

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 39

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### **'We love the NHS, but the NHS loves us more': West Midlands winner of NHS schools' competition announced**



Lily C and Erin in Year 6 won top prize for the West Midlands region in an annual contest encouraging primary school pupils to create a 'thank you' to NHS staff while learning about the many careers in the health service.

Nevaeh H and Summer T also in Year 6 were awarded Highly Commended certificates, coming in the Top 10 in our region.

This year's competition saw 916 entries from more than 1,080 pupils in 36 primary schools across England. As well as encouraging students to challenge gender stereotyping in health professions, pupils had the chance to say 'thank you' to the NHS in their own personal and creative way.

**Kade Flowers, one of the judges who is an NHS trainee clinical scientist,** said: "Your poems are really lovely! It is very creative how you used the letters of the NHS to create lines of a short poem."

**Dr Navina Evans, Chief Executive, Health Education England,** said: "I am absolutely delighted to congratulate Lily and Erin on their poster, their artistic personalities really shine through their work. I especially enjoyed reading the poem and the 'Thank you' message they created for the NHS - Keep up the great work."

Well done to everyone who entered - we are super proud of you all.



# Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Science is all around you! What do you love doing? Are you a brilliant baker? Or a mega music fan? Are you the tech wizard amongst your friends? Over the holidays, join the '**Gadgeteers**' for the **2022 Summer Reading Challenge** - online and in your local library NOW!

This year, The Reading Agency have teamed up with the **Science Museum Group** for a very special science-themed Challenge that will inspire you to use your

imagination and creativity! Gadgeteers features amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for cool experiments and activities to discover the science all around you.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. Children can **register online or at Barton Library** and help TRJS regain the coveted trophy for the Burton District, awarded to schools with the highest number of participants who successfully complete the Summer Reading Challenge.

Mrs Sharpe is also offering a first **Headteacher's Award** of the new academic year to all pupils who can evidence their involvement by bringing in their certificate in September!

Find out more at: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/home-zone-src>

And for the first time ever, I would like to congratulate someone for completing the Summer Reading Challenge before we even break up for Summer - well done Thomas W in Y5.

Hopefully you're one of many who complete it ☺

## Early Birds and Night Owls

Please see information circulated on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July for more details.



**Early Bird Bookings for Autumn 1** can be made via [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) using the code: **f2xpx**

**Night Owls Bookings for Autumn 1** can be made via [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) using the code: **kjapa**



**We only guarantee availability for bookings made before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.**  
**Please book early to support our planning for the new academic year.**

## House Quiz

We were very excited to finally be able to hold our annual 'House Quiz' once again on Monday. The children sat together in their Houses with the Captain and Vice-captains of each team doing a fantastic job of choosing a wide variety of children to answer questions and perform challenges. Miss Branson, our quiz master, challenged the children with a range of questions covering a variety of topics. There was also the chance to perform tasks and challenges. How many points would you have scored for your House?

Where will the 2024 Olympics be held?

Balance a ruler on your face for as long as possible!

In 60 seconds, tear a piece of A4 paper into the best picture you can!

What is the name given to a female pig?

How many points for a try in rugby?

What is pictured on the Canadian flag?

Where is Mount Snowdon?

How many consonants are in the alphabet?

Tell us your best joke!

*It was a really close run competition – with **Bassett** winning with 50 points, Jervis second with 49, Anson came third with 47 and Clinton with 45.*



## Community News

Transforming the  
Trent Valley



Tucklesholme Nature Reserve,  
DE13 8EN

**10:00am - 11:30am**  
Saturday 23rd July & Saturday 27th August

**Free!**  
Suitable for all ages.  
Booking Essential!

Thanks to support from **AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES**

For more information please contact the  
Wildchild team:  
getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk  
01859 880100  
www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/events.php  
or www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events (tag: TTV)

Heritage Fund  
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

## BARTON FESTIVAL 2022



### GO for GOLD

#### In our SCARECROW COMPETITION

**SATURDAY 3rd – SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2021**

Make a scarecrow to add to the colour and fun of our Festival weekend. There will be gold, silver and bronze medals for the top three in each category: **Families and children**; **Adults**; **Groups, clubs and schools**; and **Businesses**

You can make any scarecrow you like, aim to impress with originality, quality and humour.

Here are the details:  
Any competitor may enter as many scarecrows as they like and there is no fee.

1. Please return your entry form no later than Friday, 26th August 2022. This is to allow time for a map of competing scarecrows to be made so visitors will be able to find them for voting.
2. A name badge will be supplied to you for you to attach to the scarecrow.
3. The scarecrow must be clearly visible from a public highway. If you would like to be allocated a space for your scarecrow at St James Church Road please let us know.
4. All competition scarecrows must be in position from 10.00am – 5.00pm on Saturday 4th September and from 10.00am – 5.00pm on Sunday 5th September. Feel free to display them in the days/weeks leading up to the main event!
5. Judging, by the public, will take place by 5.00pm on Saturday 5th September. Prizewinners will be identified by 12 noon on Sunday 4th September and all entrants will be notified of the prizewinners by email.
6. A list of prizewinners will be posted by the main door of St James' Church on Sunday afternoon.

I wish to enter: **1) Families and Children** 2) **Adults** 3) **Group, club & School** 4) **Business** (please circle)

My scarecrow's name will be \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email your entry form to: [victoria.sylvester@ewemove.com](mailto:victoria.sylvester@ewemove.com)  
or put this slip in the scarecrow box in the Post Office.



**Barton-under-Needwood  
Family Festival**  
3rd & 4th September 2022  
12 noon till 4pm



**Barton-under-Needwood  
Family Festival**  
3rd & 4th September 2022  
12 noon till 4pm

**Could you help?** Do you have a just a few hours to support the Teddy Festival? We would **LOVE** you to help! If you think you could give just a couple of hours to help over the festival weekend (3rd and 4th Sept.) please contact Lucy James at [teddiesbarton@gmail.com](mailto:teddiesbarton@gmail.com) We'd be bear-y grateful!



**Volunteers  
Needed!!!**

**We can't  
wait to see  
you!**

Have you always wanted to have a go at building your own scarecrow? Now's the time!

Design and build your own scarecrow for our family festival and we can provide a place for you to display it!

If you've never made one before, there's some really great ideas on country living to inspire you

Try googling: Country living - How to make a scarecrow; do's, don'ts and creative ideas

For more details, contact Victoria Sylvester at [victoria.sylvester@ewemove.com](mailto:victoria.sylvester@ewemove.com)



Bring your bears for a sleepover at the library the night before the festival.

Bring them for a blessing and a Teddastic time at St. James' Church.

All bears are warmly invited to join Rev. Andy for a special service on Sunday 4th September 2022 – 10.30am

Are you watering your sunflowers?  
**TALLEST SUNFLOWER COMPETITION!**

Email [teddiesbarton@gmail.com](mailto:teddiesbarton@gmail.com) to register the height of your entry by Monday 29th August



## **School Terms and Holiday Dates Term 2022 - 2023**

### **Autumn Term 2022**

INSET	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
School opens for pupils	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Half-term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
School opens	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
School closes	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January

### **Spring Term 2023**

INSET	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023
School opens	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
Half-term	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
School opens	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
School closes	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Easter Holidays	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April

### **Summer Term 2023**

School opens	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May
School closed	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May (Bank holiday)
INSET	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
Half-term	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
School opens	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
School closes	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
INSET	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023

## **Fond Farewells**

I would like to wish a very fond farewell to Mrs Howell, who is off to pastures new...she just doesn't quite know where they are yet! She has taught at Thomas Russell Junior for 10 years now and I know will take away many fond memories of the children she has taught and the families she has worked with. She has been a key part of our staff supporting our journey to an Outstanding Ofsted, through Covid and beyond. We wish her all the very best in her new endeavours.

And fond farewells to our amazing Year 6 children who have battled through so much over the last 4 years, but leave us as amazing young people ready for the next step in their adventures. Whether these adventures be on the other side of the world, as we wish Amelia, Dominic and their family all the luck in the world in Australia, or close by, we hope they all find lots of happiness and joy. You are a very special group and we will not forget you ☺

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to parents for your kindness and generosity in all of the wonderful gifts, cards, flowers and kind messages we have received. I am quite blown away by the thoughtfulness of such carefully chosen and personalised presents as well as the words that have been written in cards - many of which have moved me to tears. I know staff feel the same too, so thank you. I feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such marvellous children, supportive families and dedicated, brilliant staff that make Thomas Russell Junior such a very special place to be.

Have an amazing summer! Y6 - Be brave, be brilliant! We love you all.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*