

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 2

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### School Council

Over the last fortnight, each of the classes have been voting for their School Council representatives. We meet on a half termly basis with Governors to discuss any suggestions and developments as well as planning on investments and obtaining feedback from pupils.

The first meeting will take place next Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The children who were nominated are as follows:

6R	6P	5M	5P	4K	4H	3H	3V
Beatrice H Ollie C	William S Cara M	Olivia G Will D	Noah W Brodie H	Evie R D'Shaun L	Jacob G Holly T	Alice D Joseph K	Kieran T Poppy C

Congratulations to all of these children who have received their badge in assembly - we are confident you will be sensible and helpful councillors.

Dinners please...

As you may have heard, we were experiencing a few teething difficulties getting back into routines at lunchtimes! Not only is our lunchtime back to an hour again, we have gone from serving 80-90 cooked dinners in the midst of the pandemic, back up to 130 consistently and 150 on a Friday (who doesn't love fish and chips?!).

We are working together with kitchen staff, lunchtime supervisors, teaching staff and all of the children to try to get timings ironed out and have managed to finish on time the last couple of days. It is important to us that we maintain excellent hygiene routines, ensure children have time to play and relax with friends at lunch as well as ensuring we can serve delicious hot food and children have sufficient time to eat.

Please could we ask for a little help from home in prompting children whilst eating cooked food to use a knife **and** fork? We have a significant number who are eating with just a fork, stabbing whole roast potatoes or sausages and taking bites from the fork rather than cutting into bite size pieces. Admittedly, this in itself won't resolve our timing issues, but it will certainly make for more civilised meal times ☺ – thank you for your support.

### Masks



Thank you to everyone who has remembered to wear a mask whilst dropping off and collecting children this week. As the number of cases of Covid continues to increase, household members of those with Covid are not always required to isolate and (as per the guidance) they are allowed in school, we feel it is important to work together to protect each other and all of our children. If you forget your mask, please pop in to the office to collect a free replacement before heading down to the playground.

## Swimming Eyes

It was wonderful this week to see 250 children back into the swimming pool to begin their weekly lessons again. We have received 8 offers from parents to act as 'Eyes' for swimming sessions, for which we are really grateful. So far the only session that is fully covered is 4H on a Monday. Please could we ask if there are any other parents who would be able to give their time to this vital role, even if just for one term, or a couple of parents who would be prepared to share the role covering alternate weeks?

Contact [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk). Thank you.



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

## Packington Farm

It was fabulous to see the grins on the faces of our Y6 children as they set off on a trip yesterday morning. The lovely Autumn sunshine was with us, and the class finally got to head out together to Packington Farm for a wonderful day of Team Building activities. The children worked together in groups to complete a range of team building activities; each one focused on: planning, co-operation, encouragement and communication. All the children had lots of fun. Miss Press and Mrs Alcock said that it was great to see so many children showing superb leadership skills. Thanks to Mrs Watling for accompanying the group and to the whole team at Packington for a fun filled day, which really challenged the children's thinking and team skills. A perfect way to nurture the TRJS modern 3Rs – Resilience, Resourcefulness and Respect.

## Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to meeting parents and having an opportunity to discuss how the children have settled in to their new classes, friendships and new school in some cases.

Our consultations will be: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October between 4pm and 7pm.

It has not been possible to have parents into school over the last 18 months for consultations, so we believe some may be really looking forward to getting back in and having a chance to see where children spend their time. We also know however that some families really liked the Zoom consultations, being able to take part from two locations was helpful for separated families or parents working away and being able to Zoom from home whilst children played / ate tea etc. was also positively received. As a school, we can see benefits to both, but would like to gauge parental preference before we go ahead and make arrangements. Please could we ask you to answer these quick five questions to assist our planning? <https://forms.office.com/r/Aju49aqvAo>

## #Hello Yellow - World Mental Health Day Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October



We are delighted to inform you that we will be taking part in #Hello Yellow on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, supporting the Young Minds charity with a 'wear yellow' day. We will have a special whole school assembly and a range of activities to support children's mental health and wellbeing. Any donations on the day or via ParentPay to support the charity would be appreciated.

*Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe*