

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 3

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

23rd September 2022



Dig out your neon socks, custard scarf and banana hat and show young people that how they feel matters this World Mental Health Day.

It's simple: wear yellow, get fundraising and have fun! We will be supporting Young Minds, with their #Hello Yellow campaign again this year, so please come to school dressed in yellow on Monday 10th October ☺

If you can afford a donation (suggestion £1) then we would be most grateful to receive this in school on the day.

If you want to find out more about the Young Minds charity, or #HelloYellow:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIq9jW9p-m-glVzO3tCh3JngHsEAAYASAAEgK66PD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Parent Consultations

As you will know we are holding our Parent Consultations on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th October. These will provide an opportunity for parents to find out about how their child has settled in to their new classes (and school). There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's approach to learning, general behaviour, relationships, wellbeing, personal organisation and any other matters from home that you might wish to raise.

Our Year 4, 5 and 6 are now back in smaller classes of 20 for Maths and English - your consultation should be booked with your child's Maths and English teacher since this is the person they spend most time with during the week. Feedback from other teachers will also be provided as necessary. For Y3, since we have not ability grouped until the children were more settled, we have decided it is more logical for you to be able to meet your child's class teacher 3K Mrs Khalid or 3H Miss Hurdman, then Miss Branson will share her time between the classes, joining as many of the parents of children she teaches as possible. Our Teaching Assistants in all year groups will plan their timetables once parental bookings are made so they can be present for the meetings about children to whom they provide specific or more general classroom support.

We are delighted to be holding our consultations face-to-face at school. We will also have a bookshop selling books for £3 each (these are all new, but some ex-display). Our Reading Ambassadors / Y6 children will be polishing their enterprise skills running the shop which will be cash only ☺

Consultation appointments are for parents/carers. Pupils and siblings are welcome to come to school and can wait in the hall where they will be supervised. We have over 250 children in school, and a significant number of those have separated parents. Where it is possible for separated parents to attend the consultation together we really appreciate this, we understand sometimes it is not possible.

Bookings for consultations can be made via the website: www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

You will require the booking code: **ens5r**

Bookings will open at 5:30 tonight (Friday 23rd September).

If you are unsure who you should book an appointment with, please contact us on questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and we will confirm this for you.

Cauliflower Cards



It feels far too early to be thinking about Christmas, but we have been pleased to see the children create some beautiful card designs.

For those of you not familiar with the system - your child creates their artwork, which is then attached to a personalised order form. We send this home and if you wish to, you follow the instructions to go online and place your order. You make payment for items such as cards, tags, wrapping paper and mugs.

The final essential step is to then tick the box on the paperwork to confirm you have ordered and RETURN the artwork to school. We will arrange for the original to be sent to Cauliflower Cards and the design will then be made into your order.

The deadline for placing online orders and returning completed artwork is Friday 30th September. We envisage being able to get final products to parents by early November.

Individual and family photos

We have our photographer in school on Monday 3rd October to take individual photos and family group pictures. We have planned this nice and early so that any photographs you order will be back in time to be sent inside Christmas cards, as we know they make such a lovely gift.



Please could we ask parents who wish to bring siblings for the family group photos to arrive from 8:30. Any family groups where siblings all attend TRJS will be taken during the school day and there is no need for these children to arrive early.



Flu vaccinations

The School Immunisation Service will be visiting us on **Wednesday 5th October 2022** to deliver the Nasal Flu spray programme. Thank you to those who have completed the on-line consent form already. If you have not done so and would like your child protected against Flu please complete the consent form by **Thursday 29th September 2022** using the following link: <https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/>

Choose the following from the dropdown list: **Thomas Russell Junior School – 05 Oct 2022 – Flu** | Our school code is: **SS124150-22**

If you have any concerns regarding the vaccination, have taken your child to the GP for their vaccination or require support completing the consent form please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Immunisation Service to discuss on 0300 124 0366.

Lost property

Only three weeks in to school, I'm afraid to say we have already gathered a huge amount of lost property! Please could we ask all parents to check uniform at home this weekend and ensure it is labelled. If your child has lost anything, then we have a box of lost property at the front of school that we invite you to come and look through.





Reading Plus

We are very excited to have launched Reading Plus this week to our Year 4, 5 and 6 children. We participated in a highly effective trial of this programme last year and have invested significant money to roll this programme out throughout the school. Y3 children will be added once we feel they are ready.

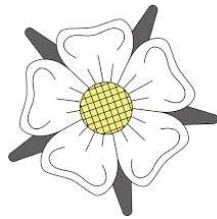
Reading Plus helps students develop the skills they need to be proficient readers and lifelong learners. Through regular Reading Plus practice, reading will become easier, comprehension will increase and your child will make meaningful connections between reading and learning.

To find out more, please feel free to visit www.readingplus.com

The recommended number of sessions is a minimum of three (weekly assignments). Children will aim to complete two of these in school and a third will be set for homework. Children can also log in to do as much additional reading as they wish, which is all recorded. They can earn points and combos to move up through the levels and will be guided to improve not only their reading speed, but also accuracy, comprehension and expand their vocabulary knowledge and understanding.

Children will be completing their baseline assessment in the coming days and will have a letter to parents stuck in their homework book with personalised log in details.

Secondary School Transition



and more...

If we're not even ready to think about Christmas, then Y6 parents certainly won't be ready to start thinking about Secondary Transition, however, the moment will be upon us much quicker than you think.

Please find attached a letter from John Taylor High School, which contains information and links to support the process.

I have been asked to inform you that John Taylor Free School have an Open Evening on Monday 17th October and there is a range of information on their website: <https://johntaylorfreeschool.co.uk/>

We are also very experienced in supporting children through entrance exams and scholarship applications should you be considering the route of private education. Please contact Mrs Sharpe via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk if you require any support or advice.

Applications for Secondary School places are now open and the deadline is 31st October 2022. You should apply to the county in which you live, rather than based on where the school is located.

For Staffordshire: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Admissions-secondary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

For Derbyshire: <https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/dotnet-applications/admissions/default.aspx?admissiontype=Secondary>

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe