

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 26

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

26th March 2021

Our final total raised for Comic Relief 2021 is £431 – this is a phenomenal achievement.

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.



Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk



We hope to be placing our order for the first phase of planting in our Hope Orchard early next week. If you would like to be a part of this, please ensure both the completed form and the payment is with us by Monday. If you are still contemplating the wording for your dedication, there is no rush on this, you can decide after you have planted your tree.

Covid 19 / illness / absence

I wanted to provide some messages, which I hope will offer clarity regarding Covid symptoms, Covid testing and the way we are managing pupil attendance at Thomas Russell Junior School.

We have experienced a little confusion with regard to differences between LFD and PCR tests. LFD testing should only be used with **asymptomatic** people. Parents / carers and adults in support bubbles are all able to access LFD testing should they wish. To find out more, follow this link: [Schools, nurseries and colleges testing: order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-nurseries-and-colleges-testing-order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-home-test-kits). Secondary pupils and those in workplaces are also offered asymptomatic LFD testing.

PHE are advising that primary-aged pupils should not be using LFD testing kits. They recommend children are only tested if they are symptomatic, in which case their families should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#).

If a child has any Covid symptoms - which includes the '**classic**' symptoms (persistent or new cough, high temperature and loss of taste or smell) as well as '**other frequently reported**' symptoms (headache, aches and pains, feeling very tired, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and tummy ache in children) - we would request they are kept at home until a PCR test has been completed and a negative result received.

We understand there are many overlapping symptoms between the common cold and an everyday sore throat; however, we are desperately keen to avoid a situation where a whole class or year group is required to isolate for 10 days when they have already missed so much. I am sure parents are keen to avoid it too.

We are asking parents to be extra cautious and take their child for a test if they have any of the symptoms listed above. Once this has been done and a negative result received (and it generally takes less than 24 hours) then we will be very happy to accommodate children back in school. What we are really keen to do is avoid a situation where we allow a child in to school with a sore throat thinking it is nothing more, but it turns out to be Covid-19 and in that time they have been in contact with many other pupils and staff.

Previously we have requested that if children have any of the above symptoms, they are not given Calpol or similar before school as this medicine may mask a developing temperature or other symptoms. We are also aware there was guidance published in November, which said pupils with the 'other' symptoms could return to school whilst they awaited the results of their PCR test - we would like to appeal for parents to be patient and await the result so the risks can be more safely managed.

In limited cases, we may be able to offer a PCR test kit to parents who have difficulty in booking a PCR test for their child.

We are doing our very best to strike the balance being overly cautious and protecting as many children as we can and I would like to thank all of our parents for your support and understanding as we navigate these difficult times

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.

Don't forget to book your Early Birds and Night Owls requirements for next half term:



www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Early Bird - 43a9t

Night Owls - 6r5ed

Deadline - Thursday 15th April.

All booking are subject to our standard Terms and Conditions



Royal Academy of Arts - Young Artists Summer Show!

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 5 - 19 years studying in the UK and British schools overseas.

We have registered Thomas Russell Junior School to take part. Next, students, their parents/guardians or their teachers can submit artworks. These artworks are then judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

If there are any parents who would like to create an account and submit artworks on behalf of their children. All they need to do is log in to <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/submissions/1> and select 'parent'. As you go through the submission process, you will be prompted to select your child's registered school then we will be able to see who is submitting and what they are submitting.

I know lots of children have been doing amazing art work at home in lock down and we would love to see this recognised.

Thanks

Mrs Z Khalid

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe