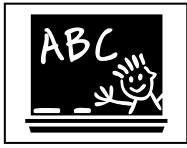


# Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 10

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Don't forget Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November is an INSET day and children are not in school.**

### 'Make a Noise' - Anti-Bullying Week

I must say huge congratulations to a small group of our choir who attended an event at Entrust HQ in Stafford on Wednesday as part of a week of anti-bullying activities. They each spoke about the anti-bullying work that has been going on at school over the last year or so then performed 'Power in Me'.

I don't think I'm biased when I say they were absolutely magnificent. The children really raised the roof and it was such a popular performance they were asked to repeat it at the end of the event and had every single person there up on their feet singing and clapping along. It was a really 'feel good' way to conclude the morning and I was very proud of each and every one of them.



I hope all of the children have told you about our magician who visited on Thursday! He delivered a very

entertaining performance which captivated the children. He praised our children's behaviour and attitude towards anti-bullying and hopefully delivered some memorable messages too. One small concern which has been raised as a result of our anti-bullying work this week is about the number of children who have regular and open access to photo-messaging such as Instagram and also tell us they have Facebook pages - if you are a parent of a child in this group, please could I direct you towards our Cyber Safety information on our school website or visit the website below which has a wealth of information to help parents protect their children: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



### Parent Forum

We have our first Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 9am. We are looking forward to welcoming a number of new faces and do hope everyone will be able to come along. Don't forget you do not have to attend Parent Forum to contribute - just let us know if you would like a matter adding to the agenda. Please let us have these at least 24h in advance so we can put together the agenda. Suggestions can be written on the slip below and sent into school, emailed to [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) or passed to us via a rep before the meeting. Each point will always be raised anonymously and discussed openly by parents, staff and governors. You are able to find the outcome of discussions in the minutes which are added to the website and posted on the Parent Forum board in the entrance hall or via feedback in the weekly newsletter.

### Governing Body Vacancies – A message from the Chair of Governors

Mr Harmesh Bhogal has unfortunately had to leave the Governing Body due to changes in his job and other commitments. He has been active in many areas of school life of and played a key role in school development. This means there are now two vacancies on the Governing Body. Last month notification was given of a co-opted vacancy. There is now also a vacancy for an elected parent governor.

The Governing Body has an obligation to inform parents of "the skills they are looking for". However, 'skills' includes the skill to learn. The main requirement is having the time available to attend meetings and being willing to learn about and participate in the work of the Governing Body. The persons elected/appointed are likely to be asked to become members of the Premises and Health & Safety Committee, which meets jointly with the Finance Committee. Any existing skills in those areas would be especially welcome but willingness to engage is the most important consideration.

Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)

Please be aware that all governors are also members of the Strategy Committee. Most committee meetings take place in the mornings at 8.00 am though Strategy is held in the evening at 6.00 pm and meetings of the Governing Body take place at 7.00 pm.

The closing date for nominations for the elected position is 20<sup>th</sup> November – a nomination form for this position is obtainable from the school office. Any nominations received will also be considered for the co-opted position. Should anyone only be interested in the latter, they should please submit a brief statement about themselves.

For further details please contact Mrs Sharpe.

### Swimming Gala

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at swim team from TRJS competed in a gala at Abbots Bromley. The team included Katie S, Alex A, Noah O'B, Max C, Ella C, Ella H, Isaac G and Aiden J. We competed against 11 other school teams.

There were lots of races including front crawl individual, front crawl and back stroke relay, woggle race (on a float), breast stroke individual, breast stroke relay and the cannon. We all really enjoyed it and all played our part well. The team captains who lead us to glory were Katie S and Noah O'B. We were expecting we might come second, but we came FIRST and were very proud of ourselves for our achievement. By Katie S and Max C.

### Bikeability - Year 5

Please take extra care on the way to school next week. On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November Year 5 children will be taking part in the Bikeability programme so there will be 60 bikes coming in and out of school each day.

### Annie at John Taylor High School

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, Y4 & 6 children have been invited to watch the dress rehearsal of Annie. We always enjoy these performances and often the children learn valuable performance skills which they can apply to their own shows. We do hope to return on time for the end of the school day, but please be patient if children are a few minutes late as they will need to pop back into school to pick up book bags, sandwich boxes etc.

### Christmas Disco

This year the disco will be held at **Thomas Russell Junior School** (not the Village Hall)

Y3 & 4: 6-7pm, Y5 & 6: 7-8:30

Tickets include a hot dog, drink and sweets and cost £5. Please pay via Parent Pay by 26<sup>th</sup> November after which your child's ticket will be issued.

Please indicate if vegetarian option is required.

### Christmas Carol Concert

We will be holding our annual Carol Service at St. James Church on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. Children will all take part and we do hope parents will be able to join us.

### Celebrate Christingle at St. James Church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm

Contact Rev. Andrew Ridley - 01283 712359

### Beauty and the Beast Pantomime

Barton Bowls Club - 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

£10 per child - accompanying adult, free gift from Santa

Contact Lorna Walker - 07897 365653

TICKET ONLY EVENT

### Have your say...

We are ten weeks in to our electronic only Newsletters - what do you think?

I know some children preferred a paper version so they could read about what was happening, which they do less now, but what do parents prefer? Please voice your opinion via email or the slip below.

*Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe*

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### Parent Forum

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add the following item(s) to the agenda for discussion:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Newsletters

Place your vote now:

Keep it electronic

I preferred a paper version