

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 25

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

19th March 2021



We were delighted to see so many children dressed up today in support of Comic Relief. I can tell you that we raised £35.50 in school and donations via Parent Pay reached £373.50, giving a total of £409 – this is a phenomenal achievement. Parent Pay will remain open until next Friday. Thank you so much for your generosity and the part you have played in making a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children across the UK and the world.

Potters Way / Gilmour Lane

We have been asked by Barton Parish Council to inform parents and carers of major urgent works to the bank at the Fishpond commencing next Monday 22nd March for a period of 2 weeks. This will involve the closure of Potters Way to through vehicular traffic (pedestrian access will not be affected) and the full closure of the footpath between Potters Way and Gilmour Lane for the duration of the works.

We understand this may cause particular difficulties for parents accessing both the Infant and Junior Schools at specified arrival times and departure times. We will continue to offer flexibility for children to arrive up to 9:00am each morning with no late marks being given. Please let us know if you would like your child to wait with Mrs Sharpe on the gate at the end of the day until you arrive.

Christingle fund raising

We have received the following message from Jill Rogers, on behalf of St. James' Church:

Would you like to tell your parents that the online video service we posted to YouTube and for which we gave out Christingle kits raised £335.00 for the Children's Society.

So a big thank you to the parents and children from your school who supported us and the Society.

If you missed it and would like to support the Society still there are two ways you can do that:

1. Contact Jill and she will drop off a collecting box or envelope. Her phone number is 01283 712809 or email: bellringinggranny@gmail.com
2. Use the QR code to donate online



Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk

We have been delighted to see that the Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk project has been so well received by families. Thank you to those who have already signed up to be a sponsor - there is still time if you missed it - check out the letter attached to the newsletter last week. We have not set a specific deadline as we hope this will be an ongoing project that we are able to continue to add to over time, however we would like to plant the first phase of trees this Spring, so the sooner you do get your order in, the more we will have in 'Phase 1'.

Easter Break

Our last day at school this term is Thursday 1st April. Please note there is no Night Owls on Thursday evening. We return after the Easter Holiday on Monday 19th April.

If you would like to make use of our before and after school care, please see below:



Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and is based around a range of sports, team games, construction activities & ICT.

Breakfast is provided and includes toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt and a drink of fruit juice, milk or water.

Early Birds costs £3.00 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Summer 1 can be made via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **43a9t**

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45

(Except last day of term - Christmas, Easter & Summer.)

Activities provided include a range of free play, construction activities, art & crafts, outdoor games and toy sheds.

Children receive fruit and drink at the beginning of the session, then a light tea just before 5:00. Tea includes a selection of sandwiches, toast or hot dogs; fruit, yoghurt or cake and a drink.

Night Owls costs £8.00 per session.



Night Owls Bookings for Summer 1 can be made via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **6r5ed**

Please book requirements by 15th April to support us in accurate planning.

All booking are subject to our standard Terms and Conditions

Future dates

We break up for May half term on Friday 28th May and we have an INSET Day on Monday 7th June, so children return on Tuesday 8th June.

Our last day at school before Summer is Wednesday 21st July and again there will be no Night Owls that night.

Those children who are returning after the summer break will start on Monday 6th September as we have INSET days on 1st, 2nd and 3rd September.

Please note, for those moving on to High School, we do always try to co-ordinate INSET Days with TRIS, but you will need to check start dates for Y7 children at JTHS and JTFS.

Online activity

I wanted to share with parents our concerns about children's online activity. Quite a lot of our children in Y6 looked absolutely exhausted today and some all week. Whilst we understand that many children are finding it challenging being back at school full time, getting up earlier and the increased hours of focussed school work, there has been a marked difference in the demeanour of Y6 children in comparison to other year groups.

We are hearing a number of stories about considerable hours spent taking part in online gaming and communication, some of which seems to be occurring rather late at night. I totally understand that with the current Lockdown restrictions, it is difficult for children to get outside to meet up and therefore much of their socialising is being done online. However, I would strongly urge parents to limit online access, encourage children outside to meet up in person in the fresh air and also to ensure devices are not available in children's bedrooms when you think they are asleep.

For all year groups - keeping children safe is hugely important, but can seem like a minefield without good support and advice. NSPCC have some fabulous resources, which might help you to navigate the journey.

Visit: [Keeping children safe | NSPCC](#) or search: NSPCC Keeping children safe

Away from home Children starting school or work, and taking part in activities can be both exciting and worrying. We've got tips to help you keep children safe. Find out more	Children's mental health Advice on how to support your child if they're struggling with depression, anxiety, self-harm or suicidal thoughts. Learn more	In the home We've got advice to help children build up independence at their pace, keeping them safe both at home and if they're moving out. Learn more
Online safety From online games and video apps to sexting and online porn, we've got advice to help you keep your child safe online. Learn more	Our services Our services help children who've been abused, protect children at risk, and find the best ways to prevent child abuse from ever happening. Learn more	Reporting child abuse and neglect Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect, or are worried about a child and not sure what to do, we have advice for you. Find out more
Sex and relationships Advice around healthy relationships, sexuality, gender identity and support to help you keep children safe. Learn more	Support for parents Parenting can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging. We've got advice on dealing with babies and tantrums, to divorce and mental health problems. Learn more	Talking about drugs and alcohol Lots of parents are concerned about underage drinking and drug taking. Find out how you can keep your child safe and aware of the risks. Learn more

Please do get in touch with us if you have any worries or concerns about your child, and we will all do our utmost to support you and them.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe