

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 20

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

17th February 2023

Staffing Update

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Hiatt will begin her phased return to school after February half term. We very much look forward to having her back in school and both children and staff were really happy to see her when she visited this week.

Huge credit to all of the children in 4H who have coped incredibly well during this period of significant change. They have shown great resilience, being adaptable and flexible to change; they have supported new teachers in the room settling into routines and maintained excellent standards of behaviour as well as working so hard – we are sure Mrs Hiatt will be delighted to see their progress.

Huge thanks also to all of the teachers and teaching assistant who have all pulled together to allow us to cover this absence with a team of familiar staff and as much consistency as possible.



Miss Murfin was pleased to meet lots of Year 4 pupils and their parents/carers at Barton Library yesterday evening, for our Y4 Reading Cafe ☺.

The children enjoyed exploring the shelves, sharing stories over a cuppa and a cake, and getting crafty making crazy critter bookmarks with our Y5/6 Reading Ambassadors! There was also the opportunity to become a 'Story Detective' and go on a book hunt to solve the hidden clues around the

library, whilst Miss Murfin ran a mini-workshop for parents on home reading and our new Reading Plus online program. If you were unable to attend the event and would like any of the handouts/resources provided, please contact the office (Y4 only).

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.



Parent Consultations - Apologies again to parents of children in 4M that we had to cancel your Parent Consultation appointments. We will be in touch individually after half term to re-arrange these to a mutually convenient time. Thank you for your understanding.



On **Friday 3rd March**, TRJS will be participating in **World Book Day 2023!**

This is a worldwide celebration of books and reading, which began in 1995, and is now marked in over 100 countries around the globe. This year's theme is all about encouraging children to find their reading **SUPERPOWER** and read more frequently for pleasure (enjoyment) in their free time.

In school, we will be hoping to inspire all of **YOU** to read for pleasure with our **BIG Book Swap!** What is it? Simply bring in just one (or up to three) used books from home, which you have read already and swap them for something different!

The event will take place on Friday 3rd March **during morning break time** (11.00-11.15am). Please ensure that any books brought in are of a good quality. e.g. not damaged, torn, dirty or missing any pages. Donations can be dropped off in the Hall at the start of school, and in exchange, you will receive a raffle ticket(s) to swap for a new book(s) at break time. Your TRJS Reading Ambassadors will sort out the rest!



We will also be running a **photo competition** entitled '**The Best Places To Read!**'.

We want you to think about all the cosy, comfortable, weird and wonderful places you enjoy reading, and take a photo of yourself with your favourite book reading there. Then, either email it directly to Miss Murfin at: cmurfin@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk OR print off a copy and bring it into school. Remember to label it with your full name and class. There will be **prizes** for each year group as well as an overall winner. Although we aren't looking for extreme reading entries, you can be as inventive as you like – maybe even build your own reading den like Miss Murfin's jungle?!

After half term, all pupils will be issued with a **£1 book voucher**, which they can use in exchange for a brand-new book that has been written by some leading authors especially for this year's World Book Day. Participating retailers and supermarkets include: ASDA, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrisons, WHSmith, Waterstones, Blackwells and The Works, as well as Spaldings, our local bookshop in the village.

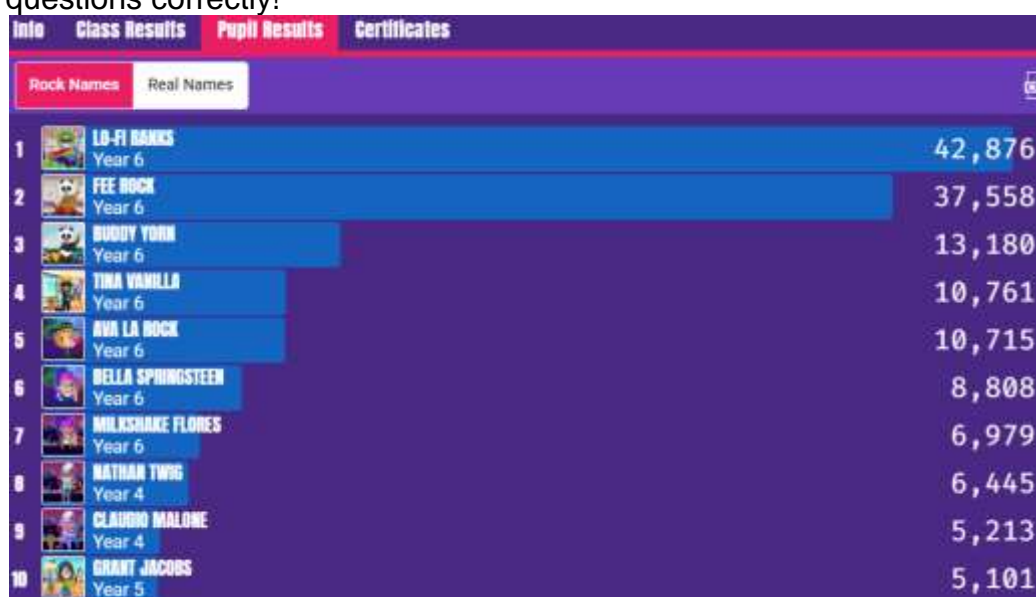


TT Rockstars Year Group Battle Results

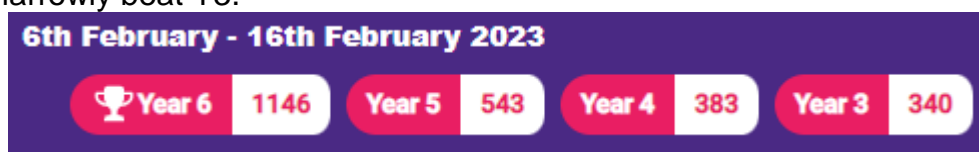
Well done to the 176 children who took part in our latest battle. ☺ There have been some fabulous performances in all year groups.

The top ten was dominated by our Y6 children with Lo-Fi Ranks (aka Zachai K.) in first place with a massive 42,876 points, closely followed by Fee Rock (aka Robert B.) in the second spot with 37,558 points and Buddy Yorn (aka Clay G.) taking third place, also with a fabulous score of 13,180. Tina Vanilla (aka Jacob C.) took fourth place followed closely by Ava La Rock (Lucy G.) in 5th. In the second half of our top 10, we have Bella Springsteen (aka Tilly B.) in 6th and Milkshake Flores (aka Georgie H.) in 7th. The first top 10 entrant not in Y6 was Nathan Twig (aka Seb R.) from Y4 who made it into 8th place, followed by another Y4 representative, Claudio Malone (aka Henry Ch.) in 9th. Finishing off the top 10 was Grant Jacobs (aka Jacob G.) from Y5.

The children earn one point for each correct answer so between them these children answered more than 140,000 questions correctly!



With so many Year 6 players in the top ten, it is probably no surprise that Y6 managed to scoop first place with an average 1146 points per child! Congratulations Year 6. It was a close-run battle for 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Year 5 battled hard to keep Y4 at bay and were successful in taking second place. Meanwhile Y4 narrowly beat Y3.



Finally, a special mention for those children who were the top 3 scorers for their year group. All of these children made it into the top 20 and each of them answered more than 2100 questions correctly. An awesome performance!

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pink Smith (Thomas G.) 12th	Nathan Twig (Seb R.) 8th	Grant Jacobs (Jacob G.) 10 th	Lo-Fi Ranks (Z. Khan) 1st
Carl Stevens (Vihaan V.) 14th	Claudio Malone (Henry Ch.) 9th	Josey Mardones (Emilia S.) 13th	Fee Rock (Robert B.) 2nd
Rojelio Glasshouse (Oscar O.) 15th	Moo Arm (Kieran T.) 17th	Janis Endicott (Taavi W.) 16th	Buddy Yorn (Clay G.) 3rd

We are delighted to give a Headteacher's Award to everyone in the top 20 ☺

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe



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17 February 2023

A message from the Governors

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will all now be aware, Mrs. Sharpe has shared the news that she is leaving TRJS at the end of the Summer Term. We understand that this is a huge change for everyone, and it is difficult to imagine the school without her. We are incredibly lucky that her legacy will be a wonderful starting block for the next generation of TRJS leadership.

Mrs. Sharpe, in her time as Headteacher, has transformed TRJS from a school that required improvement to the Outstanding School we are fortunate enough to send our children to today. It is a school with a dedicated and hardworking staff, with happy and engaged children who are encouraged to discover and achieve their full potential every single day.

This letter is an opportunity for us to reassure you all that the Governing Body remain as committed as ever to continuing to build on the successes of TRJS ensuring the ongoing happiness and well-being of children and staff alike.

We have begun the very important task of recruiting a new headteacher and have a robust process in place that will allow us to find and appoint the right person for the job at the earliest opportunity. We will of course share with you any news as and when we are able to do so. As part of this process, we are keen to get valuable input from the children, the teachers, and you as parents/carers of children attending the school to make sure that we really consider the views of the whole school community to enable us to get this right. We will be back in touch after half term to confirm the details of how you can share your views with us.

Whilst we fully appreciate that for some of you this is an unsettling and uncertain time, please be assured that we, as your Governing Body, are determined to help everyone that is affected to embrace this change, to create new opportunities for the staff and to ensure that we have a school where children can continue to thrive and be the best version of themselves.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing half term.

The Governors of TRJS

