

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 23

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

5th March 2021



#LD21 Rainbow Learners

Our Rainbow Learners for the final week of Lockdown are:

Callum C, Rocky H, Lucy F, Robert B, Will C, Zachai K, Isaac O, Lily N, Harry E, Will P, Josh R and Zaiba K.

I know staff have looked back over #LD21 to find their Mr or Miss Consistent and to recognise those children who have really grown and made great progress. We are incredibly proud of them all.

World Book Week!

World Book Day turned in to a week with fun activities based around books happening all week. Miss Murfin will be giving out World Book Day vouchers on Monday which children can put towards the cost of a book, or claim their free book. Spaldings Book Shop in the village are taking part in this scheme and you are able to use vouchers there - they are not yet fully open, but are offering a pick-up service from outside of the shop and a telephone ordering service (712220).

On Monday morning, Year 4 had the chance to 'meet' the author Rashmi Sirdeshpande. Rashmi shared part of her book 'How to Change the World' and discussed the ideas of collaboration and activism. She explained that every single person has the ability to make a positive difference. Rashmi also told the children all about what it is like to be an author through answering the



children's questions on subjects such as what inspires her, how she comes up with ideas, how long it takes to write a book, how a book is a result of working collaboratively as part of a team and how important illustrators are in bringing a story to life. The children were lucky enough to be given some top tips about what to do if they get stuck, how to plan a story and how to make their writing even better. Rashmi was keen to stress the importance of children having confidence in their ideas and using them. We hope that this has inspired Year 4 regarding

both reading and writing and that it has helped them to realise that every child can be a writer.

We had some brilliant costumes (from children and staff) in the Zoom sessions on Thursday and were delighted to see so much enthusiasm and enjoyment shining through! Thank you to the parents too who helped put some fabulously creative designs!

Don't forget that schools across JTMAT are taking part in a **'Toilet Roll Book Character' Challenge**. As we have many families with children at TRIS, JTHS and JTFS we thought it would be nice to offer our children the opportunity to do similar.



See last week's Newsletter for full details of the challenge

We have had some fabulous entries so far, but you still have time to meet the deadline if you have not yet decorated your toilet roll - don't forget to send a picture to [questions@](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) or bring your entry to school. We have some lovely Easter Egg prizes to be won.

Early Birds and Night Owls

Bookings are now closed.

We cannot guarantee additional capacity, but if you do find you need either service, then please contact patrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk to check availability.

School Dinner menus

The menus are now up to date on ParentPay for any parents or children wishing to check what will be available when we return. As we move over to the Spring / Summer menu later in the term, I always ask parents the question about whether they would like sandwich bags to be made available for those children having a paid dinner? My understanding is generally that if parents are paying for a school dinner, they would expect this to be a hot meal and if they wanted a child to have sandwiches, they would send a packed lunch, however I may be wrong. Please e-mail questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk with the subject School Dinners to let me know your thoughts on the availability of sandwich bags for paid dinner children, or any other feedback / suggestions you may like to make on the subject of school dinners. Thank you.

TT Rockstars Inter-school Battle

This week, TRJS has been competing against five other primary schools in our latest Top of The Rocks battle. Having won the previous two battles, we knew that this was not going to be easy and the other schools would be battling hard to take the title this time.

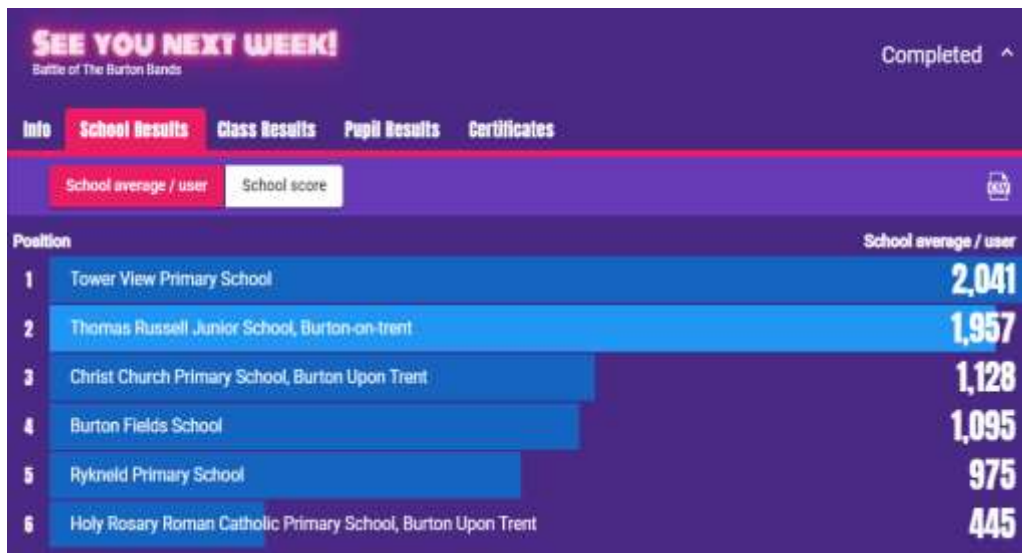
In these competitions, as all the schools have different numbers of children, it is the average points per child that determines the winning school. Tower View Primary and Christ Church both had a strong start and were in first and second place respectively at the beginning of the week but we didn't give up and continued to battle hard. In total 162 of our children participated – well done and thank you to you all.

We enjoyed some successes. Class 6P were the highest performing class in the battle (out of 53 classes) and 4P and 4H achieved 6th and 7th place respectively.

Of the 837 children who took part across the six schools, it was fabulous to see three children from TRJS in the Top 7. Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K) and Fee Rocks (aka Robert B) achieved 2nd and 3rd place overall which was an awesome performance by both players. Linda Wood (aka Lana M) took 7th place with another fabulous performance.
A special well done to these three players.



Sadly, despite all of our efforts, when the battle ended at 3pm today, we hadn't quite done enough to take the top spot and Tower View Primary took first place. The final scores were 2,041 points per child for Tower View Primary and 1,957 per child for TRJS. A difference of just 84 points per child.



TT Rock Stars, is aiming to donate £5000 to Red Nose Day and you can help.



From the 12th March, for one month, you can buy a virtual red nose for your TTRS avatar and with every nose bought, Rockstars will donate 5p to Red Nose Day.

Each nose will cost at least 50,000 coins so you need to log on and earn some coins if you want to buy one before they are gone!



*First 100,000 noses (max. donation £5000)

The information below has not changed from last week, but I just thought some might appreciate having it to hand:

Return to school ☺

We are now **delighted**, but cautious, to welcome all children back to school from Monday 8th March. It is our intention to return in class bubbles for at least the first four weeks up to Easter. We will continue with the staggered arrival that we had in place previously, with Upper School encouraged to arrive between 8:40 and 8:50, then Lower School between 8:50 and 9:00. The school day will end at 3:20 for Upper School and 3:30 for Lower School. Please could we reiterate our request for all adults to wear a mask whilst on site and in busy areas outside of school around Gilmour Lane.

We would like children to return in full school uniform, however totally appreciate that some may have had growth spurts and things like school shoes may no longer fit - we are happy to offer a short period of flexibility to allow for any shopping trips etc. that are required.

With regard to shoe shopping, please could we make one request and that is to avoid purchasing open toe sandals or very flimsy ballet pumps? We find these do not protect children's feet very well at all when they are running around on the playground and field. It is our intention to make as much use as possible of the wonderful outdoor space we have, which will include accessing the field regularly. Shoes that are a little more substantial offer better protection and will also keep feet much drier if the grass is a bit damp.

Please could we request that children continue to attend in Games Kit one day per week:
Y3 on Friday, Y4 & Y6 on Thursday, Y5 on Wednesday.

It is our intention to keep protective measures in place at a heightened level - this will keep all of our children and staff as safe as possible. These include: individual stationery sets provided for every child, seats in a pew and aisle arrangement facing the front of the class, regular hand washing, regular sanitation of touch points, promoting respiratory hygiene through 'catch-it, bin-it, kill-it' and well ventilated classroom with doors and windows open as much as possible. All staff will be following social distancing measures and wearing masks / visors where this isn't possible.

We will be serving hot dinners from 8th March and will assume your child will be following their previous pattern, unless you inform us otherwise via lpatrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

During this initial return period, we are very keen to avoid possible transmission of the virus between home and school and would therefore like to request that minimal belongings are brought in to school, however if children require a school bag to safely carry items, then this is acceptable.

We are anticipating the first couple of weeks might be quite exhausting for some as they re-adjust to being back in school full time, increased levels of physical activity, changes in bedtime and daily routines and prolonged periods of concentration in the classroom. Our focus will be on social aspects of learning, understanding and regulating emotions, re-integrating with peers in the classroom and on the playground. Please let us know via questions@ if you have any specific concerns about your child's return or any information of which you feel we should be aware.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe