

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 21

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

3rd March 2023

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a lovely half-term break and enjoyed a chance to rest and enjoy some lie-ins ☺ The children have all returned a little bit taller it seems!

It was wonderful to welcome back Mrs Hiatt this week as she begins her phased return to school and to teaching 4H. The children have been very happy and excited to see her and I know she has enjoyed the warm welcome.

Climate Changers

Congratulations to the lovely group, supported by Mrs K-D who helped to deliver an assembly on Wednesday this week, sharing their passion for protecting the environment and suggesting ways we can all help to make better choices that will benefit us now and in the future.

Reading Plus – Spring Challenge

Thomas Russell Junior School managed to come 7th out of 12 in the Reading Plus Spring Challenge just before the holiday. Not a bad achievement since children were also competing in the TT Rockstars battle at the same time!

Name	Average Reading Lessons
Dubmire Primary Academy	20.5
Culcheth Community Primary School	20.5
Farington Moss St Pauls	18.8
Don Valley Academy	17.3
Silver Springs Primary Academy	17
Russells Hall Primary School	16
Thomas Russell Junior School	14.8
Harewood Primary	13.8
Hounslow town Primary school	13.5
Western Primary School	10.7
Gaskell Primary School	10.6
Newham Bridge Primary School	6.8



Thank you so much to Miss Murfin and the Reading Ambassadors for organising the BIG Book Swap today. We had a superb number of books brought in to school. These were all sorted and displayed by the Reading Ambassadors. The real fun began at break time when children returned with their raffle tickets to choose a new adventure. There were huge levels of enthusiasm, with one child describing it as the best day of his life!, and lots asking if we could do it more often.

The photo entry completion is still open – you have until next Friday to send pictures to Miss Murfin – please see Newsletter 20 for details. More information to follow next week.



Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, teaching consistently strong, pupils well cared for, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted January 2019.



Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe
Deputy Headteacher Miss C Branson



01283 247505



office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Gilmour Lane

Barton under Needwood
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE13 8EU
03 March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

After a wonderful and dedicated service to the school Terry Wells has resigned as the Chair of Governors – he has been a constant and valuable ally to the school for just over 30 years. As parents and as governors, we really appreciated the support, guidance and wisdom that Terry brought.

I'd like to take this opportunity not only to thank Terry for the huge difference he has made to the pupils of TRJS past and present, but to introduce myself to you as the new Chair of Governors. I'm Jennifer (Jenni or Jen) Hill, a parent of two children, so I understand the importance of having a strong and supportive school community. As a qualified primary teacher, who took a slightly different path in life, I also have an understanding of what it is like for the staff as well. My aim is to support the school to be the very best it can be, in a really balanced and considered way, to ensure that every child at TRJS receives the best possible education.

I am delighted that I will be supported by Elaine Watling as Vice Chair and a committed governing body. The governors come from a range of backgrounds and have different skills, but we could not do our job without the expertise of the Headteacher, Leadership Team and all the committed staff of TRJS. We also have three newly elected parent governors Phil Evans, Claire Mallett and Kelly Robbins who I would like to welcome to the team.

There are three key areas for which a governing body are responsible:

- ensure the school has a clear vision, direction, and ethos
- hold the headteacher to account for the educational success of the pupils and the school itself
- to oversee the financial performance of the school to ensure that the money the school receives is spent wisely.

I will make sure that we communicate key milestones and progress against all areas with the school community each term. However, it will come as no surprise that the most immediate priority of the governing body is ensuring that we find and recruit the right person to become the new Headteacher here at TRJS. On behalf of all the governing body I will share any 'breaking news' as soon as I am able to.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, either at the school gate or at future school events, and I invite everyone to get involved – we will always welcome your time and skills. Working together as a school community we can make a real difference in the lives of our children to help them achieve their full potential. Alternatively you can e-mail us at governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk if there is anything you want to share.

Kind regards
Jen Hill

Meet the School Governors:

		
Mrs Shelley Sharpe Headteacher	Mrs Jenni Hill Chair of Governors Co-opted Governor	Mrs Elaine Watling Vice Chair / Chair of Curriculum Co-opted Governor
		
Mr Paul Johnson Chair of Premises Local Authority Governor	Mr Tom Clamp Chair of Finance Co-opted Governor	Miss Claire Branson Deputy Headteacher Co-opted Governor
		
Mrs Louise Vardy Elected Staff Governor	Mr Jujar Singh Co-opted Governor	Mrs Kelly Robbins Parent Governor
		
Mrs Claire Mallett Parent Governor	Mrs Rachel Bennett Parent Governor	Mrs Marie Keasley Co-opted Governor
		
Mrs Helen Gobran Co-opted Governor	Mrs Helen Whitby Parent Governor	Mr Phil Evans Parent Governor

Term dates 23 - 24

Please see attached document or the school website for term dates for next year.

INSET Days have been approved as:

4th September '23, 6th November '23, 9th February '24, 24th May '24 and 22nd July '24

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe