

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 37

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

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Dove Valley Athletics



On Tuesday 5th July, a team of children from Year 4, 5 and 6 headed to William Shrewsbury School to take part in the Dove Valley athletics competition. This is a highly competitive event, with many schools from across Burton taking part. We were incredibly proud of our team as it was the first time any of our children had represented the school at an athletics event and they were both exemplary in their athletics ability and sportsmanship.

The night began with Year 6 taking part in the obstacle race, Year 5 tackling the potato race and Year 4 facing the egg and spoon race. Each of the children taking part in the heats did exceptionally well with many making their event final, meaning that Thomas Russell often achieved a top three finish and ensuring that we raced into an early lead.

The night then moved on to sprint races and relays, with each year group running superbly, completing these events with another flourish of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes across all year group events. As the night drew to an end and the points were tallied, we were victorious, winning the whole event. Well done TRJS!



Team:

Year 6: Jess G, Hattie, Amillie, Bo, Arthur, Harry E, Archie S, Josh D

Year 5: Brodie, Ava, Evie, Sophie K, Jacob H, Jacob C, Owen, Clayton

Year 4: Macy, Alexa, Tehya, Evie R, Taavi, Jacob, Max, Sahaan

Thank you again to fabulous staff giving up more of their own time to make attending this event possible. We really are lucky to have such a committed team.

2022 SATs Results

I am delighted to announce that SATs Results were published this week and TRJS have again performed exceptionally well. ☺ Our children were an absolute credit to us throughout SATs week. We know many of them enjoyed the morning breakfasts and the Circus Skills Workshop to celebrate; however, lots of them also said how much they enjoyed doing the tests and how proud they felt of themselves that they had done their best.

Despite the doom and gloom you might have seen in the national news, standards aren't slipping at TRJS. We know this is credit to some fabulous teachers and teaching assistants and our very unique three-class structure, which means all children get much more individual support. It is also down to the brilliant way that children and families engaged with our Lockdown Learning and Zoom teaching, and how hard they have continued to work since returning to school.

The **Expected** standard for each test is a scaled score of 100 or more. If a child is awarded a scaled score of 99 or less they won't have achieved the expected standard in the test. The range of scaled scores available for each KS2 test is from 80 (the lowest scaled score) to 120 (the highest scaled score).

Reading, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Maths are assessed by SATs test. Writing and Science are teacher assessed. Our Writing assessments were moderated by external sources so we can ensure consistency across the Country.

Reading - 74% National, **95% at TRJS** = 21% above National

SPAG - 72% National, **89% at TRJS** = 17% above National

Maths - 71% National, **89% at TRJS** = 18% above National

Writing (TA) - 69% National, **84% at TRJS** = 15% above National

Science (TA) - 79% National, **95% at TRJS** = 16% above National.

Expected standard in Reading, Writing + Maths **combined** - 59% National, **80% at TRJS** = 21% above National. You will see why we are understandably proud and delighted by these results.

For some children, who may be working well above the standard expected for a pupil their age, these would be described as '**Working at Greater Depth**' and would have a scaled score of 110+. A massive 63% of our children achieved Greater Depth in at least one subject in Reading, Writing, Maths or SPAG.

Reading - **47% at TRJS**. National 2019 was 28%, = 19% above National

SPAG - **53% at TRJS**. National 2019 was 34%, = 19% above National

Maths - **38% at TRJS**. National 2019 was 24%, = 14% above National

Writing - **27% at TRJS**. National 2019 was 20%, = 7% above National

Combined R, W & M at 'greater depth' = **16% at TRJS**

These are exceptional results in any circumstances, but given everything that has happened in the last two years, they are simply marvellous! Not only are we incredibly proud of the children and the results they have obtained, we are delighted to have done it without having to hold Booster lessons or any narrowing of the curriculum (a broad and balanced curriculum was maintained every single week throughout school).

A huge well done to all involved and thank you for your ongoing support at home.



Summer Reading Challenge

Jeanne from Barton Library came in this week to tell us about this year's summer reading challenge. It starts tomorrow Saturday 9th July until the start of September and is FREE!

- Sign up at the library to receive your special Gadgeteers collector poster.
- Choose books to read over the holidays.
- Collect stickers for each book you read.
- Add the stickers to your poster to complete the Challenge and become a Gadgeteer!
- You will win a medal and certificate.
- Barton Library is awarding an extra prize to the first 25 children who register and the first 25 children who hand back in their completed challenge.

Happy Reading!

Reading Ambassadors

Laurie and Josh in Y5 created an engaging and informative presentation about our Reading Ambassadors. Laurie and Bea bravely stood up in front of the whole school in assembly and confidently told us all about it. Here are a few of their slides:

What A Reading Ambassador Is And Their Responsibilities

A Reading Ambassador is someone who really loves reading and does it for fun, not because they have been asked to or doesn't like it.

This job isn't to be applied for just for the badge though, you must be okay to have multiple responsibilities around school. This includes:

- a) Tidying up the reading scheme every other week with someone else from a different year group
- b) Running the Reading Den on either Monday or Thursday (at least that is what it is at the moment) every so often with two other people

How To Sign Up For The Job

At this point you may be wondering how to sign up for the job. You can do this by writing a letter to Miss Murfin about why you want the job and how you think you would be good at it (same process applies with each type of application) OR you could record a video OR write an email. There will be 6 Reading Ambassadors in Y3, so no guarantees you will definitely become a Reading Ambassador but it is quite likely if only a few people from Y3 apply. I hope lots of you think that you will be REALLY good at the job.

THANK YOU!!! 😊

I hope lots of you are inspired and/or motivated to compete in the Summer Reading Challenge and maybe even apply to be a Reading Ambassador (if you're in Y3). I also hope lots of you have been encouraged to read more often as reading is a good way of collecting vocabulary to really show off your English skills.

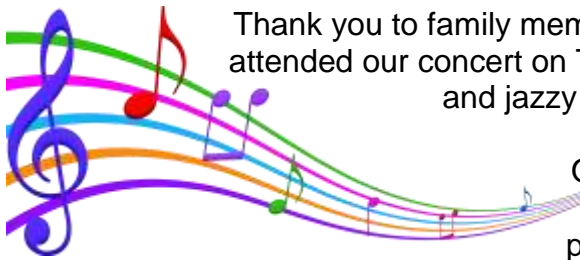
😊 THANK YOU! 😊



Language Ambassadors

Miss Marston is on the lookout for enthusiastic learners of languages to be her new Language Ambassadors to start in September. If you are interested, please write her a letter, poster, presentation, email - be as creative as you like! - about why you'd like the role and what skills, passion or ideas you have to share with the school. Deadline for entries is Monday 11th July.

Music concerts



Thank you to family members of our woodwind players and Year 5 clarinetists who attended our concert on Tuesday this week. It was fabulous to hear the joyful playing and jazzy tunes they have all been working hard to practice.

On Thursday 14th July at 2:45pm, our next performance will be by Y3 children on keyboard and those who have peripatetic keyboard lessons will also be performing. Tickets are free of charge, but you must sign up via the link below: <https://forms.office.com/r/nREjqsUfkB>

Leavers' Assembly

This will be held on Wednesday 20th July at 10am and is only for parents of Y6 children. Again, tickets are free of charge, but you must sign up via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/PpHhk975LP>

Everyone is invited to join us at 3:15 on Wednesday 20th July to bid a final farewell to our Y6 children as they leave junior school for the last time. Please head to the far side of the playground.

Parent Pay

At this time of year, we ask every parent to log in to their Parent Pay account to ensure there are sufficient funds for any dinners etc. and to ensure all debts are cleared. Any credits remaining for Y6 children will be paid back to the account which payments came from. We cannot move children up into their new year group without debts being cleared, so we are really grateful if parents can ensure accounts are balanced.

Reports have been sent home with children tonight. Please let us know your comments by returning the green report comments slip found inside the report envelope. You will also find a letter with details of their **new class teacher**. Children will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers and classes on Monday's **Move Up Morning** and get to know them ready for September.

Car Parking

Please could we remind parents that the **yellow hatched area** in the parking bay is designated as a **turning space** and we therefore request that parents do not park in this space. If this space is blocked it forces all of the cars further down the lane and over the crossing to turn in the school gates. This is not ideal at either end of the day with so many children trying to arrive at and leave school.

The school gates are open between 8:40 and 8:50 for children arriving. If you need to drop your child off before this, then please use our Early Birds provision from 8:00.

Thank you.

Best wishes, Miss Branson & Mrs Sharpe