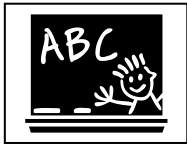


# Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 11

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015

### What's On? - Bumper Christmas Guide

What's On	Information	Where	Date	Time	What I need
Christmas Disco	Ticket includes a hot dog, drink and sweets	TRJS	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 & 4: 6:00 - 7:00 Y5 & 6: 7:00 - 8:30	Ticket only (no spending money required)
Christmas Post Box	Have your Christmas cards delivered by our Y6 elves!	TRJS	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December		Please ensure envelopes are clearly labelled with full name and class
Christmas Scholastic Book Fair	We receive 100% commission so sales help with raising money for books for us	TRJS	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3:45 after school each day	Meet your child outside of school and come back in the front door.
Christmas Dinner	Please see below	TRJS	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> December		Pay £2.10 on Parent Pay
BIG Awards Assembly	Each term we present Literacy, Numeracy and Writing Awards	TRJS	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9:15 - 10:15ish	Mrs Sharpe will contact individual parents
Christmas Parties	Y5&6 - Talent Show Y3&4 - Party games, Christmas Craft and Quiz	TRJS	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	pm	Teachers will talk to children about the talent show. Nothing else is required.
Carol Concert	We hope parents / grandparents can join us for this lovely festive event.	St. James Church	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00	Children can wear Christmas jumpers and House colour tinsel.

**Christmas Dinner** - This is always a very festive occasion and I would really like all of the children to take part this year. Children who receive free school meals are not expected to pay.

<p>Seasonal Roast Turkey served with Bacon wrapped Sausages Roast Potatoes Creamed Potatoes Peas and Carrots Sage &amp; Onion Stuffing Gravy</p> <p>Vegetarian option – Quorn Sausages</p> <p>Festive Chocolate Iced Sponge &amp; Custard Homemade Christmas Tree Shortbread Biscuits &amp; Custard Vanilla Ice Cream</p>
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#### WHEN AND HOW TO PAY

There is **NO** additional charge for those children who normally have a school dinner.

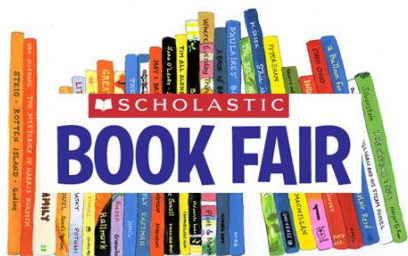
1. If you pay **WEEKLY** you should pay the usual amount of **£10.50** via **Parent Pay on Monday 14th December**.
2. If your child normally has sandwiches the cost of a Christmas Lunch is **£2.10**. You will need to pay this by **Tuesday 8th December** via **Parent Pay**, in order that the kitchen knows how many children they are catering for.
3. If your child requires a vegetarian meal or there is any other information you wish to inform us about please contact the office via Parent Pay. This can be done by selecting 'I want to' from the home screen, then 'View Communication' then 'Contact School'



Please note: this year we will be asking the children to select their pudding choice in school.

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

## Scholastic Book Fair



The Scholastic Book Fair will once again be visiting our school this year. The money raised from the fair will be used to buy books for classroom libraries as well as to buy books to expand our reading scheme. Last year we raised over £700 which allowed us to buy a huge amount of books for school!

The children will have the opportunity to visit the fair during school time to view the large selection of books available and the fair will be open each day from 3.45pm for purchases. We will be able to accept cash or cheque as payment for the books.

### **Book Fair opening times:**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 3.45pm**

We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

### Diary Dates for 2016

<i>Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Autumn Term Reports Out Break up for Christmas</i>
<i>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to School</i>
<i>Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>Open Morning for prospective Y3 parents</i>
<i>Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>		<i>Young Voices Concert</i>
<i>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</i>	<i>9:00</i>	<i>Parent Forum</i>
<i>Thur 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>4:00 – 7:00</i>	<i>Parent Consultations</i>
<i>Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<i>Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to School</i>
<i>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Mar</i>		<i>Y5 to Laches Wood</i>
<i>Thur 24<sup>th</sup> Mar</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Spring Term Reports Out Break up for Easter</i>
<i>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Apr</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to School</i>
<i>Thur 28<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Apr</i>		<i>Y4 to Whitemoor Lakes</i>
<i>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> May</i>		<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> – Thur 12<sup>th</sup> May</i>		<i>SATs Week</i>
<i>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May</i>		<i>Class &amp; Whole School Photo</i>
<i>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<i>Tues 7<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>8:50</i>	<i>Back to School</i>
<i>Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>9:00</i>	<i>Parent Forum</i>
<i>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> – Tues 5<sup>th</sup> July</i>		<i>JTHS Transition Days for Y6</i>
<i>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July</i>		<i>Y6 to PGL</i>
<i>Fri 15<sup>th</sup> July</i>		<i>Summer Term Reports Out</i>
<i>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> July</i>	<i>10:00</i>	<i>Leavers' Assembly</i>
	<i>3:30</i>	<i>Break up for Summer</i>

### Young Voices – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The children have been working exceptionally hard this term learning all of the songs for their Young Voices Concert, which is coming up on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January. We will send out any t-shirts / torches and concert tickets once they arrive in school after Christmas. Children will leave school at lunchtime and the parents' coach will pick up at 5pm.



### Governors at TRJS

Please find the latest Governor Newsletter attached via e-mail and on the Meet the Governors section of the website.

As you will recall we have two vacancies on the Governing Body, one co-opted vacancy and an elected parent governor.

We are very keen to hear from any parents who are interested in taking on one of these roles, and can assure you of support, training and advice to help you learn the role.

## Parent Forum

We had our first Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 9am. Firstly I would like to say thank you for the number of items that were brought to our attention for discussion. The purpose behind such a forum is to be able to share ideas for discussion resulting in better systems and improved communication.



Minutes of our meeting will be available to view on the website and on the Parent Forum noticeboard in due course.

- **School Photos** - some parents were concerned about limited options and the cost of buying multiple packages when they had siblings in school. Wrates are willing to manipulate packages so, should you wish to purchase different options to those advertised, please do contact them directly to discuss.
- **Monthly collection for YMCA** - following an incredible response at our Harvest Festival, some parents felt they would like to continue to support our chosen charity on an ongoing basis. This will be co-ordinated by a group of parent volunteers, so listen out for further details.
- **School mini-bus** - we discussed the significant costs of such an investment and also the ongoing costs and legal requirements. It was decided that whilst it might be a nice idea to have a minibus, the costs make it unfeasible. However, school will consider the hire of a mini-bus when appropriate. Also to address transport issues, it was decided that the selected team for each sporting event will be included in the letter detailing the event to help parents organising lift shares and ensure all children can be included, if they wish.
- **Lights on Gilmore Lane and outside of school** - Mr Harper has repaired all of the lights around the front of school. The school has paid to have the lights on Gilmour Lane repaired on numerous occasions, regularly to have them vandalised soon after. Given that school does not require street lights, it is questionable whether these should continue to be paid from the ever decreasing school budget, or whether they should be maintained by another village funding source, since they are for villagers use during dark evenings and nights. This matter is to be pursued further and any updates will be notified to parents.
- **Autumn Fair** - without a Friends Association, this has been one of the events that we have needed to postpone. There was a strong feeling amongst the Forum that, having had a year with school staff taking the key roles of a Friends Association, these roles should now be taken back by parents, reflecting the wealth of support given to the school. We know that whilst the events are beneficial for the funds they raise and the enjoyment for the children, they are also a vital link to bring the communities together. Parents also voiced their embarrassment that a school this size, in a village like Barton can't muster the necessary support.
- **Open Morning for New Y3 Parents in September 2016** - the date for this has been set for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please pass this information to any prospective parents you know. Tours need to be booked by contacting the school office.
- **Healthy Snacks** - there was a wide ranging discussion on the matter of what actually constitutes a 'healthy' snack. It was agreed that the school continue to make the recommendation that parents send children to school with a healthy snack for breaktime, with appropriate choices including:  
**fresh fruit and vegetables, yoghurt, cheese, healthy cereal bars and snack crackers.**  
It was also agreed that a number of options are marketed as healthy choices, but contain a significant amount of sugar - such as some cereal bars, fruit winders and similar.  
Inappropriate choices include: sweets, chocolate and crisps.
- **Handwriting pens** - there seems to be some confusion about the type of pens that children 'have' to have. We will provide children with a black Handwriting Pen when they achieve a consistently neat, joined writing style. These pens will be replaced free of charge every time they run out, by bringing the expired pen to the school office. Lost pens can be replaced at a cost of £1, and again we will continue to replace this free of charge for as long as children are at school.  
There is no expectation that children will have a Frixion pen.
- We also discussed the vote for **paper or electronic Newsletter** - we had 65 responses back from parents - 30 say return to paper, 30 say keep electronic and 5 say there are benefits to both. What staff have decided is that we will keep sending it electronically and a paper version will be sent to each classroom, displayed so children can read it whilst on the playground and placed in a folder in the entrance hall.

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### Christmas Minion Raffle

Raising funds towards a second TRJS defibrillator

Dan and Lydia Cartwright will be running a raffle at morning break time, starting on Monday 7th December:

£1 a strip with 5 chances to win.

We will raffle one for every £25 raised up to three minions.

Draw will take place during next Friday's Merit Assembly.

### 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

*Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe*