

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 13

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th December 2021

Plan B

I am pleased to confirm that the announcement of Plan B restrictions does not change any of our plans that we have in place for next week in school.

We will issue tickets for the Carol Concert on Tuesday. They will admit ONE named person. The Government's Plan B rules mean audience members will be asked to show proof of their COVID status (which could include: A negative Lateral flow or PCR test result, proof of double vaccination or proof of natural immunity through previously having Covid in the past 6 months).

As ever, we will be doing our absolute best to keep children and staff safe right up to the end of term. We continue to appreciate your wonderful support in keeping children off school and using PCR tests to help us identify any positive Covid cases. We presently have 8 positive cases across the school community.



Christmas Post Boxes

Monday 13th December is out last day for Christmas post, so please ensure you pop any cards for delivery in the post boxes as soon as you arrive at school.

Santa Fun Run

Unfortunately, Santa is really busy getting all of the toys finished and helping his elves to wrap presents, so he has had to postpone the Santa Fun Run.

He's having words with the Easter Bunny at the moment to see if it's possible to rearrange it for some time in March or April.

Watch this space...



Christmas Jumpers



Congratulations to Will TW, Beatrice, Cara and Ollie, our School Councillors from Y6 who raised nearly £40 with their Christmas Jumper Sale. We were really pleased to see them developing their entrepreneurial skills as well as helping the environment - win, win!

We still have a few jumpers remaining, which may be especially suitable for Infant Children - call in to the office if interested.

Children are allowed to wear their Christmas Jumpers every day next week with the rest of their uniform - either substitute the green jumper or wear both!

At our recent meeting of the full governing body, a governor raised concerns that were shared with them by a group of parents regarding PE lessons. The governing body have asked me to address the concerns raised via the Newsletter, which I am more than happy to do so. The concern raised was **"Why are PE lessons always being cancelled?"**

At TRJS we pride ourselves on providing **three** hours of PE per week as opposed to the standard **two** hours offered in the majority of primary schools. This is organised as follows:

1x 1 hour swimming lesson

1x 1 hour outdoor PE (e.g. football, netball, athletics or golf)

1 x 1hour indoor PE (e.g. gymnastics, dance, boccia or dodgeball)



The PE days for each year group are organised at the start of the year – if you are unsure on which days your child has PE, please do contact their class teacher who will clarify this for you.

We always do our utmost to ensure that PE time is not lost. Our main reason for having to cancel outdoor PE is due to the weather. Unfortunately, we are unable to move outdoor PE slots into the hall as invariably another year group is already using the hall for their indoor PE. If this is the case, where possible, we may offer an alternative in the classroom such as Go Noodle or Just Dance.

Following the question being raised at governors, I have spoken to each year group to confirm how many lessons have been cancelled this year. I am satisfied that each year group has indeed had to cancel lessons, but that this is a small number in each case. The reasons for lessons being cancelled this term are as follows:

Weather (snow/ice/heavy rain) - As I am sure you can appreciate, we always put the health and safety of our children first and as such if the weather conditions are deemed to be unsafe we will not take the children outside.

Visitors to school – We have recently had transition meetings for Y6 and an art expert visit Y4. These are both valuable opportunities for our children and we had to take the decision to add them into our time tables at a mutually convenient point.

How can parents help? Please always send your child into school appropriately dressed for the weather – layers are particularly helpful at this time of year. If your child has indoor PE please still send them in with joggers and a jumper as we are keeping the doors open in the hall for added ventilation during Covid.

If you have any questions about PE, please do feel free to contact me directly at lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and I will be happy to help.



Christmas Countdown Top of The Rocks Battle - Interim Summary

We are now nearly half way through our 11-day battle against 5 other local primary schools: Tower View, Holy Rosary, Christ Church Primary, Burton Fields and Rykneld Primary. After our strong performances in previous battles, we knew that the other schools would be working hard to beat us.

As of 8.00am today, two of our children are in the top 10 (out of 770 who are taking part) which is a brilliant performance by them. We are familiar with these names from previous competitions: Fee Rock (aka Robert B) is in 2nd place and has earned a massive 18,620 points and Axle Keene (aka Isaac O) is in 6th place with 10,130 points. Their performance has been fabulous but they need your help too!

When looking at scores by class, two of our classes make it into the top 10: 5M in 4th place and 6P in 5th place with 6R just outside in 12th place. Well done to these children. It would be lovely to see more TRJS classes making it into top ten positions by the end of the competition.

Overall, we are currently in second place behind Christ Church Primary School who have a sizeable lead with an average score per person of 1,931 compared to TRJS average score of 701. Very close behind us in 3rd position is Rykneld Primary with an average 569 points per child. Whilst Christ Church's lead is not insurmountable, we will need to all work together if we are to stand a chance of claiming first place and to keep Rykneld from passing us.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS		Finishes in 6 days ^
Battle of The Burton Bands		
Info	Class Enrollment	School Results
Class Results	Pupil Results	Certificates
Edit		
School average / user	School score	CSV
Position (Out of 6 schools taking part)		School average / user
1	Christ Church Primary School, Burton Upon Trent	1,931
2	Thomas Russell Junior School, Burton-on-trent	701
3	Rykneld Primary School	569
4	Burton Fields School	510
5	Tower View Primary School	152
6	Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Primary School, Burton Upon Trent	132

The competition ends at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th of December and there's still all to play for. So far, 129 TRJS children have played. If you are one of the children who haven't yet joined in, please log in and do your bit. The points are averaged across all children in the school - not just those who play - so we need everyone to take part if we want to win.

Well done to everyone who has played so far. Keep going and let's work together to get to the top spot. We can do it!

If you need any further information or have forgotten your password, please contact Mrs Preston on DPreston@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Early Birds and Night Owls

We only guarantee availability for Spring 1 for bookings made by Thursday 16th December.



Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and costs £3.00 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Spring 1 can be made via
www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **62eet**

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45 (Except last day of term) and costs £8.00 per session. **Night Owls Bookings for Spring 1** can be made via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **z634y**



Booking is ESSENTIAL. We only guarantee availability for Spring 1 for bookings made by Thursday 16th December.

I am pleased to announce we have moved over to our winter menu at Night Owls, offering some hot teas during the colder weather - alongside sandwiches, we will also be offering soup and bread, half jacket potato, hot dogs, beans or spaghetti on toast and Mrs Sharpe's favourite - fish finger sandwiches!

Term Dates

We break up on Friday 17th December.

Please note there will be NO Night Owls on this night.

All clubs have also now finished for the term.

Staff have an INSET Day on Tuesday 4th January.

Children return to school on Wednesday 5th January.

*Please note the school gates are open from **8:40 to 8:50** for children to arrive. We are having an increasing number of children arriving late after the gate should be closed.*

Advance note – dates for your diary:

Parent Consultations – Tuesday 8th February & Thursday 10th February

Y5 Bikeability – Monday 14th February & Tuesday 15th February

Break up for half term – Friday 18th February

Back to school – Monday 28th February

Have a lovely weekend and good luck to the Choir children who are performing at Burton Town Hall on Sunday afternoon.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe