

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 26

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022



### The Big Plastic Count

In assembly on Monday, we will be introducing the children to **Greenpeace's Big Plastic Count.**

This is something that we will be taking part in as a school, but also there's great opportunities for the children to take part at home as well.

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

Please encourage your children to visit this website to find out more and to 'sign up'.

### Scooters and Bikes

As you might have noticed, we have invested in additional scooter storage since we now have so many children scooting to school, which is brilliant.

Please could we ask you to ensure your child's 'vehicle' has a scooter/bike permit attached and also that it is taken home each evening - we have a few left almost every night.

In assembly today I have asked children to check at home that they have the correct scooter, as we've had two scooters reported missing (a red one and a turquoise one). Having a permit helps us to identify the owners of any remaining scooters, and stops the children accidentally taking the wrong one home. Thank you.

### Parent Governor

We are still on the lookout for a Parent Governor to join our dedicated team.

If there is anyone who would be interested in contributing to the further development of the school, then we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have experience in education or curriculum and would like to support in this way. Maybe your experience lies in buildings, leadership, health and safety, finance or HR...

If you have a few hours spare per term and are interesting in making a difference within your community, then we would love to hear from you. Applications are open now and close on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am. See form attached to last week's Newsletter.

For more information, contact Mrs Sharpe on [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk), speak to one of our Governors, or e-mail them on [governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)

### Staff Car Park

Please could we remind parents that they should not be using the staff car park as a turning point, drop off or pick up, unless using the designated parking space. The area is very busy with both pedestrians and cars between 8:00 and 8:50, and again at the end of the day, particularly when after school clubs are finishing (between 4:10 and 4:45). We had a near miss last week, which could have had horrendous consequences. Parents collecting from Night Owls after 4:50 are welcome to use the car park - by this time there are no unaccompanied children using this route to leave school and traffic is much quieter.

## Noah's Bracelet's for Ukraine

We are all super proud of Noah in Y3 and his amazing fundraising efforts. What started as a small project to do something positive to support others in a time where many felt helpless, has blossomed into an amazing enterprise and a phenomenal amount of money raised (not to mention a star spot on the radio and a well-deserved confidence boost too ☺).



My name is Noah I am 8 and I'm raising money for Save the Children because I want to help the refugees from Ukraine. I have been making friendship bracelets with my Mum. These are for sale for a donation to DEC Save the Children, any amount would be really good and all of the money made will be donated. Thanks for taking the time to visit my JustGiving page.

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/noahcrane?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=noahcrane&utm\\_campaign=pfp-email&utm\\_term=2fd771c574b64f5f9af06badd804e747](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/noahcrane?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=noahcrane&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=2fd771c574b64f5f9af06badd804e747)

## Tree planting at Tucklesholme Nature Reserve

This week, children, parents and grandparents had a great afternoon on Monday meeting up with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and planting trees at Tucklesholme Nature Reserve. Apologies that Thursday's session was cut short - we are investigating if it is possible to rearrange this. School ordered trees especially from the Woodland Trust and once the trees were delivered, our volunteers were assembled.



The tree planting activity was part of the Wildchild project. Kathryn (the Wildchild Officer) is aiming to create a 'Nature Discovery' area so that groups and individuals can go and take part in a range of outdoor activities there and TRJS volunteers all helped to plant out this area with around 130 trees.

We would like to say thank you to Kathryn for allowing TRJS the opportunity to take part in this initiative. Also a TRJS big thank you to all of our pupils, parents and grandparents who were able to attend, with spades in hand, to help us do our bit for Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

We want TRJS to become more involved in this super project, and others like this in the future.



## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Next week is the final week of all Spring Term clubs. All clubs are running with the exception of Choir, which has now finished. There will be a Young Voices rehearsals (only for children attending Young Voices) on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. New club information for Summer Clubs will be on the first Newsletter after Easter.

### Early Birds and Night Owls

The ethos of our wrap around care is to provide a 'home from home' environment, rather than an extension to the school day. Our familiar and friendly staff nurture a feeling of family. Activities are plentiful and there is always an element of free choice, just as would be enjoyed at home. Children are encouraged to play together and many form strong cross year-group friendships. Children all sit down around a table to eat breakfast and tea together, where the art of table manners and dinner conversation are promoted.



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 Summer 1** can be made via [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) using the code: **2wh+5**

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, 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 Summer 1** can be made via [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) using the code: **fd6nd**

**Deadline for all bookings is FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**  
(We cannot guarantee availability for bookings made after this date)

#### Terms and Conditions

Bookings for all sessions must be made in advance via the online booking system [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) using the code published in the Newsletter each half term. Bookings made via this system will be charged at the prices indicated above.

For safeguarding purposes, it is essential that a booking is made for each session before your child attends.

Bookings must be made every half term, even if you always require a regular pattern e.g. M, W & F.

All late bookings, additional sessions and cancellations must be made in writing to [patrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:patrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) and will be subject to a 50p admin charge.

Refunds will only be given where 48 hours' written notice is provided (with the exception of child illness, in which case a refund will be made on the second day of absence).

There is an additional charge for early drop off (before 8:00) and late pick up (after 5:45) at a rate of £5 per 5 minutes or part thereof.

You should ensure you have a second contact who will be able to collect your child in the case of emergency if you are unable to collect from Night Owls before closing time.

Payment should be made promptly via ParentPay for all sessions used and any admin charges as a result of changes.

If you wish to pay by Childcare Vouchers, please register this with the school, then wait until you receive your invoice at the end of the half term before making any payment. Once your invoice is received, please pay the correct amount via your electronic Childcare Voucher account.

We reserve the right to refuse future bookings where the above terms and conditions are persistently disregarded.

Finally, thank you for your swift and understanding response to yesterday's incident. The decision to send children home early is never taken lightly and was only made following advice from SCC Health and Safety Team and Public Health England regarding the safe evacuation of staff and pupils.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*