

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 30

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### Y6 SATs

We could not have been more proud of our Y6 children this week who conducted themselves exceptionally during the SATs tests. It is safe to say that the free breakfast was a hit ☺ and we feel it set a lovely relaxed tone for the morning. It was wonderful to see the number of smiles and the relief from some that the actual tests were not as scary as they had imagined.

Our celebration disco on Thursday afternoon was a lovely way to mark the end of testing. Thank you to the whole staff team for their excellent support during the week, and to the rest of the children in school who worked quietly to limit distractions.

Thanks also to the lovely parents who have taken the time to express their gratitude for the way the week has been handled - it feels so nice to go into the weekend knowing that our efforts are appreciated and have helped to put the children at ease.

### Circus Workshop



Today we had a lovely day with Jay from Workshop Factory who delivered a whole school assembly and two workshops for each of our Y6 classes. He described our children as perfect ☺ commenting on how responsive and engaged they were, but also how they were able to enjoy the fun without getting out of hand. The Y6 children tried juggling, unicycling, diablo, stilts, devil sticks and more - they seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Next week we have Young Voices on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, and then Y5 have Cycling Proficiency on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Hopefully you should have already received all of the information that you need for these.

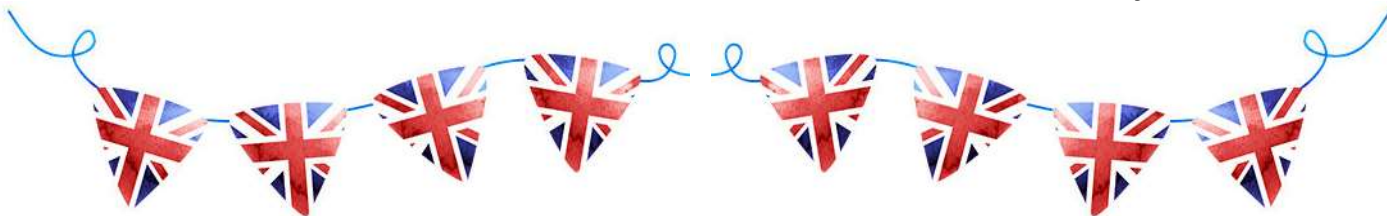
### Job Vacancies

We currently have a number of posts advertised for Teaching Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors. If you are interested, please see Newsletter 28 or have a look on the school website: [www.thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) Home » About Our School » Vacancies at TRJS

**The closing date for applications is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Please share this information with anyone else you know who you think could be a valuable addition to our team ☺

The final week of the half term is also filled with activity:



### **Jubilee Dinner**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, we will be holding a special Jubilee Dinner, Mrs Brammer will be making:

**Roast Beef, Yorkshire Puddings, roasted and mashed potato, vegetables and gravy**

**followed by the Queen's favourite, Victoria Sponge**

(vegetarian and other dietary options available)

Children who do not normally stay for dinners on this day are welcome to join us for Jubilee

Dinner and will need to pay £2.45 on ParentPay and notify us via [lpatrik@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:lpatrik@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk).

### **Jubilee Street Party**

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are having a Jubilee themed day. In the morning, learning will celebrate parts of her reign, and children will discover about the extraordinary life of Her Majesty the Queen.

At lunchtime, we will be having a 'Street Party'. For this, children are asked to either bring in their 'party lunch' (plated or suitably packaged) or they can opt for a party lunch bag from the school kitchen which will include: **Choice of sandwich, crisps, cocktail sausages, carrot & cucumber sticks, 'Corgi' cookie, fruit and a drink.**

The whole school - children and staff - will be enjoying a street party at trestle tables on the playground.

If your child normally has dinner on a Wednesday, we will assume that they would like a Party Lunch Bag from the school kitchen **unless you notify us otherwise**. Also, if your child does not normally have a school dinner, but would like a Party Lunch Bag, then please add £2.45 on ParentPay and notify us via [lpatrik@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:lpatrik@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk).

Please be clear in your e-mails if you are booking a Jubilee Roast for Tuesday or a Party Lunch Bag for Wednesday or both ☺ We would appreciate notification by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The afternoon will involve a carousel of fun games devised for this occasion by our Year 6 children. Children can wear red, white and blue on this day and we hope that the weather will be kind to us too.

### **Sports Afternoons - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

As you will have seen in previous Newsletters, we have decided to run 'Sports Day' over two afternoons this year. Those of you with older children at school (as well as children who have left TRJS), will know that historically we have run all of the events on the Friday before May half term. Each child has competed in approximately two track events and one field event. Parents have been welcomed into school to support the children during their competitions.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we were unable to run any Sports Day events in 2020. Last year (May 2021) we were still operating under Covid restrictions and took the opportunity to have a change to the usual Sports Day routine! We ran the same races, but this time all of the

children competed in 'heats' for every event. The finalists from each heat then raced to earn points for their House. Obviously, this took a lot longer, so we competed over three afternoons.

Following Sports Day, we asked the children for their feedback (children now in Yrs 4-7). Overwhelmingly the children responded with how much they loved the heats and finals style of event. They enjoyed being able to compete in every event and to do their best for their House team. Pupil voice is very important to us here at TRJS, so this year we have taken into account the majority of the children's ideal scenario (to compete in every event via a heats/finals system) and also to be able to welcome back parents to enjoy the events with us. As such, we have managed to condense the programme into two afternoons (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May). Unfortunately, due to time constraints the children will not be able to participate in heats for the field events on these afternoons. They will, however, have completed the heats prior to the two afternoons within their PE lessons with the finals being held during our two afternoons.

Weather permitting our current programme is as follows:

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 1pm start:**

Hurdles (heats then finals)  
Long Jump (finals only)  
Potato Race (heats then finals)  
Egg and Spoon (heats then finals)  
Skipping Race (heats then finals)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1pm start**

Obstacle Race (heats then finals)  
Javelin (finals only)  
Shot Put (finals only)  
Sprint (heats then finals)  
Relay Races

The relay teams will be made up of the four fastest finishers in each Houses' sprint race.

Parents are most welcome to join us on either or both afternoons. Please bring a chair / cushion / picnic blanket with you so that you can get comfortable to enjoy the action! We aim to conclude races in time for parents to collect from Infants at 3:15. Our children will be dismissed as normal at 3:30. The children have been working incredibly hard in their PE lessons to perfect their techniques and are quite rightly proud to be representing their Houses.

We ask the children to wear their House coloured t-shirt on both days along with black shorts and trainers (pumps do not offer sufficient support for running on grass so should not be worn.) Please also send children with a small bag containing a waterproof cushion / piece of yoga mat to sit on and a water bottle / sun hat. Why not show your support and join the children in wearing their House colours!

We very much look forward to welcoming you to school, and politely remind parents that the judges' decisions are final 😊. You are welcome to photograph / video your child, but please do not post ANY pictures on social media due to child protection issues.

**The deadline for Tech Team applications from Y5 is approaching. If there are any children interested in this role, they should get their applications to Miss Hurdman ASAP.**

**We break up for half term on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May (Night Owls is on). We have an INSET Day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, so children return on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June for their final half term in this year group. We break up for Summer on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July and there will be no Night Owls on this day.**

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*