

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 24

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

12th March 2021

Welcome Back 😊

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the children back to school this week and could not have been more pleased and proud of the way in which they have responded.

Our focus has been very much on mindfulness, building resilience, rekindling friendships, allowing opportunities for social interactions and learning outside of the classroom.

I am absolutely sure you will have some exhausted children this weekend, but I hope by Monday, they'll be recovered, re-energised and ready to do it all again 😊

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The theme of British Science Week this year is 'Innovating the future' and this week, as part of British Science Week (March 5th – 14th), children in each year group have had the opportunity to watch some exciting online lessons hosted by Encounter Edu and presented by real-life farming role models from across England and Wales.

These four lessons have enabled children to begin to examine the science behind the food that they eat and the thousands of people involved in its production.

Each of the lesson had a specific focus:



Lambing live allowed children to join a sheep farmer, and consider how sheep are adapted to their environment and how humans play a role in adaptation through breeding.

Future Farming Robots focused on looking at how robots can solve some of farming's biggest challenges; how we could improve soil health and how we could grow crops more efficiently.



'Which came first, the chicken or the egg?' enabled children to find out about where eggs come from, how they develop into chickens and how newborn chicks are cared for.

The Farm Vet, allowed children to learn about becoming a trainee vet, and how to keep animals healthy.



This has been a great opportunity for children of our school to be part of British Science Week with Science Farm Live.



Comic Relief – Friday 19th March



We are delighted to be joining schools and others across the country next Friday in support of Comic Relief, raising money for disadvantaged children across the UK and the world. We are offering our children (and staff!) the opportunity to wear red, or any Red Nose Day / Comic Relief themed merchandise they would like.

Cash donations can be brought to school, but we would prefer if parents were able to make their donation via ParentPay through the link below:
<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=3120>

Screen Time

Anyone who is a parent (and honest) will tell you that their child has had more unsupervised screen time in the last year than ever before. I include myself in this group and I know how incredibly hard it can be to keep a close eye on what children and teenagers are doing, especially when in some ways they are more tech savvy than we are. I would just like to urge parents to continue to have those difficult conversations with their children about their online activity; keep asking to view messages children are sending, receiving and viewing as part of groups they belong to; keep checking content from web searches and views on YouTube / TikTok and finally check the suitability of any videos your children are uploading / posting.

We have been made aware of some very inappropriate WhatsApp and TikTok content, particularly related to our Y6 children, including some explicit messages and some dance videos that children have posted which as parents I am sure you would not want to fall in to the wrong hands.

Please, please don't think of this warning as any kind of judgement on parenting – as I said I include myself in this group – sometimes we all just need a gentle reminder to take care.

School Dinner menus

Thank you to everyone who contacted us to offer feedback on school dinners and express their preference on the availability of sandwich bags. We were delighted with the positive feedback we received – this has been passed to Mrs Brammar & Mrs Roach in the kitchen. Based on the feedback received, we will not be offering a sandwich bag option at lunchtime and will continue to serve hot dinners throughout the summer term.

World Book Day - Toilet Roll Characters

We were delighted to receive over 30 World Book Day - Toilet Roll Characters. Every entry received a chocolate bar for their hard work and the overall winners received a Mini Egg Easter Egg.

Congratulations to Olive H, Layla M, Daisy C, Laurie H, Will Ca, Zachai K, Kaybie P-J and Evie Ni.



Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe