

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 33

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk

We have been delighted to plant nearly 30 more trees in our Hope Orchard this week. The weather was kind and it was so lovely to see families working together and enjoying the activity. We are coming towards the end of planting Phase 1 trees, and will be on to bulbs, seeds and more trees as the appropriate times of year come around. Thank you once again to everyone who has become a sponsor - we have been so pleased to see the project come to life ☺

### TRJS Olympics – 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May



I cannot tell you how pleased and proud I was to see our school come together for our first collective event this year. Despite the rain doing its best to dampen spirits at the beginning of the week, we managed to pull in almost all of the events we had planned. Huge credit must go to the children who showed bravery and resilience as well as some fabulous skills, competing in heats against their house for every track

event, with the top 3 in each race taking a coveted seat in the 'winners' enclosure' to then compete in the final, scoring points for their House for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The children's behaviour and sportsmanship shone through and I was especially pleased to see them looking smart in House colour kit – it's been a while since it has been warm enough to be out in shorts and t-shirts!

Huge thanks to Mrs Vardy who pulled together the brilliant plan for activities, and to all the staff who made the plan come to life ☺ There was such a lovely buzz around the event, and I know from a number of parents that the children have really enjoyed themselves too.

### Barton Fishing Pond

I have received a call from one of the bailiffs of the fishing pond to raise concerns about children's safety around the pond, particularly at the end of the school day. You may have seen that the geese have baby goslings now, and they will understandably be very protective of these. I've also heard reports that last week children were seen throwing stones at the new nesting box and playing dangerously close to the edge of the water.

As the weather improves and restrictions are lifted, I can see the natural inclination to congregate in groups whilst the children play, but please could I ask firstly that parents remain mindful that restrictions are still in place for a reason, and secondly keep a close eye on children near the water. Remember you are always welcome to come into the school grounds, and there is plenty of space on the field by the scooter park where younger children can play safely away from the water. Thanks.

## Class Organisation 2021 - 2022

Next year, we are having a move around of staff (teachers and teaching assistants) as we believe this is a valuable opportunity to broaden experiences and is good for professional development. This year we will also be moving one teacher up with each year group team as we feel this is important for continuity having had so many interruptions to learning over the past 15 months.

As you will know we have a strong history of a very successful system, where children are placed in two base classes of 30ish, but the split into three smaller classes of 20ish for core subjects. We will be teaching in mixed ability classes for English and ability sets for Maths next year. This ensures all children, regardless of ability, are able to receive more individual attention and lessons are able to move at a pace that best suits their needs. We are pleased to announce that this organisation will be in place for all year groups.

Here is how it will look in practice:

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Miss Press	Mrs Rollins	Mrs Preston	Miss Marston	Mrs Howell	Mrs Khalid	Mrs Vardy	Miss Hurdman
6P	6R	5P	5M	4H	4K	3V	3H

When we split into 3 classes for core subjects:

	Miss Murfin will teach in Y6.		Mrs Kerr-Delworth will teach in Y5.		Mrs Jones will teach in Y4.		Miss Branson will teach in Y3 from 18 <sup>th</sup> October.
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Teaching Assistants across school are:

						
Y6 - Mrs Alcock	Y5 - Mrs King	Y5 - Mrs Graves	Y4 - Mrs Windsor	Y4 - Mrs Cozens	Y3 - Mrs Chantler	Y3 - Mrs Shorthouse

As always we will be asking children to express their friendship choices, then we will be looking to put together new classes, which are balanced in gender, ability, friendships and a good mix of different characters and personalities. Please can I politely remind parents that we do not accept personal requests and that we will be basing our class organisation on the best interests of all children across school. We will notify parents of their child's class in Academic Reports on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July and we will have Move Up Morning on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*