

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 37

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

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Moving On and Moving Up



Firstly, I would like to say congratulations to our Y6 children who experienced a face-to-face transition day at John Taylor High School this week. I heard some super reports about the standards of your behaviour and the first impression you made, which is fabulous. Sadly, for our pupils moving on elsewhere they have not been able to join face-to-face days, due to Covid restrictions, but we are certain they will make an equally good first impression. We wish all of our Y6s the very best in their next steps.

We were delighted to welcome most of our new Y2 children to school this week for their transition day. Again, we were impressed with the resilience these little children showed on their first visit and they also made some very good first impressions, so we look forward to welcoming the whole cohort to school properly in September.



Residentials @ Home

We are very excited about arrangements for next week and know the children are looking forward to it too. Last minute reminders:

- Children need a 'day bag' on their residential days (Y3 - Monday, Y4 - Monday & Tuesday, Y5 - Tuesday to Thursday, Y6 - Monday to Thursday) A rucksack containing snack, lunch, water bottle, waterproof coat, sun hat, sun-cream, inhaler (if required).
- Children are allowed to bring a maximum of £3 in a named purse on their souvenir / tuck shop day (Y3 on Monday, Y4 on Tuesday, Y5 and Y6 on Wednesday)
- On the day that they have archery, children need a long sleeved t-shirt or jumper to protect their arm. (Y6 on Monday, Y4 on Tuesday, Y5 on Wednesday)
- For all activities leggings, joggers, shorts or tracksuits trousers will prove more practical than jeans or skimpy shorts (think climbing harness and crawling on the floor!)
- If you ordered sandwich bags for activity days, these will be delivered to your child before lunch and Y6 should collect them from the kitchen at 9am on their trip days.
 - Children should wear uniform when not on activity days.

Thank you for contributions that have been made via ParentPay towards the cost of residentials. I can tell you that total contributions so far fall significantly short of covering our costs. Discover Tree Climbing alone is costing just under £14 per pupil.

I would kindly ask parents who have contributed less than this to consider if they may be able to afford more.



Reading Ambassadors

Miss Murfin and I have started working our way through the applications to be a Reading Ambassadors, but haven't finished looking at all of them yet - given the quality and effort that children have committed, we want to give them the attention they deserve. We will announce the successful applicants next Friday in Merit Assembly.

I have to say the ones we have seen so far have been exceptional and it is going to make our decision very hard.

Swimming

I know some of you have been lucky enough to re-start swimming lessons since the Lockdown, however we are sorry not to have been able to open up the pool for our whole class swimming safely yet.

Please don't be offended if you feel like I'm pointing out the obvious, but I just wanted to ask parents and children to be extra vigilant when/if they do get



opportunities to swim during the summer holiday. It will be 18 months since some children have swum. Not only will they be likely to have grown, they will likely have lost some of their swimming ability too and I would hate for anyone to get into difficulty due to underestimating the impact this lack of experience will have. Stay safe ☺

Early Birds and Night Owls - Autumn 1



Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and is based around a range of sports, team games, construction activities & ICT.

Breakfast is provided and includes toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt and a drink of fruit juice, milk or water.

Early Birds costs £3.00 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Autumn 1 can be made via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: 3ks6d

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45

(Except last day of term - Christmas, Easter & Summer.)

Activities provided include a range of free play, construction activities, art & crafts, computing, outdoor games and toy sheds.

Children receive fruit and drink at the beginning of the session, then a light tea just before 5:00. Tea includes a selection of sandwiches, toast or hot dogs; fruit, yoghurt or cake and a drink.

Night Owls costs £8.00 per session.



Night Owls Bookings for Autumn 1 can be made via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: qwbh7

We break up for Summer Holiday on Wednesday 21st July and children return to school on Monday 6th September.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe