

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 22

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

4th March 2022



Hope Orchard and Wellness Walk

I am delighted to tell you that not only have all of the fruit trees in our Hope Orchard weathered the storms of the last few weeks, but they are also showing some superb signs of early spring growth.



For those families new to school, here is some information from when we launched the project:

We want to create a 'Hope Orchard' - a collection of fruit trees planted by our children and their families, dedicated with a plaque containing a message and family name. We hope the orchard will provide a lasting legacy, allowing us to recover and grow together as the trees in our Hope Orchard grow and in time, bear fruit.

Our 'Wellness Walk' will take a path around the school grounds, incorporating the beautiful space, willow archways and quiet places to sit and reflect. Once established, the Wellness Walk will weave its way through trees and longer grasses and be punctuated with different wild flowers in different seasons, such as snowdrops, daffodils, poppies and freesias.

This project will be led by the children, giving them ownership and reinforcing the message that by working together, with their family and others, they can achieve amazing things, leave their mark on the future and really make a difference in the world.

We would like to invite all members of our school community: past, present and future to join us in this project. It will offer a tranquil pathway for times when children need to walk and talk, somewhere to be calm and still, away from the busyness of life. There will be excellent environmental opportunities, encouraging more wildlife and boasting a variety of trees. Wellbeing will be promoted through exercise & fresh air, and mindfulness, as children are encouraged to notice their surroundings. Hopefully, it will also offer some delicious tasty treats and encourage children to eat fruit as they enjoy the outdoors.

Over the next few weeks, we will be planting more fruit trees, flowering bulbs and installing two more sponsored benches. We already have some beautiful snowdrops flowering on the walk, as well as the daffodils and crocuses, spreading cheerful colour.

We have lots of jobs to do keeping the Wellness Walk looking at its best and will be signing up the children to help as the weather improves. Later on in the year, there will be an opportunity for families to get involved in the next phase of planting, please speak to Mrs Sharpe if this is something you are interested in.

Lunchtime Supervisor

In a couple of weeks, we will bid a fond farewell to Mrs Da Rosa who has been a lunchtime supervisor at Thomas Russell Junior for over 7 years. Many of the children will know her from school lunchtimes and also from her weekend activities teaching dance. We all wish her the very best of luck in her new venture into Nursery care.

This does mean that we have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor 5 days a week, from 12:00 – 1:15. If there is anyone who would be interested in taking on this rewarding post, either 5 days or on a job share basis, then please contact Mrs Sharpe on 01283 247505 for more information.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

		Next week	14/3	21/3	28/3	4/4
Science Club 2	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Coding Club 2	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tennis (LS)	Tu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clarinet Group	Tu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cross Stitch	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Keyboard Group	Th	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Forest School	Th	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tennis (US)	Th	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Choir	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	No

The Woodland Trust & Thomas Russell Junior School



Here is an exciting opportunity for you and your child/ren to get involved in planting free trees from The Woodland Trust at Tucklesholme Nature Reserve.

Our school has chosen to take part in The Woodland Trust's Wildchild Project. The Wildchild Officer from Transforming the Trent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme is currently creating a discovery area at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Tucklesholme Nature Reserve, and we have the opportunity to plant a range of trees to help our environment.

Children and parents have the chance to go to the reserve during one / two afternoons and help to plant several trees. More details will follow in the Newsletter next week. We hope you will join us.



Mrs Vardy's Half marathon update

Thank you so much for your generosity. Your donations made such a difference to my total. As I write this, the amount that I have raised through my Just Giving page is £1197. This is a fantastic amount and will enable the British Heart Foundation to continue with their valuable work.

My Just Giving page is still open so if you would like to add to my total then please follow this link.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/louise-varDY1

And of course a huge thank you to Mrs Rollins for putting up with me for the 13.1 mile route of hills (not to mention all the training runs before hand)!



Next week, the whole school will be taking part in the NSPCC's **Speak Out, Stay Safe** programme. Please see the letter attached to this Newsletter for more information.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe