

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 31

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

14th May 2021

Science Ambassador Wildlife Recording



On Monday, after school, the 12 Science Ambassadors went on a wildlife hunt, to create biological records of plants and animals on our field. We scoured the edge of the field under wood and in mud for insects and amphibians. We found lots and lots of animals and plants including: ants, a butterfly, slugs, fungi, snails, a frog, toads, sycamore trees, daisies, forget me nots, and many more.

To create these biological reports, we only needed four answers; who is making the report, where did you see the wildlife, when did you see it and what species is it.



Famous people like David Attenborough and Dr. Jane Goodell, also make records like these. We made sure that all of the animals were back in their habitats, and were left alone after this workshop. We really enjoyed this experience and we would like to thank Nicola from the Transforming the Trent Valley project.



Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk

We have been really pleased to see the children making great use of the Wellness Walk over the past couple of weeks as well as showing real dedication to watering their trees.

I am delighted to say we have a number of trees that are not only sprouting lots of leaves already, but are even blossoming!

We will be having another planting event on Friday 21st May from 4:15 – 5:30.



Please let us know if you have sponsored a tree, but are unable to make this second event and we will find a more convenient time for you.

We have purchased some softer ties, so if you already planted a tree and would like to come and see how much it has grown already, then you would be most welcome, and you could replace the ties whilst you are here.

Y3 to Packington Farm



In more 'outdoors' news, I am delighted to tell you what a fabulous time our Y3 children had this week on their visits to Packington Farm.

Staff and children had two wonderful days there (dodging the thunder and rain showers) to experience a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Huge thanks to the team at Packington!



SplashLearn

We were over the moon to receive confirmation this week that 5K were placed 2nd in the National competition and 5H were 3rd. 5Ks win secures a fabulous £600 Amazon voucher prize and we are just awaiting confirmation of what 5H has won.

This is an amazing achievement and credit to the staff and all of the children who competed.

TRJS Olympics – 24th to 28th May



As I explained a few weeks ago, the current restrictions mean it is not possible for us to hold a traditional Sports Day, welcoming parents and grandparents on to site. However, we are delighted with the alternative plan we have and hope the children will gain much enjoyment from events.

We would like to invite the children to wear sports kit every day during Olympics week. Children should wear trainers every day (these offer much better support when running on grass than black pumps)

Please could we ask for House colour t-shirt and black shorts.

Over the top of that, we recommend a tracksuit for warmth and comfort whilst not competing. As always, children will need a water bottle in school and may bring an additional small afternoon snack (nothing for sharing thanks) each day

We would also like children to bring something waterproof to sit on. A bag for life is perfect, or a carrier bag, a piece of yoga mat or similar would all be suitable alternatives. Those wishing to sit back in style may want to slip a carpet square or cushion pad into their bag for added comfort!

Residentials @ Home

I am delighted to say that our plans are coming together for our 'at home' alternatives to residential visits. We will be able to give fuller details soon. Provisionally, our plans are focussed during the week of 5th – 8th July. They include a couple of smaller opportunities for Y3, more activities for Y4 including one evening activity on Wednesday 7th July and fuller plans for Y5 and 6 which will include evening activities on the Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th July. For Y6, we also have some off-site activities planned that week.

Uniform

When we do manage to have sunny days, we are having a few problems with lost jumpers and cardigans. Please could I ask all parents as they wash uniform this weekend to check that what your child is wearing does actually belong to them, and check that name labels are still clearly identifiable? Sadly, it's no help at all when a child tells us - I know mine is a size 9-10 or I will recognise the label! We do have spare cardigans for sale at £1 each from the office.

One more step ...

On Monday 17th May, we reach another milestone in the roadmap towards 'the other side'. We are really excited by the prospects and possibilities that this brings, especially as more staff receive their vaccinations and the lateral flow testing regime is in full swing.

We would like to request that parents continue to wear a mask whilst on site at drop off and collection where social distancing is not possible. Staff will continue to do the same.

Thank you for keeping us up to date when children are having PCR tests. We totally understand the feeling of fatigue that everyone is experiencing but wanted you to know that we really appreciate your continued support and action. Turn around times are around 18 hours now, so if in doubt – get a test.

Eid



We would like to wish Eid Mubarak to all of our families who have celebrated Eid this week.

It was lovely to see the fabulous photographs of children enjoying the celebrations, the wonderful henna art and taste some of the sweet treats that you shared with us - thank you.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe