

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 16

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

14th January 2022



Over the past couple of years, our staff and families have been working with 'Bridge the Gap' Children's Mental Health Service, and found their support and guidance invaluable.

*We are holding a joint **Parent & Staff Workshop** led by 'Bridge the Gap' on **'Supporting an anxious child'** on Tuesday 1st February from 3:45 – 4:30.*

*The aims of this workshop are to introduce Bridge the Gap and some of the work they do, to discuss strategies and suggestions they can offer for supporting anxious children, to look at resources they have available and discuss the plan for work going forward. As this is an after school session, we are able to provide childcare for pupils whose parents attend the workshop. **Places are limited, so booking is essential.***

- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Select: **Make a booking** and enter code: **nxe66**
- 3) Enter e-mail, name of adult attending and phone number.
- 4) Let us know if you require childcare during the workshop.
- 5) Confirm you understand the requirements of a negative LFT and face mask.
- 6) Receive **instant e-mail confirmation** of your place.

Barton Library Visits

We are delighted to be allowed to return to visiting the Library in Barton again with all of the children. Y6 went this week, Y5 will go on Monday 17th January, Y4 on Monday 24th and Y3 on Monday 31st January.



If children have Library cards then they can bring them on those days, or if they have any Library books they would like to exchange, they are also welcome to bring those along. We have re-instated our 'Returns' box at school too, so if you want to go to Barton Library, but are worried about getting books back on time, they can be returned to Junior School and we will take them back to the Library for you.

I would also like to say a HUGE thank you to Jean from Barton Library who has been in school helping to re-organise our school library which required some TLC after lots of Lockdown borrowing and book quarantines left things rather muddled.

Covid 19

Following my letter on Tuesday regarding the changes in guidance to isolation requirements, I can confirm we have 22 children who have tested positive for Covid 19 this week. Firstly I would like to thank parents for your diligence and support of the school in conducting regular LFD tests. I know the vast majority of these children are showing no symptoms at all, or not the 'Classic 3' - persistent cough, temperature, loss of taste / smell. I can tell you that in our experience tummy ache, feeling (or being) sick, headache, sore throat or a rash have all proven to be indicators of positive cases.

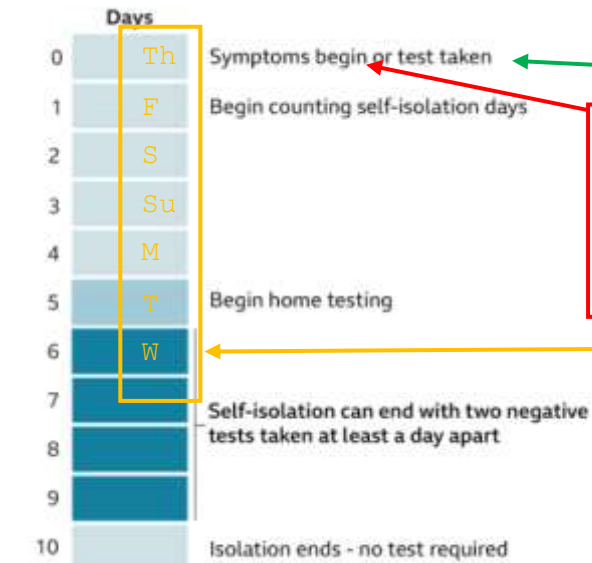
There is currently no mandatory requirement or Government recommendation for regular LFD testing of primary age children. However, given that we have children isolating from every year group, please could I request that all parents test their children with LFD tests this evening when they arrive home from school and again **before they attend school on Monday morning.**

You may also decide that daily testing for the next 7-10 days is sensible
given the prevalence in the community.

In order to give us a very clear and accurate snapshot of the situation, I would be really grateful if parents could submit results of both tests whether positive or negative via the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/TSUcgDCVWJ>. It should only take you about 30 second, but will be hugely helpful to us.

From Monday 17th January, the isolation period is set to reduce to 5 full days. If the last two years have taught us anything it's that there are a whole host of different ways of counting to ten! 😊

How five-day isolation rule works in England



I have included a graphic here which indicates how the 5 full days should be counted, and some explanation.

Obtain a confirmatory PCR for classic 3 symptoms.

Use LFD tests for
close contacts and
asymptomatic testing
or for children with
'other' symptoms.

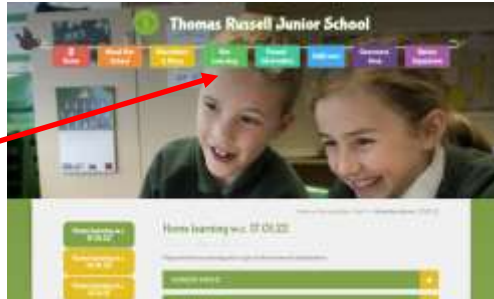
For example: a child complains on Thurs evening of tummy ache and takes an LFT which is positive. If they test negative the following Tues morning & Wed morning (24h apart), they would be allowed in to school on the Wednesday.

Source: NHS

BBC

Positive LFD and PCR test results should be reported via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> Test and Trace will contact parents to request information of close contacts. Please could I reassure parents that once you have included the school name in the form and informed us of your child's positive result, you do not need to include any further information for school contacts. I know some parents have been worried about needing to identify and add the names and details of every child in the class.

For children who are self-isolating, there is a host of home learning information on the school website. Go to the 'Our Learning' tab of the website. www.thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



Extra-Curricular Clubs

I am delighted to see that we have over 150 families taking advantage of our full range of extra-curricular activities this term and that we have an amazing 285 places booked at clubs.

I have produced a timetable below of the days that each after school club is running to help parents with planning and organisation.

		Next week	24/1	31/1	7/2	14/2	21/2	28/2	7/3	14/3	21/3	28/3	4/4
Science Club	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Half Term						
Coding Club 1	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Coding Club 2	M							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tennis (LS)	Tu							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clarinet Group	Tu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cross Stitch	W							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Keyboard Group	Th	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Forest School	Th							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Golf	Th	Y	Y	Y	No	Y							
Tennis (US)	Th							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Choir	F	Y	Y	Y	No	No		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	No

Cancelling any club is always a last resort, but unfortunately due to Covid, we know this was necessary last term. Should the need arise, we will notify parents via text and will endeavour to give as much notice as possible.

Music lessons

We have a new music teacher in school, Mrs Owens - not to be confused with Swimming - Mrs Owen! Mrs Owens has some availability for flute, clarinet or saxophone lessons. If anyone is interested, please drop us a message to questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and we will be able to provide further information as well as arrange a trial for your child.

We also have very low uptake of our Keyboard and Clarinet groups after school with only 7 and 5 children attending. This is a 40 minute lesson and only costs £30 for the whole term (£2.50 per week). If you would like your child to be added to the group lesson, then please let me know via the 'questions@' address.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe