

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



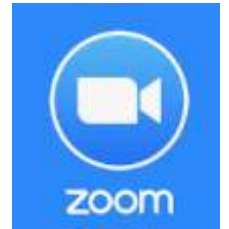
Issue No. 6

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

15th October 2021

Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who managed to make join us for parent consultations this week on Zoom. We hope they gave you a good opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out how they are settling into their new year group.



Science Ambassadors

Miss Press and I were absolutely delighted with the quality of applications for the posts of Science Ambassador at Thomas Russell Junior. From some fabulous videos and photographs of experiments to poetry, letters, recipes and even hidden messages that could only be read with a special UV light pen!

We were looking for four representatives from each year group, but based on the quality of applications have chosen five children from each.

Our Science Ambassadors for 2021 - 2022 are:

Year 6 - Daniel E, Sam McC, Amelia H, Ollie C and Neveah H

Year 5 - Charlie E, Emelia B, Tyler P, Emily W and Dylan C

Year 4 - Layla M, Seb D, Olive H, Adam G and Nancy B

Year 3 - Hettie P, Dominic H, Ella C, Tommy W and Anna D

Miss Press will have the first meeting after half term to discuss some of the wonderful ideas that the children shared.



Normally at this time of year, we are excitedly rehearsing songs, building the staging and learning lines, but sadly, there will not be opportunity for a Harvest Festival this year due to our current restrictions on visitors into school. We would however like to organise our biggest ever collection for **Burton HOPE charity**. We are optimistic that if every child can bring in one or two items from the list below, we will be able to give this amazing charity a fabulous boost to their stocks as they prepare for the winter season.

We will be collecting at the school gate on the morning and evening of **Friday 22nd October** and hope you are able to give generously. ☺

Food items: tinned produce / cereals / tea / coffee / pasta / pasta sauce / biscuits / UHT milk

Clothing items: trainers / joggers / t-shirts / sweatshirts / underwear / toiletries

Early Birds and Night Owls



Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and is based around a range of sports, team games, construction activities & ICT.

Breakfast is provided and includes toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt and a drink of fruit juice, milk or water.

Early Birds costs £3.00 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Autumn 2 can be made via
www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **xv27g**

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45

(Except last day of term - Christmas, Easter & Summer.)

Activities provided include a range of free play, construction activities, art & crafts, outdoor games and toy sheds.

Children receive fruit and drink at the beginning of the session, then a light tea just before 5:00. Tea includes a selection of sandwiches, toast or hot dogs; fruit, yoghurt or cake and a drink.

Night Owls costs £8.00 per session.



Night Owls Bookings for Autumn 2 can be made via
www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **vmy72**

Booking is ESSENTIAL. We only guarantee availability for Autumn 2 for bookings made by Thursday 28th October.

Covid Update

As you will no doubt be aware, both at school and in the community, the Covid situation is continuing to escalate.

Sadly, we have seen a further increase in positive cases this week (from 8 to 14). In the majority of cases, symptoms continue to be mild, however the down side of that is that sometimes these symptoms are being missed or mistaken as other illnesses.

We are aware there are the three 'classic' symptoms to watch out for - **continuous cough, temperature, loss of taste or smell**. However, many of the reports we are receiving in school indicate symptoms of **headache / tummy upset / cold or sore throat** when children are testing **positive** for Covid-19. If your child reports these symptoms, please do not send them to school until you have a PCR test result.

We have had numerous reports of children testing negative on LFTs who have then come back with positive PCR results. We are still outstanding some PCR results from tests requested this week. Please could we ask you to let us know any results via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

I cannot emphasise enough that we will only stop the spread if all of those who are exposed get a PCR test at a similar time and isolate. Waiting until symptoms show leaves others vulnerable to unknowing exposure and then the cycle of spread is allowed to continue.

Your vigilance is appreciated as we all continue to do everything we can to keep children, staff and families safe. We look forward to seeing those who finish their isolation next week and wish those who have been unwell a full and speedy recovery.

Due to the number of children isolating in Y5, we will be providing Zoom lessons for English and Maths next week for those children, from 9:45 – 10:45 and 11:15 – 12:15. Please log into 'Our Learning' on the website and look in the 'Year 5' tab for more information. The Zoom link will be e-mailed separately as we never publish links on the website for safety and security reasons. Face-to-face learning in both classes will continue for those who are not isolating.

We realise some of the impacts of this situation have resulted in cancellation of clubs and changes in staffing at very short notice – we appreciate your patience and understanding with this and will continue to do all we can to communicate messages as early as possible.

Next half-term

We break up for half term holiday on Friday 22nd October and return on Monday 1st November. Please remember to log in and pay dinner money and any outstanding Early Birds and Night Owls payments.

As the weather starts to get colder and wetter, it is essential that children have a weatherproof coat in school, and ideally gloves and hat too (clearly labelled).



Remember children are welcome to wear sensible sturdy boots as an alternative to school shoes. It can be very uncomfortable spending the day with soggy socks!



#Hello Yellow

Don't forget if you are completing the colouring competition or designing a super hero to return entries to Mrs Kerr-Delworth next week.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe