

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 14

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

17th December 2021

Christmas Events

I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to go ahead with all of our lovely Christmas events this week.

The children enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. To hear them all chattering excitedly and see the joy on their faces as they came in to the hall with all the Christmas tables laid and their superb hats was just wonderful. Huge thanks to Mrs Brammer and Mrs Roach who worked their very own Christmas miracle to ensure the children (and staff) could enjoy a superb feast! If you're feeling the heat in the kitchen next week cooking Christmas Dinner for 10 or 12 or even 20, then imagine the huge task of turning out 241 delicious dinners 😊

We were also treated to 'an audience with Father Christmas' that afternoon. If you've always enjoyed seeing robins at Christmas, then talk to your children about the story of how the robin got his red breast.



On Thursday I was bursting with pride to see the children performing in their Carol Concert. I am grateful to the parents and grandparents who responded so willingly to our request for LFT tests and masks to help keep the whole community as safe as possible.

The children had worked so hard in their year groups to learn a huge amount of song words and performed really enthusiastically.

Our collection in aid of two superb charities - Bridge the Gap and St Giles Hospice, has received donations of over £195 already. We also know some parents donated by card, and this amount is still to be added to the total. I know there were other parents who still wanted to donate, so if you would like to send any further donations in a sealed envelope, we will ensure they are included.

The icing on the cake was to be able to attend The Red Carpet Cinema on Friday and for the children (and staff) to enjoy 'The Boy called Christmas'. I'm reliably informed that it was a superb film and well worth a watch. Importantly, the children were also praised for their behaviour and conduct throughout the trip, which was lovely.

'Countdown to Christmas' Battle Summary

During the last 11 days, 177 TRJS children have taken part in our latest Top of the Rocks battle against five other local primary schools: Tower View Primary, Burton Fields, Christ Church Primary, Holy Rosary and Rykneld Primary.

Christchurch Primary took a strong lead right from the start and by the time we were half way through the competition, they had firmly established their place at the top of the leader board. Whilst TRJS held second place, the gap between 2nd and 4th was less than 200 points and there was all to play for.

Our TRJS children showed great determination and battled to the end but the lead taken by Christchurch was too great to overcome and they finished in 1st place with an average of 3,087 points per child. TRJS managed to comfortably secure second place with an average of 1,707 points per pupil compared to 1,265 for Burton Fields who finished in 3rd place.

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COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
Battle of The Burton Bands

Completed

Info
School Results
Class Results
Pupil Results
Certificates

School average / user

School score

Position (Out of 6 schools taking part)

School average / user

1	Christ Church Primary School, Burton Upon Trent	3,087
2	Thomas Russell Junior School, Burton-on-trent	1,707
3	Burton Fields School	1,265
4	Rykneld Primary School	953
5	Tower View Primary School	254
6	Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Primary School, Burton Upon Trent	142

5M and 6P led the charge. Both classes made it into the top ten achieving 2nd and 4th place out of the 55 classes that took part. Seven out of our eight TRJS classes made it into the top 20. 😊

In total, 1135 children participated from across the six schools. Twelve TRJS children achieved a top 50 position. Of these, three were children from Y3, which is a super achievement - well done Claudio Malone (aka Henry Chp), Nathan Twig (aka Sebastian R) and Heath Diamond (aka Dominic H).

Three of our children made it into the top 10. A huge well done to:

3rd place: Fee Rock (aka Robert B Y5) with 62,790 points.

5th place: Axle Keen (aka Isaac O Y6) with 41,300 points.

9th place: Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K Y5) with 18,585 points.

A big thank you to all those who took part; we never gave up and there were some super performances from children in all year groups. Well done everyone. 😊

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.*

*Save the date - we have arranged a Parent Workshop on '**Supporting children with anxiety**'. This would take place on Tuesday 1st February. We will be in touch in the New Year to confirm the timings of this and make bookings once we know how the situation with Covid is evolving.*

REMEMBER, CHRISTMAS ISN'T
ABOUT HOW BIG THE TREE IS, OR
WHAT'S UNDER IT. IT'S ABOUT
WHO'S AROUND IT



We have received an incredible number of cards, gifts and lovely messages over the last week or so, which we very much appreciate.

This has certainly been a year full of unexpected challenges, but also one with many achievements and we are pleased and proud of everything that we have been able to achieve together.

Your support, appreciation and kind words mean so much to us, and we know we couldn't have all got through the last few months without such fabulous teamwork, so thank you to parents and grandparents too.

Teamwork makes the dream work ☺

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe