it can be hard to feel upbeat at times, but by beginning to focus on the positives, looking forward to new challenges, thinking about what we want to achieve next year, we will build resilience.

Let's teach our children to be brave and optimistic - it feels like the best gift we could give them this year.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe