

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 36

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

25th June 2021

Reading Ambassadors

Well done to everyone who submitted an application for the Reading Ambassador roles. We have been absolutely inundated with applications that some children have clearly spent a long time working on. Miss Murfin and I will be reviewing all the applications over the next week and will let children know the outcome as soon as possible.



MINDFUL MENTORS



On Thursday 10th June, the Mindful Mentors (who run sessions involving wellbeing and serenity and have lots fun) ran several sessions, during the morning, all about mindfulness. The things we did contained much variety as we did activities like origami, yoga and breathing exercises. The first thing we did was the Mindful Mantra, and then our teachers did an amazing starter for us all. After that, we did some relaxing yoga outside with our classes. Once we had done the yoga, year 6 made origami frogs, then we raced them outside in houses, and year 5 made a paper version of the fidget toy 'Simple Dimple'. In year 4 we created mindfulness trees and flowers and year 3 enjoyed some squiggle colouring. In this morning, the Mindful Mentors and the classes had lots of fun and we hope we can do something like this again. 😊





Residentials @ Home

So far, we still only have 202 forms completed for the Residentials @ Home out of 248 children and 117 people who have contributed on ParentPay. Please could we ask if everyone could try to do this over the weekend to help with planning and ordering food etc.

Please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZMEcBsam17>

My name is Abbi and I am in Year 6. I love to help a charity called 'Burton HOPE'; an organisation run in Burton that helps the homeless and families in need, with food, housing, paperwork, jobs and so much more. They recently won a Support Staffordshire Award for Volunteer Team of the Year.



Please consider **donating** any of the following items on

Friday 16th July (immediately before and after school) when my Mum and I will be outside the school gate with our car. We really hope that you will help to support this very worthwhile local charity. Thank you so much.

Abbi and Liz☺

Men's Trainers	Jogging Bottoms	Tee Shirts	Sweat shirts	Ladies Trainers	Knickers
<u>Things to donate:</u>	Pasta Sauce	Tinned Meat	Tinned Fish	Tinned Fruit	Biscuits
Boxes of Cereal	Tea Bags	Coffee	Shampoo	Deodorant	Pasta

Thank you in advance for your support.

Y6 Ready Meeting

Previously at this time of year, we have held a meeting for parents and children in Y5 to share the expectations of Y6 and explain the format and structure of the SATs test. It is not possible to hold this meeting face-to-face, but we will be offering a Zoom Meeting with current and new Y6 staff on Tuesday 13th July at 4pm. We would like to see as many parents and children as possible at the meeting and hope you will find it really useful. For those unable to attend, we will be able to share the slides which are discussed.

The Zoom code will be sent to parents of all Y5 children closer to the time.

Hair

Please could we remind parents and children that we have a rule at school that children should wear their hair tied back as soon as it is long enough to do so. This rule is the same for girls as well as boys. We have also noticed an increasing number of long / floppy fringes. We ask these are held back out of children's eyes (with grips or a band) so that they are able to look between their written work, the whiteboard and the teacher without constantly flicking it out the way or looking through their hair. We really appreciate parental support in enforcing this rule.

My Money Week 2021

The 14th-18th June saw the return of My Money Week and throughout school, children took part in workshops and activities to broaden their understanding of all things financial. The week is always popular and generates lots of interesting discussion and debate.

Class teachers used real-life scenarios to explore a wide range of topics, encouraging children to think about money, where it comes from and the things to consider when making financial decisions.

On Monday, children in Year 3, created moneyboxes. They then spent the week eagerly earning money, which they were able to spend on Friday!

Here is a report from the year's highest 'earners', Lucy F, Nancy B and Jacob J.

We did My Money Week and learnt about all the different ways to keep your money safe, in a moneybox or bank. We talked about the different ways to pay such as debit card, Go Henry card, and the different types of money and coins. We decided if we wanted to spend more or less money on free things with family or expensive things on your own, like a new book for £12.50 or get one from the library for free. We played money bingo and whoever won got 2p.

During the week we did all sorts of jobs to earn money. We had lots of hands up to contribute and a lot of money was earned. On Friday, we got to spend some money on toys or stationery and take them home!

Other themes explored during the week included: spending vs saving, jobs and earning money, paying interest, changing methods of payment and keeping money safe (recognising, and dealing with, scams and fraud). Parents and carers of children in Y5 may have noticed their children bringing home a guide explaining what to do if they receive scam text messages or emails.

In addition to the in- class activities, all children took part in online workshops led by HSBC bank; these were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Year 4 discussed means of payment including debit and credit cards. Meanwhile, Upper School learned how to be money savvy and to become critical consumers as they explored budgeting and how to make the most of their money when planning days out or meals for the family. Here's what some of the children had to say about the week:

"We learnt a lot about different types of bank accounts and things that could be useful in later life." Jessica Y5
"Trying new activities was fun and we discovered lots of information about fraud and scams." Laura Y5.

"I've learnt that there are different ways to get paid. I've also learnt that some jobs don't earn any money - you volunteer." Ruby Y4

"You need to have qualifications to do certain jobs and the more qualifications usually gets you a higher pay. You can get paid in different ways, for example it could be hourly." Ted Y4

"I liked the Zoom lesson because of the football and seeing what the prices were of merchandise, food, tickets and transport." Malachy Y6

"It was good to look at what to do if you get scammed." Noah Y6

"The Zoom lesson was extremely engaging and it got the whole class giving their thoughts." Ben Y6

If you would like to find out more about financial education for children, the following websites offer great resources for use at home.

<https://www.hsbc.co.uk/financial-education/>

<https://natwest.mymoneysense.com/home/>

Y3 children enjoying My Money Week



*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*