

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 7

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

22nd October 2021

Welcome back Miss Branson

It was lovely to welcome Miss Branson back to school this week after a year on Maternity Leave with baby Leah. Miss Branson will be teaching in Y3 alongside Mrs Vardy and Miss Hurdman, and has already spent time this week getting to know her new children.

Halloween Lunch



Huge thanks to Mrs Brammer and Mrs Roach for organising a Halloween Lunch on Wednesday, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

They were very excited to see the servery all decorated and enjoyed the special Halloween menu including ghostly biscuits!



Half Term Holiday

We want all of our children to have a really lovely and well deserved break this half term, so we have not set any homework to be completed. Some classes have next half term's first week stuck in, but please don't feel pressure to work on this over the holiday.

Early Birds and Night Owls

Please don't forget that booking is **ESSENTIAL** if you would like to use our before and after school care. Bookings will close on Thursday 28th October and due to a considerable increase in uptake, we cannot guarantee any availability for places not booked via this system by the deadline.



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**

Please note additional charges as per Terms and Conditions of booking:

There is an additional charge for early drop off (before 8:00) and late pick up (after 5:45) at a rate of £5 per 5 minutes or part thereof.

BARTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

Light Factory - next meeting Friday 5th November 6:00 – 7:30 pm



Calling all 5–11 year olds. Jill and Meg are delighted that 'Light Factory' children's activities have re-started. Held on the first Friday of most months in the Methodist Church from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. 50p per child per session. Turn up for fun and friendship, activities, games, stories.

Further details from

Meg enquiries@megjones.co.uk or 01283 711051

Jill bellringinggranny@gmail.com or 01283 712809



If you are having a toy clear-out, the Infants' School would be really grateful for donations of any infant school-age-appropriate toys in good condition. Please give the Infants' School a ring on 01283 247930 if you think you might have any suitable donations. Thank you!



Covid Update

The Covid situation is continuing to escalate in schools, in the community and across the country. Sadly, we have seen further cases this week, and finish the half-term with 16 identified positives. Thankfully, symptoms continue to be mild, but please remain vigilant.

We are still outstanding some PCR results from tests taken this week. **Please could we ask you to let us know all results (positive or negative) via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk.** It is still necessary to collate this information during the half term holiday and we are keen to do all we can to work with the Local Outbreak Team and Public Health England to limit further spread.



Huge thanks to everyone who donated to our biggest ever Harvest collection for Burton HOPE. Mrs Cramp took a lovely loaded boot full of items today, which we know will provide a well needed boost for this fabulous charity.

Let's get ARTY!

If you are looking for something fun and artistic to do over the half term holiday, we have two different art competitions for you:

The first one is designing a Christmas card:

Member of Parliament for Burton and Uttoxeter, Kate Griffiths, has published her plans for the most wonderful time of the year by launching a new competition to design her 2021 Christmas card – open to local pre-school and primary school children.

https://www.kategriffiths.org.uk/news/burton-and-uttoxeters-mp-launches-2021-christmas-card-competition-local-school-children?fbclid=IwAR3BTuKGO0qFu_hkXtYO11AFI87YhDKE1nEWcj8TG6ILUtUxKSdah4ZurLY

The second one involves looking at finding balance in our digital lives

Find Your Balance: A day in my digital life art competition, in partnership with **Google**, is asking children to draw a picture showing how they find a healthy balance in their online and offline lives. We are looking for a colourful and creative picture that shows how your child makes sure the internet works for them. It could also reflect how you share – and balance – your digital lives at home.

['A day in my digital life' art competition | Parent Zone](#)

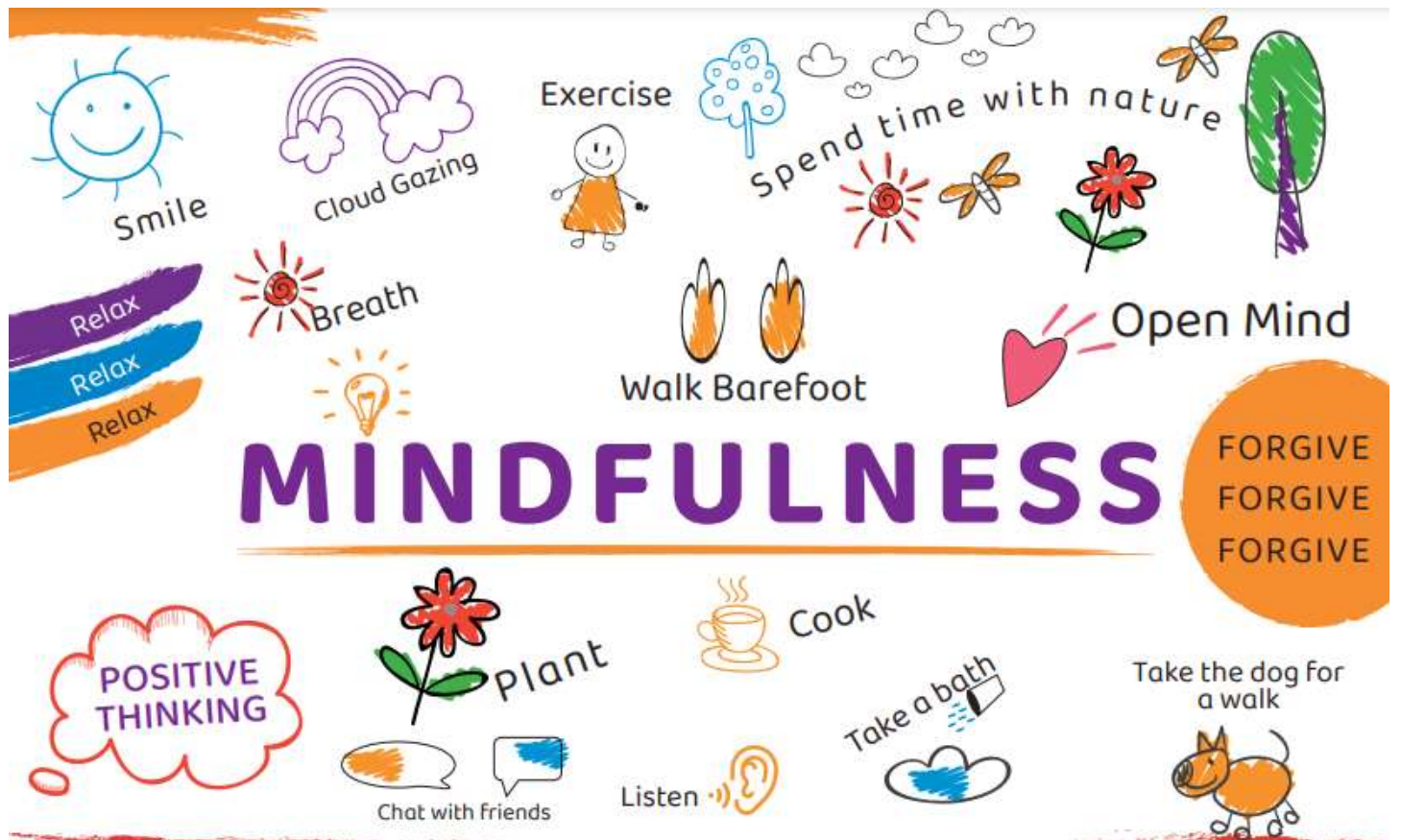
And finally ...

I would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for their superb support and engagement. The first half term is always tiring, but we have been really pleased with how the children have settled into their new classes and their hard work despite obvious interruptions. We would like to wish you a restful and enjoyable half term and look forward to seeing you on 1st November.

Remember to take time to look after yourselves and encourage children to do the same – a quiet hour reading, a bit of painting, a bike ride, some baking, a lovely stroll in the Autumn leaves, playing your favourite music (loud) and some star gazing with a mug of hot chocolate.

Memories are made of these things ☺

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe



MINDFULNESS

FORGIVE
FORGIVE
FORGIVE

imoves

Mindfulness

5 things you can see

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4 things you can touch

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3 things you can hear

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2 things you can smell

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1 thing you can taste

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