

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 19

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th February 2023

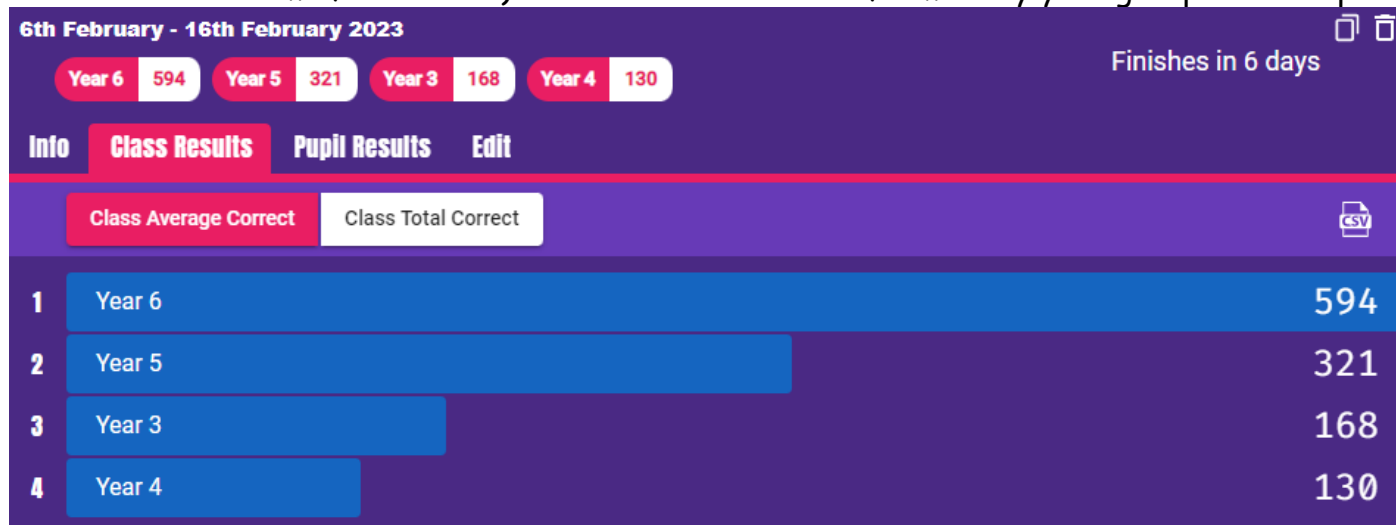
Bikeability

Well done to our Year 4 children who took part in Bikeability this week. The instructors were impressed with the children's listening skills, and how they took on board and followed advice to learn how to keep themselves safe and cycle in a more confident and competent manner – a great day was had by all involved.



Times Tables Rockstars Year Group Battle Update

We are now nearly half way through our 11-day year group battle and, as of 1.00p.m. today, Year 6 are in the lead, with Y5 in second place, followed closely by Y3 then Y4. Anyone could still win as the positions have changed a number of times over the past 5 days (with Y5 starting the week at the bottom of the table!) and there are children from every year group in the top 10.



The competition ends at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th February so there's still all to play for. 135 children have played so far. The scores are based on the average number of points per person in the year group not the average per player so the more people in your year group who take part, the better your chance of winning.

Parent Consultations

It was lovely to see so many parents at consultations this week. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to have a look at your child's work as well as discuss their progress with the class teachers and teaching assistants. It is really important to us to work in partnership with families to ensure children are happy as well as achieving their best, we thank you for all of your support in this.



Early Birds and Night Owls

Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and costs £3.25 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Spring 2 can be made via
www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **sw28c**

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45 (Except last day of term) and costs £8.75 per session. **Night Owls Bookings for Spring 2** can be made via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **bd4pm**



Booking is ESSENTIAL. We only guarantee availability for Spring 2 for bookings made by Thursday 23rd February.

And finally...

It is with hugely mixed feelings that I write to tell parents I will be leaving Thomas Russell Junior School as Headteacher at the end of this academic year. I have told the children in assembly today.

I understand the news will come as a shock. I would like you all to know that the 19 years I have spent at Thomas Russell Junior, have been incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. I have met the most amazing children (past and present); been gifted a team of staff who show an unerring dedication and commitment to the children and the community they serve; received unprecedented support from Governors and from so many parents. However, at times, it has also been relentless and occasionally thankless – I am ready for a rest and some fresh adventures ☺.

As my daughter, Caitlin, approaches her final year of school before heading off to University, I have decided to make this move to properly enjoy time with her before she leaves. I intend to spend more time with family and friends, pursuing hobbies as well as returning to my passion – teaching, private tutoring and maybe running a children's choir.

Being Headteacher of Thomas Russell Junior School has been a privilege. I take immense pride in everything we achieved together, not just in terms of the Outstanding Ofsted and exceptional exam results, but the huge number of children's lives we have positively impacted, the first class education provided and wonderful memories we have created. I hope I have played an important part in raising a generation of children who understand the meaning of integrity, who are brave, driven and resilient as well as kind and humble.

They say that no-one is irreplaceable, and whilst I like to think I came close, it feels like now is the right time for me to hand over the reins to someone with new energy and direction. Leaving will be incredibly hard and there will be so much and so many that I will miss. I want to say sorry to the children and families in school who this change of leadership may impact. I have faith in the wonderful team of staff and Governors, who I know will be focussed on steadying the ship as I go. We will keep you updated on plans to appoint my replacement. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this such a marvellous place to belong. Thomas Russell Junior School will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Best wishes
Shelley Sharpe
Headteacher