

# Thomas Russell Junior School

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



## Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022



We would like to offer a very warm welcome to all of our new children and families who have joined us this week.

You might be one of the families who has loved every minute of the summer holidays and return still wishing for an escape to a remote island to fulfil your off-grid dreams;

Or maybe one of those who really look forward to summer then reality hits and you despair at how a child so small can make so much mess / noise and eat so much food!;

Or maybe you had to work full time throughout the summer and you're just glad the children are back at school so there's a bit less juggling to be done.

Whichever camp you're in, we really hope the return to (or start at) Junior School has been a happy and positive one, and long may that continue.

Our new Y3 children have proven delightful, and settled to the new routines like ducks to water.

They are smiley, bright, independent and well behaved - a credit to you as parents.

Our older children in Y4, 5 and 6 have all stepped up to their new year groups with determination and maturity. It seems like we're in for a cracking year ☺

Whilst we're talking about things that are new this year...

I would like to offer a warm welcome to new staff - Miss Wortley teaching in Y5, Mrs Vydelingum and Mrs Coton who join us as teaching assistants in Y4 and Y3 respectively, and Mrs Newstead - back again ☺ and this time to teach in Y5, two afternoons per week.

As your children may have been excited to tell you, we have been busy with a number of other 'new' things. Our children's toilets throughout school have been replaced. This much needed refurbishment was planned with the School Council last year, and although they're not 100% complete yet, they are already much cleaner, brighter and more energy efficient.

Our swimming pool has been relined too, an expensive project paid for by funds raised in hiring out the pool for commercial use. We realise that as a junior school we are incredibly privileged to have an onsite swimming pool and thankful to the Pool Management Committee (made up of Governors) who help to ensure its financial stability and profitability.

In classrooms, we have had all of the blinds replaced - a much needed project which will help with privacy for changing, keeping rooms cool for work in the hot summer months, and allowing best use of the interactive whiteboards too.

Finally, we are delighted to have taken delivery of two brand new sets of iPads. One of these has been funded with profits from our Early Birds and Night Owls childcare. The other set has been purchased with a generous donation from Tippers Builders Merchants. We are very grateful for this and know they will be put to good use in supporting the children's learning.

If there are any parents who work for or own companies that may offer match funding or charitable donations, then we would be very happy to hear from you to discuss potential future projects.

## House and Vice Captains

Our Y6 children impressed on Day 1 with some superbly written speeches. Many of the staff watched with pride as the Y6s bravely spoke to the children in their House to explain why they would like to be voted as House or Vice Captain. We are confident that the children will conduct their roles with diligence and pride, making excellent ambassadors for the school. Congratulations go to all of the children who stood, the quality of speeches was very high.

	Captains		Vice-Captains	
Anson	Will L-J	Brodie H	Evie N	Charlie E
Bassett	Elsie W	Jacob C	Ethan K	Bella P
Clinton	Laurie H	Tilly B	Mollie E	Dylan C
Jervis	Emily W	Noah W	Jacob H	Libby P

## **WANTED!** **NEW Y4 READING AMBASSADORS**

Collect a letter from Mrs Hiatt and Miss Marston for more information.

Miss Murfin will be holding her after school Reading Ambassador sessions this year on a Monday from 3.30-4.30pm. These are for the children from Y5 and Y6 who were appointed last year and also for the newly appointed Y4 Reading Ambassadors.

### **Dates for your diary:**

19<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> June



### Summer Reading Challenge 2022

A big well done to everyone who signed up to this year's Summer Reading Challenge - either at Barton Library or online. We hope that you have enjoyed some cracking 'Gadgeteers' themed stories! So far, we've had around 50% fully complete the challenge so don't forget to finish any books this week and visit the library to claim your rewards! Mrs Sharpe is giving Headteacher Awards to anyone who brings their certificate into school.

### Things to remember from home

We hope to begin swimming next week - if there are any more parents willing to act as Eyes to help supervise the lessons we would be most grateful. We rely on parental support to ensure we are able to offer all children the opportunity to swim throughout their years at school. Please phone or e-mail to let us know when you can offer and hour - Monday to Thursday afternoons. Your help will be appreciated.

We hope this summary will help parents and children to remember what they need to bring / wear to school on which day:

	Swimming	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE	Clarinet
Year 3	Wednesday	Monday	Thursday	
Year 4	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	
Year 5	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Tuesday
Year 6	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday	

**Swimming kit** - swimsuit or trunks, towel & hat in a waterproof bag. Brought in weekly.

**Indoor PE kit** - house colour t-shirt, black shorts & black pumps. Indoor PE kits are left in school.

**Outdoor PE kit** - house colour t-shirt, plain dark tracksuit & trainers. Worn on the correct day.

**Please ensure all kit is clearly labelled.** All jewellery must be removed every lesson, including watches. Children with pierced ears will be expected to remove their own earrings, or not wear them to school on PE days. The school cannot accept responsibility for any items of jewellery brought into school.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs - Autumn 2022

We are delighted to be share our list of extra-curricular clubs for the Autumn Term ☺.

Clubs are designed to give children access to something 'extra' that they might enjoy - they are designed to spark an interest in something new, to help them discover a new hobby or passion and to develop self-confidence mixing with a wider friendship group of children with similar interests.

I must extend a huge thank you to our wonderful staff who are willing to give freely of their time to provide great extra-curricular clubs for the children. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Cost	Dates running
Monday	Fun & Games	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:45 - 1:15	Y3	Free	Weekly at lunchtime First half term
Monday	Duolingo	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:15 - 12:45	Y5 & Y6	Free	Weekly at lunchtime Second half term
Monday	Mathemagicians	Mrs Preston	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	19/9 26/9 3/10 17/10 31/10 7/11 14/11 21/11 28/11 5/12 12/12
Monday	Forest School	Mrs Jones	3:30 - 4:45	All	Free	31/10 7/11 14/11 21/11 28/11 5/12 12/12
Tuesday	Reading Corner & Bananagrams	Miss Murfin	12:45 - 1:15	All	Free	Weekly at lunchtime
Tuesday	Clarinet Group	Mrs Owens	3:30 - 4:10	Y5 & Y6	£30	13/9 20/9 27/9 4/10 18/10 1/11 8/11 15/11 22/11 29/11 6/12 13/12
Tuesday	Football	SoccerStars	3:30 - 4:30	All	Please sign up directly with SoccerStars (Information below on Newsletter)	
Tuesday	Tennis (Upper School)	Mrs Edwards	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	13/9 20/9 27/9 4/10 18/10
Wednesday	Keyboard Group	Miss Cassells	3:30 - 4:10	All	£30	14/9 21/9 5/10 12/10 19/10 2/11 9/1 16/11 23/11 30/11 7/12 14/12
Wednesday	Cross Stitch	Mrs Rollins	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	14/9 21/9 5/10 12/10 19/10 2/11 9/1 16/11 23/11 30/11 7/12 14/12
Wednesday	Tennis (Lower School)	Mrs Edwards	3:30 - 4:30	Y3 & Y4	Free	14/9 21/9 28/9 5/10 12/10 19/10
Thursday	Reading Corner & Bananagrams	Miss Murfin	12:45 - 1:15	All	Free	Weekly at lunchtime
Thursday	Netball	Miss Wortley	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	15/9 22/9 29/9 6/10 20/10
Thursday	Card making 1	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	15/9 22/9 29/9 6/10 20/10 3/11
Thursday	Henna 1	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	Y4-6	Free	15/9 22/9 29/9 6/10 20/10 3/11
Thursday	Card making 2	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	10/11 17/11 24/11 1/12 8/12 15/12
Thursday	Henna 2	Mrs Khalid	3:30 - 4:30	Y4-6	Free	10/11 17/11 24/11 1/12 8/12 15/12
Friday	Choir	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	16/9 23/9 30/9 7/10 14/10 21/10 4/11 11/11 18/11 25/11 2/12 9/12

Our extra-curricular clubs are always exceptionally popular and places are given on a **first come first served** basis.

Clubs are limited to **TWO** per child in an effort to give a greater number of children chance to attend. Booking a paid club is an indication of commitment to pay the amount indicated - this will be added on Parent Pay on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Any additional availability will be opened up on Monday.**

Please book Card marking / Henna 1 OR 2 not both.

Those wishing to join us at Young Voices must attend Choir full time for the whole Autumn Term.

SoccerStars does not count in the TWO clubs as they are an outside provider.

### Electronic Booking for Clubs

### Bookings will open at 5:30pm tonight.

- 1) Log on to **www.schoolinterviews.co.uk**
- 2) Select: **Make a booking** and enter code: **bw7dd**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first AND surname.
- 4) Choose child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
- 5) Receive **instant e-mail confirmation** of booking.



Please note you will not receive any further confirmation from school - once you have signed up and received your confirmation e-mail, your child's place is secured.

### Dove Valley Sports Association

For the next 2 years, Thomas Russell Junior School has taken on the responsibility of running the Dove Valley Sports Association. Headed up by Mrs Vardy as our PE Leader, and ably supported by a number of other staff, we look forward to organising and hosting a range of events: Football League, Cup, Tournaments, Netball League and Tournaments, DV Rounders, Hockey, Cricket, Athletics and much more.

I am sure you will agree there is an amazing selection of clubs above. On top of this, Miss Marston will be running the school football team and will soon be asking Y5 and Y6 children to express an interest in playing. Please note we do NOT guarantee equal play for all who express an interest and will field the team that we deem most appropriate whilst also trying to ensure everyone who wishes to has their chance to represent the school.

*Well done if you stuck with it and read to the end of the Newsletter! It is not normally quite so long ☺*

*This week all families have been provided with a paper copy via their child and an electronic copy. From next week, it will just be an electronic version. If you have not received the electronic version or would like to change / add an e-mail to the circulation list, please let us know via:*

*[questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)*

*You can also use this e-mail for any other questions you may have.*

"Thank you Ma'am  
...for everything"



1926 - 2022



*Best wishes,  
Mrs Sharpe*