

Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 12

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

11th December 2015

League Tables

League tables showing the performance of 11-year-olds at primary schools across the country were published yesterday by the Department for Education. Pupils take SATs tests to assess Reading, Writing and Maths. Children are expected to reach a Level 4 in all areas; those achieving 4B are classed as 'secondary ready'. Reaching L5 exceeds expectation (representing those working at Y7/8 level).

You will find the league table below for our 10 closest schools:

No of 'eligible' pupils	School	Average Point Score	% achieving L4 in R, W & M	% achieving L4B in R, W & M	% achieving L5 in R, W and M	Overall Value Added
50	All Saints C of E Primary - Alrewas	30.8	92	86	36	100.0
59	Thomas Russell Junior School - Barton	30.0	88	83	36	100.4
39	St Stephen's Primary - Fradley	29.4	90	82	18	100.1
18	Coton in the Elms C of E Primary	29.3	89	72	33	100.3
25	St Peter's Primary - Yoxall	29.0	84	80	24	100.6
68	Rykneld Primary School	28.9	78	68	26	100.1
8	Mary Howard C of E Primary - Edingale	28.7	50	50	38	100.1
19	Walton C of E Primary	28.6	79	63	26	99.2
15	All Saints C of E Primary - Rangemore	28.1	67	53	20	99.8
12	Rosliston C of E Primary	27.9	83	75	17	99.5

Governors and Senior Leaders at the school are really pleased with these results. They ensure that not only are children well set up to achieve at secondary school, but with the high proportion of children already at L5, we know they will thrive. Ofsted were keen for us to 'Do more to convince all parents that this is a rapidly improving school that is going to help their children to do well and stay happy, fulfilled and safe.' We are sure these achievements will further reassure parents.

Christmas Disco

All the staff wish to express their congratulations to the children who joined us for the disco last Friday night. Their behaviour in both discos was impeccable which made giving up a Friday night a much more enjoyable experience for all of the staff. Also thank you to the number of parents who took the time to express their gratitude and appreciation - knowing our efforts have been recognised is a very nice feeling.

What's On? - Bumper Christmas Guide

Please don't forget to refer to the bumper guide on last week's newsletter which will let you know what is going on in school next week.

As an aside, if there are any parents who have any Nativity costumes for Junior age children which they wouldn't mind donating or lending to the school, we would be most appreciative.

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Friends AGM

There was a strong feeling at Parent Forum that having been without a group of parents to take on the committee roles for a year, now would be a good time to have a relaunch.

We never struggle to rally support for events, but there are many reasons why parents say they find it a struggle to attend meetings. Going forward we would like to make some suggestions to alleviate these struggles.

We think the following should help:

- limit meetings to an hour long as an absolute maximum.
- hold meetings after school rather than in evening to avoid the need for babysitters and minimise impact on fixed routines such as clubs, evening meal and bedtime.
- provide somewhere for children to go during the meeting which is enjoyable.

Taking these into account, we will be holding the **Friends AGM at 3:45 on Wednesday 27th January**. Mrs Brammer has kindly offered to make a cake for the occasion. We will provide supervision for any children (including younger ones) where they can have cake and a drink and watch a film.

Hopefully this will encourage greater attendance. At this meeting we would like to take nominations for the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also hope to come up with a list of events for the year, a quick 'shopping list' of what needs doing for each event, and a much larger list of people who are happy to be called upon for smaller responsibilities. We should also look at the current funds available to spend, how much recent events and activities have raised and come up with a 'wish list' for purchases for the coming year.

Breakfast Club & Dinner Money

This needs to be booked via the office so we know numbers attending each day. Sessions cost £2.50 each or £60 if booking for every day next half term. Costs of Dinner Money next half term are: £2.10 per day or £63.00 for the half term. Please ensure ParentPay is loaded with sufficient funds to cover these costs in advance. Please also ensure any changes you make are communicated in writing, in advance. Thank you.

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Reading Challenge Cards

As part of our drive to encourage children to read a range of texts, we have introduced Free Readers to our Reading Challenge Cards. The cards will be stuck into Reading Records by the children over the next week.

Each box on the card represents a different text type, the challenge for the children is to read one of each text type on the card. Each time they complete a text, we would like parents to initial and highlight the square to show that it has been completed. When the chart is full, the children will be entered into a raffle to win a prize. The prize draw will take place at the end of each school year. On completion of the card, children will be given a new card to challenge themselves with.

Please note that we do not expect parents to buy new books for their children to complete this challenge; each classroom has a selection of books and our library is incredibly well stocked! The library in the village also has a large range of children's books to choose from, or you may find some reading materials as you visit various attractions, etc.

Happy Reading! Mrs Vardy.

Young Voices - Wednesday 13th January 2016

Please note that there will be Choir on Thursday 17th December and Thursday 7th January to ensure we are ready for the concert.

On Thursday 7th January, we would like an extended practice to ensure we have time to run through every piece, so please could parents send children with a small snack to be eaten at 3:30 and collect at 5pm just on that one day.

Lunchtime Supervisor

We still have vacancies for two lunchtime supervisors at the school. If there are any parents interested we would like to hear from you.

Laches Wood

We have had a super response to our Laches Wood residential with over two thirds of the year group having already paid deposits.

Please do not miss the deadline of 16th December. We also ask that permission slips are also returned by this date.

Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe