

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th September 2021



We are really pleased to welcome our new children, families and staff to Thomas Russell Junior School.

Each week you will receive a Newsletter, which will help to keep you updated with what has happened and what is planned. Newsletters form a vital part of communication between home and school. From next week, the Newsletter will only be e-mailed. Please ensure you have received a copy this week electronically, and if not, or if you would like it to go to a different e-mail address, please let us know via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk. The Newsletter can be downloaded from our website or a paper copy requested from the School Office.

We have been SO impressed with the return to school that children have made this week. We cannot remember ever coming back to a five-day week in September and think the children have coped exceptionally well, especially those new to school who have had so much information to take on board. We are equally proud of our returning children who have again taken the changes in their stride and clearly enjoyed being back with friends and peers. Y6 have conducted themselves exceptionally and really risen to the expectations placed on the oldest pupils in school, proving kind, caring and very welcoming towards our new children. We expect there will be a lot of tired children this weekend, but they can enjoy a well-earned rest feeling incredibly proud of themselves.

House and Vice Captains

We are delighted to announce that after our House Meetings held on the first day back to school, the following children have been voted as House and Vice Captains. These are important and responsible roles, which we look forward to seeing the children conduct with maturity.

	Captains		Vice-Captains	
Anson	Bohemia H	Harry E	Grace G	Leo H
Bassett	Sam G	Jessica G	Jack T	Lily N
Clinton	Erin C	Josh D	Amillie T	Dylan N
Jervis	Arthur M	Flora H	Josh B	Laura G

Open playground - Please remember that you are welcome and encouraged to come onto the playground to collect your children at the end of the day.

It is really important that children are collected from the playground until parents are confident their child has the maturity and safety awareness to allow them to leave school unaccompanied.

By coming onto the playground you can make the most of the informal opportunity to see your child's class teacher if you have anything to ask or just to chat about how your children are settling in to their new class.

Younger siblings are most welcome onto the playground and may use the trim trail and adventure playground should they wish. Please ensure that they are closely supervised at all times. We would request scooters or bikes are left in the scooter park by the gate to avoid congestion / collisions on the footpath.





We are starting our swimming lessons on Monday 13th September, so children will need to bring their kit each week. Once again are putting out a request for parent helpers to act as 'Eyes'. The role of 'Eyes' is a simple yet vital one of keeping watch over the children whilst in the water. If you are able to offer an hour (or more) of your time each week, please email the school via **'questions@' indicating which session or sessions below you could help with.**

Monday 1:15 – 2:20	Monday 2:15 – 3:25	Tuesday 1:15 – 2:20	Tuesday 2:15 – 3:25	Wednesday 1:15 – 2:20	Wednesday 2:15 – 3:25	Thursday 1:15 – 2:20	Thursday 2:15 – 3:25
4K	4H	5P	5M	6R	6P	3V	3H

"JUST LOOK AT WHAT
WE CAN DO WHEN
WE WORK TOGETHER."
MARCUS RASHFORD

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents will be able to access financial support with the costs of trips, residential visits and clubs, plus many other benefits. The school also receives additional money into its budget based on the number of eligible FSM pupils it has. Every little helps!



The Mini Junior Section will be returning from Sunday 5th September - 10 am at Holland Park Sports Club, Barton. From tots aged 2 plus, progressing to TAG Rugby at u6, u7 and u8s ages and contact rugby from u9s upwards to U15s.

Peripatetic music lessons

We have some vacancies in our peripatetic lessons. We currently offer lessons in flute, clarinet, keyboard, violin and guitar (others are available). If you are interested in your child learning a musical instrument, either in 1-2-1 or small group (up to 4) lesson, then please contact us for more information and to arrange a trial for your child. Charges apply and instrument hire is available.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are delighted to be able to start opening up our extra-curricular clubs again after 18 months ☺. Clubs are designed to give children access to something 'extra' that they might enjoy - they are designed to spark an interest in something new, to help them discover a new hobby or passion and to develop self-confidence mixing with a wider friendship group of children with similar interests.

I must extend a huge thank you to staff who are willing to give freely of their time to provide great extra-curricular clubs for the children. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or telephone call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Cost	Dates running
Monday	Tennis (Lower School)	Mrs Edwards	3:30 - 4:30	Y3 & Y4	Free	13/9 20/9 27/9 4/10 11/10 18/10
Tuesday	Bananagrams	Miss Murfin	12:45 - 1:15	All	Free	Weekly at lunchtime
Tuesday	Clarinet Group	Miss Williams	3:30 - 4:10	Y5 & Y6	£30	14/9 21/9 28/9 5/10 12/10 19/10 & 2/11 9/11 16/11 23/11 30/11 7/12
Tuesday	Football	SoccerStars	3:30 - 4:30	All	Please sign up directly with SoccerStars (Information below on Newsletter)	
Wednesday	Tennis (Upper School)	Mrs Edwards	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	15/9 22/9 29/9 6/10 13/10 20/10
Wednesday	Forest School	Mrs Jones	3:30 - 4:45	All	Free	3/11 10/11 17/11 24/11 1/12 8/12
Thursday	Keyboard Group	Miss Williams	3:30 - 4:10	All	£30	16/9 23/9 30/9 7/10 14/10 21/10 & 3/11 10/11 17/11 24/11 2/12 9/12
Friday	Choir	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	17/9 24/9 1/10 (not 8 th) 15/10 22/10 & 5/11 12/11 19/11 26/11 3/12 10/12
Friday	Henna Club 1	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	Y4, 5 & 6	Free	17/9 24/9 1/10 8/10 15/10 22/10
Friday	Henna Club 2	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	Y4, 5 & 6	Free	5/11 12/11 19/11 26/11 3/12 10/12

Our extra-curricular clubs are always exceptionally popular and places are given on a **first come first served** basis. Clubs are limited to **TWO** per child in an effort to give a greater number of children chance to attend. Booking a paid club is an indication of commitment to pay the amount indicated. (This will be loaded on Parent Pay by 17th Sept). Any additional availability will be opened up on Monday lunchtime. Please book Henna 1 OR 2 not both. Those intending to join us at Young Voices will need to attend Choir full time. SoccerStars does not count in the TWO clubs as they are an outside provider.

Electronic Booking for Clubs

Bookings will open at 4:30pm tonight.

- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Select: **Make a booking** and enter code: **k6zcd**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first AND surname.
- 4) Choose child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
- 5) Receive **instant e-mail confirmation** of booking.



Please note you will not receive any further confirmation from school - once you have signed up and received your confirmation e-mail, your child's place is secured.

Self care and Wellbeing Support for Parents & Carers

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING
INTRODUCE THESE FIVE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE & YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS

CONNECT
TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED

BE ACTIVE
SO LAMEY YOU CAN ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR BODY

TAKE NOTICE
REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY

GIVE
YOUR TIME, YOUR WORDS, YOUR PRESENCE

KEEP LEARNING
EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SUPPORT YOURSELF

Useful Links
Calm | headspace | my life

Putting yourself first
It is important to take time for yourself to unwind and relax. Begin by trying to give yourself 10 minutes a day where you can take a breather. This could be stepping outside with a cup of tea.

Getting things done
Asking for help from others can allow you to complete day to day tasks. It is okay to ask for support and by doing so you are not failing. Friends and family are often happy to help.

Looking after yourself
Taking care of your physical health can have a positive impact on your mental wellbeing, this could be a daily walk in your local area. Sleep is key for wellbeing, you could try one of the apps listed below.

Staying connected
Try to stay connected with friends and family as this is important for maintaining good mental health. It is important to remember that it is ok to say 'no' to things and prioritise your wellbeing.

Free time
Time away from social media can allow you to unwind and can improve sleep quality. Finding time to engage in activities you enjoy can improve self esteem and mental wellbeing.

Supporting your child with transition and mental wellbeing

Transition To Secondary: 5 Tips For Parents
(teachertoolkit.co.uk)

Find Your Feet: Transition Tips for Parents
(youngminds.org.uk)

How Can We Help Kids with Transitions?
Child Mind Institute

Materials to help support your child's emotional well-being following COVID-19 pandemic - for parents and carers
Staffordshire Connects

Helping Your Child With Anxiety
(youngminds.org.uk)

Anxiety : Mentally Healthy Schools

Tips taken from: Self-Care for Parents and Carers | Why consider self care?
Anna Freud Centre

Staffordshire County Council
Educational Psychology Service

Worrying about your child is one of the most natural things in the world to do. Whilst we credit children with a huge amount of resilience, sometimes they need a little extra nurture, help and understanding to cope with and enjoy everyday life. The guide above contains some really useful bit of advice and links to other resources and websites which can help to support and maintain wellbeing. If ever you are worried, please do get in touch and we will do our very best to help.

soccerstarsUK
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Are coming to....
Thomas Russell Junior School

SoccerstarsUK specialise in After School Football Clubs, we provide an exciting football programme for boys and girls of all abilities ensuring that they can enjoy the game in a safe and positive learning environment.

Highly Qualified & Trained Coaches
Fun Story Games
Dribbling & Turning
Individual Ball Familiarity
Fun Themed Tournaments

School Years: 3, 4, 5 & 6
Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Dates: Tuesday 14th September – Tuesday 19th October
Price: £30.00
(Spaces awarded on a first come first served basis)

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
WWW.SOCCERSTARSUK.CO.UK | 01332 368000 | 07385 670939

SoccerstarsUK has been in partnership with the Derby County Academy Development Centres for over 10 years. During this time we have provided young talented footballers with the opportunity to progress into both the Development Centres & the Derby County Academy. Any child showing potential on a SoccerstarsUK course will be given the chance to progress to one of these centres.

For more information on how we are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, please view our website for our Return to Play Policy & Risk Assessments.



Library Books

A visit to the village library can be a wonderful way to spend an Autumn evening – it's free, it's warm & dry and it opens up a whole world of opportunities for children to enjoy.

We know it isn't always easy to find time to return those borrowed books, so we are more than happy for you to drop any borrowed books back at Junior School and we'll return them for you. Hopefully this means you can enjoy a library visit whenever you have time and you won't need to worry about late returns.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe