

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 33

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th June 2022

Football Result

The football season is drawing to a close and Thomas Russell football team have hit a rich vein of form in the Dove Valley football league. On the back of their 5-1 victory against St Peter's School, Yoxall, the football team played their latest league match on Thursday evening against Rykneld Primary School. All of the children played incredibly well and showed excellent commitment, determination and perseverance skills to recover from a 2-0 deficit at half time. During the second half, a goal from Jacob and a hat trick from Henry meant that the team won 4-2.

Well done Thomas Russell.

Class Organisation 2022 - 2023

I wanted to write to you to inform you of the staffing structure across school for the next academic year. As you will know, we have a strong history of a very successful system, where children are placed in two base classes of 30-32 children, then split into three smaller classes of 18-22 for core subjects.

We have been operating this system for more than ten years now (and for nearly 20 years in some year groups!), so we have significant evidence to support how effectively this works. These smaller groups ensure all children, regardless of ability, are able to receive more individual attention and lessons are able to move at a pace that best suits their needs. We are pleased to announce that this three-class structure will continue to be in place for all year groups next year.


















Each year we move some teachers and teaching assistants around, as we believe this is a valuable opportunity to broaden experiences and is good for professional development as well as keeping ideas fresh and interesting.

As always we will be asking the children to express their friendship choices, then we will be looking to put together new classes, which are balanced in ability, friendships and a good mix of different characters and personalities. Please can I politely remind parents that we do not accept personal requests and that we will be basing our class organisation on the best interests of all children across school. We will notify parents of their child's new class in Academic Reports on Friday 8th July and we will have Move Up Morning on Monday 11th July.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Vydelingum to our Teaching Assistant team from September 2022.

We bid farewell to Mrs Chantler who is off to new pastures in a very exciting role supporting students with online learning. Mrs Howell will also be departing at the end of the term to take (very) early retirement, spend more time with family and follow her dreams. We wish them both much happiness and the very best of luck.

Please turn over to see our planned structure for next year:

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Miss Murfin	Mrs Rollins	Mrs Preston	New Teacher	Miss Marston	Mrs Hiatt	Mrs Khalid	Miss Hurdman
6M	6RV	5P		4M	4H	3K	3H
When we split into 3 classes for core subjects:							
Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
	Mrs Vardy will teach in Y6.		Mrs Kerr-Delworth will teach in Y5.		Mrs Jones will teach in Y4.		Miss Branson will teach in Y3.
Teaching Assistants across school are:							
Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Mrs Alcock	Mrs Shorthouse	Mrs Graves	Mrs King	Mrs Windsor	Mrs Vydelingum	Mrs Cozens	

Early Birds and Night Owls – Summer 2

Thank you to all of those parents who used the online booking system to secure their child's place. We are now operating at capacity for Night Owls on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

I am afraid we will not be able to accept additional ad-hoc bookings on these days, except for genuine emergency situations.

To guarantee your child's place each half term, it is essential to book using the online system.

As explained back in Newsletter 21: I have been asked by Governors to pre-warn parents to anticipate a rise in costs for Early Birds and Night Owls, likely to be implemented from September 2022. Our prices have been fixed since 2016 and have only gone up by £1 in total since 2009, so you can see we do not take this decision lightly. However, we do have to take into account rising staffing costs, food and energy bills all of which impact. Please remember any profits generated by these clubs are always put straight back in to the school – providing opportunities and resources for the children.

I can now confirm that the cost of our childcare provision from September 2022 will be:
Early Birds - £3.25 and Night Owls - £8.75

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe