

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 18

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

22nd January 2021

We've got this!

WELL DONE! - to staff, children, parents and families ☺

We are half way through the half term and we are doing really well.

If you don't agree with the outcome of the Ofsted 'Home Learning' Inspections this week and you are not quite *hanging in there*, please just drop us a message and we will do our best to help ☺



#LD21 Rainbow Learners

Congratulations this week to: Elicia M, Sophie G, Isabel S, Harry C, William L-J, Owen P, Erin C, George P, Malachy L and Oliver H.

Fabulous efforts this week have been seen in Zoom lessons, in work the children are sending to teachers, from those joining assemblies and those pushing on with learning from the Curriculum Overviews.

Our Lockdown birthdays this week are:



We hope you all have a fabulous day ☺ Keep calm and eat cake!

Mrs Sharpe's Assemblies

Information for next week's assemblies is attached - the theme is '**Healthy Mind, Healthy Body**'.

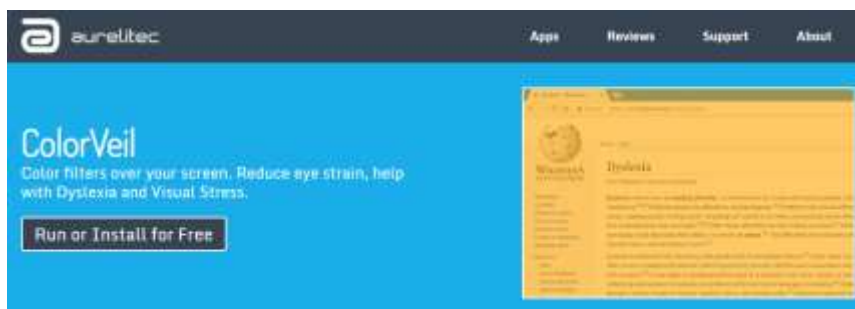
The following week (1st - 3rd February), the assembly theme is '**Art Attack**'. Hopefully we'll learn some new techniques and create some mini masterpieces. I wanted to give parents time to order some art supplies if they would like (they are **not essential** and can be substituted with poster paints and the side of a cereal box if desired).

The suggested shopping list: Three canvases (or thick white card), acrylic paints, masking tape, selection of brushes. All of these are available on Amazon (other suppliers are available!) or to make things a bit easier, we would like to offer parents the option to buy the whole kit including paints and 3 canvases from school at cost (£14.05 for one child); 2 siblings (double brushes and 6 canvases) £18.19; 3 siblings - 3 sets of brushes and 9 canvases - £22.33. If you would like a kit, please make payment via ParentPay by Monday 25th January so materials can be organised and prepared for collection from school by Friday 29th January. Children in school (1st - 3rd February) who wish to take part will need either to purchase a kit or bring three cereal box sides to school.

Does your child have dyslexia or dyslexic tendencies?

With so much on-screen work occurring at the moment, children might be finding reading hard if they usually rely on a coloured overlay. This link will take you to a free download of coloured overlays for use on a screen:

[ColorVeil - Screen color filter and dimmer | Aurelitec](#)



With so much more time at home, there's never been a better time to lose yourself in a good book!



Kindle app

Did you also know that you can download the Kindle app on to your iPad / iPhone? There are quite a number of free books, or if you have Amazon Prime, this gives you free access to Prime Reading.

Once you've chosen your books, you can then edit your settings (instructions via link below) and read any book with background colours of white, black or sepia, as well as changing font colour, size and style (there is a dyslexia friendly style).

[How to customize reading options in Kindle for iPhone and iPad | iMore](#)

Kindle also offers a feature which allows children to read a page top to bottom and turn over, or an option for continual scan. Additionally, on continual scan and they can load a coloured reading ruler.



Other reading options now Libraries are closed:

If the children have a library card, they can use the BorrowBox app. This is a free app that allows them to download both e-books and audio books.

Oak National Academy has linked up with the Literacy Trust to provide a free virtual library with free books each week: <https://library.thenational.academy/>

Oxford Owl has a free ebooks library too though you have to create a log-on first: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

For children struggling to know what to read, this search engine is great for inspiration. Simply search by age and interests to get up to date book choices. You can then purchase ebooks in different formats but unfortunately they're not free:

Book Trust Bookfinder <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

Free ebooks for kids: <https://www.teachpal.co.uk/free-ebooks-for-children/>

Story books for children: <http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

Free kids books: <https://freekidsbooks.org/>

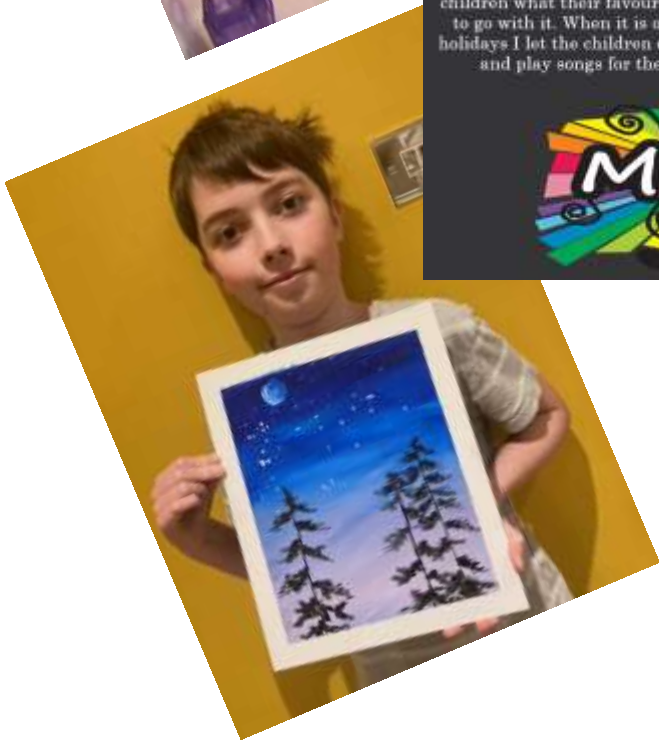
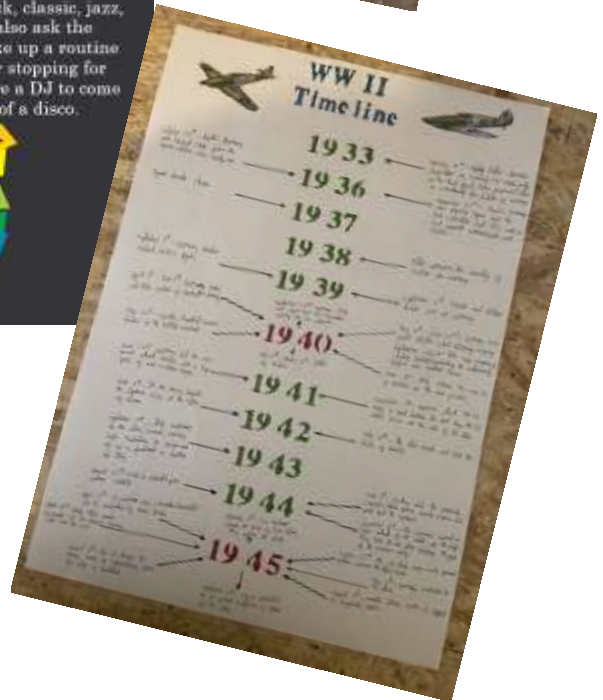
Above and beyond...

I wanted to share a few examples of where children have gone 'above and beyond' in their learning. We are seeing some brilliant efforts across all different subjects and it makes us very proud to see children so interested and engaged in their learning, even though they're not at school at the moment. From Oliver's fabulous artwork, to Seb's great PowerPoint, to Noah's brilliant history research, some wonderful stop motion animations by Anna and Alice.



Music

At my dance class we listen to all kind of music pop, rock, classic, jazz, heavy metal and songs with amazing beat drops. I also ask the children what their favourite songs are and then I make up a routine to go with it. When it is our last session of the year or stopping for holidays I let the children do whatever they want, I hire a DJ to come and play songs for the children so they have a bit of a disco.



TT Rockstars Boys Vs Girls battle

There was a healthy turnout for our latest boys vs girls battle. 153 children took part and together answered more than 230,000 questions correctly! It was a battle dominated by the boys throughout the week and, when the battle finished at 2pm on the 15th January, the final score was 152,389 to the boys and 81,341 to the girls.

1	All Boys	152,389
2	All Girls	81,341

It was a hotly contested battle at the top of the table with Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K) taking top spot, and the leading boy position with 47,456 points, whilst Linda Wood (aka Lana M) was the highest performing girl and achieved 2nd place overall with 38,924 points.

There were many familiar names in the top 10 but it was lovely to see one or two new ones too. The players in 3rd to 10th place were: Fee Rock (aka Robert B, Y4), Shawn Woods (aka Lawy M, Y3), Mat Bailey (aka Jacob T, Y4), Aston Reed (aka Ethan K, Y4), Pink Fender (aka Laura G, Y5), Axle Keene (aka Isaac O, Y5), Rachel Whitesword (aka Ava B, Y6), Emily Dropdebass (aka Evie N, Y5).

Well done to everyone who took part. Look out for our Rockstars House Battle starting at 9.am. on Monday 25th January. 😊

Christingle
*Benefice of Barton,
Dunstall & Tatenhill - Sunday 31st January - On YouTube*

For your free Christingle Kit for the service, message us on Facebook @ St James Church Barton & we'll deliver it to you, if you live in Barton. We will post the YouTube link before Sunday 31st January so you can watch. Don't forget to make your Christingle

St James' online link for Children's Society donations <https://thvg.uk/CUS052220>

The poster features a hand holding a lit candle in a colorful collecting box, with a QR code and a small logo for The Children's Society.

At this dark time of the year and at this particularly dark period we think that the message of Christingle is one of hope and if people will support the work of the Children's Society, it will give hope to many really vulnerable children. The kit includes a little candle collecting box to put loose change in for the Children's Society. It will also have an orange and boxes of dried fruit and a candle to make the Christingle with instructions.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like a kit so we can plan to get them out to everyone.

The video will go live on Sunday 31st January at about 2.00 pm on YouTube. We will post the link when we have uploaded it to the Church channel.

Revd Andy Simpson will have a box outside the front door of the vicarage where any collecting boxes can be left.

Microsoft 365

Apologies to those people who informed us last week that their Microsoft passwords were not working. We had more than we anticipated that needed resetting so are working our way through the list. Thank you for your patience.

We have talked a lot with the children about resilience this week, but I just wanted to finish with a little note for the grown-ups. You may have seen this poem before, but it felt very apt.

The Warrior by Laura Ding-Edwards

When the world is on your shoulders
And your heart feels full of lead
And your stomach churns like butter
And the voice inside your head
Is reminding you of everything
You've ever said or done
All your failures and regrets
All the times the fear has won
Take a minute to remember
That you've survived this all before

You've battled and you've conquered
When you thought you had no more
You were stronger than you realise
You are brave and wise and kind
And you know you're so much bigger
Than the doubts that fill your mind
So breathe it in and let it out
Allow the ebb and flow
You can win this war, you always do
You're a warrior you know.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe