

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 28

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

23rd April 2021

Is your child a budding artist?

We are delighted to have three art projects running in school currently.

The first is **Royal Academy of Arts – Young Artists Show**. Families have been encouraged to submit entries (information poster attached). We are very pleased to have work from a number of different children in different year groups in the competition already, but there is still plenty of opportunity for more. Please note the deadline is very close - Monday 26th April.



Our second is a project supporting the **NHS** on the theme of '**Hope**' where children are creating pieces of artwork for the **immunisation centres**. Children in Y5 have already completed their contributions and other year groups will be doing there's next week. Keep an eye out for our art work if you are attending one of these centres.

And finally we are taking part in a **Royal Mail** competition to **design a stamp** honouring heroes of the coronavirus pandemic. Please find attached a letter regarding information shared with entries to this competition. If you do not wish your child's design / details to be included in the competition, please let us know.



Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk

We are delighted to be planting the first trees in our Hope Orchard on Saturday morning. Our event will take place from 10:00 - 11:30, however we only anticipate it taking approximately 30-40 minutes for you to plant your tree, so please don't feel you have to stay for the whole session, or arrive punctually at 10:00.

We would request families maintain 2m social distancing from each other during the event and wear a mask when this is not possible.

Our second planting event will take place on a Friday evening from 4:30 - 5:30. We will confirm the date once the next batch of fruit trees and other items have been delivered.



Parent Consultations

On Monday 19th, you will have received an e-mail with booking information for Parent Consultations, which take place on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th May.

We have already had 176 families book their time slot. Please could anyone else who wishes to make an appointment do so by Wednesday 28th April. Many thanks.

Summer sun



It has been wonderful this week to be able to enjoy much more sunshine and warmer weather. Please could we ask that parents provide their children with sun cream and a sun hat for protection on hotter days. We would also like to encourage every child to bring a water bottle to school every day. Finally, please ensure all jumpers and cardigans are labelled. It can be very tricky when a whole class of children take their cardigan / jumpers off on the playground, trying to ensure each one goes back to the correct owner.

We know we have a number of children who will be suffering from hayfever symptoms in the coming weeks, especially when using the field. Again, please could we encourage parents to provide medication in school if required (to the office with a completed consent form), a spare packet of tissues and sunglasses if these help.

Year 6 Leavers

At this time of year, attention in Y6 often turns to Leavers' events and items. In school, we will be focussing on preparing the children fully for their transition to their new Secondary School and in-school events such as TRJS Olympics, Residential@home and preparing a Leavers' Assembly (in whatever form we are allowed by July, depending on restrictions).

There is sometimes a misconception that we also organise items such as Leavers' hoodies and disco, however these have traditionally been organised by the parents of the relevant year group. We are more than happy to support with circulating information to families, collecting payments etc. but in our experience, it works well if a small committee of parents liaise together on each project.

Historically, the Leavers' Book was also organised by parents and is funded by the Friends Association. We have taken that in school in the last few years due to time constraints, but if any parents have links with a printing firm or are able to support, again please feel free to get in touch.



Talk to strangers!

It has come to my attention that there have been a number of safeguarding issues raised with children of Junior School age using this app. Given the strap line of the app is 'Talk to strangers', that should ring alarm bells in itself, but knowing that children with this app can easily text, chat and video message with total strangers in an anonymous manner raises huge concerns. I have attached a Parent Guide to omegle which will explain much more about the levels of inappropriate content that your child may be able to access and the risks they are exposed to if they have this app on their phones / computers.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe