

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 25

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

21st April 2023



Welcome back to school ☺ we hope you had a lovely holiday and were able to enjoy a rest and spend time with family & friends.

Reading Challenge



Congratulations to the winners of our Reading Challenge for the Spring Term. Each week, children who record five or more 'home reads' in their Reading Record are given a raffle ticket, which goes in to a draw at the end of the term.

The more children read, the more tickets they get. You've got to be in it to win it!

Y6 - Jon W, Eisa K, Alice R & Beatrix B Y5 - Sophie G, Freya C, Will O & Thomas B
Y4 - Millie H, Immy W, Kian L & Kieran T Y3 - Oscar O, Miles H, Amber W and Eloise S

Life Saving

From Monday 24th April, for the half term, Mrs Owen will be teaching life-saving skills to the Y5 & 6 children. Please could we request that in addition to their full swimming kit, children also bring old pyjamas or old t-shirt & shorts to wear in the pool. They will also need a plastic bag to pop these into after swimming. Thank you. Mrs Owen will let the children know when the topic is completed as we have a couple of missing Mondays this half term.



The Coronation of King Charles III



We will be having a special dinner on Friday 5th May to celebrate. Children are invited to design the menu for the day, incorporating traditional dishes or new ideas.

Don't forget to think about dietary requirements ☺

Create the pages of a recipe book, design a menu card for a banquet, draw & label your dishes or present your ideas in another creative way.

Entries should be returned to Mrs Brammer in the kitchen by 9am on Thursday 27th April and we will announce the winning menu in the Newsletter on Friday 28th April.

Children who normally stay for sandwiches will be welcome to sign up for a dinner on Coronation Day, just add £2.65 to ParentPay to confirm your child's attendance.

Don't forget school is closed on Monday 1st May and the 8th May for the additional Bank Holiday.

SATs Week - 9th-12th May

Our Year 6 children have been working hard to prepare for the forthcoming KS2 SATs. We wish them good luck and know they will do the very best they can.

Last year, we served breakfast in the hall for all Y6 children free of charge from 8:50. This was very positively received and we will be doing the same again this year ☺

Children will be able to choose from a selection of yoghurts, pastries, breakfast bars and fruit. Sitting together in the hall having breakfast and a chat before the test began helped to put children in a more relaxed frame of mind and built a lovely supportive team rapport.

We will be celebrating the end of SATs week with our Circus Skills Day, this includes an assembly for all children and workshops for Y6 children on Monday 15th May.

Y6 can wear suitable non-uniform and trainers on this day.

Bikeability

We are delighted to have secured our next two Bikeability courses in the summer term, so are hopeful the weather will be dryer and warmer than some days we have had in the past!

Y6 Bikeability is on Wednesday 17th May and Thursday 18th May.

Y5 Bikeability is on Monday 22nd May and Tuesday 23rd May.

We have limited space to store bikes securely overnight, so please contact us via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk if you would like to request to leave your bike here.

Sports Day - Thursday 25th May

We are very excited to welcome parents to school for this day. There will be lots of races and throwing events throughout the day. The programme will follow closer to the time, but for those wishing to book time off work, there will be a morning session (9:45 - 12ish) and afternoon session (1:30 - 3:00ish).

Children will require trainers, House colour t-shirt and black shorts/skort. (No football shirts please)

If there are any parents who would be willing to offer their time to set up and run a refreshments stall during the day, then we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please drop us a message to questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

May Half Term

Children break up at 3:30 on Thursday 25th May (they will not be able to leave early after Sports Day). We have an INSET Day on Friday 26th May (for staff but no children) then the following week is May Half Term. Children return to school on Monday 5th June.

Extra-Curricular Clubs - Summer 2023

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

When a child signs up to a club we expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or call if they will be absent.

Thank you again to staff who offer their time freely to provide these opportunities.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Cost	Dates running
Monday	Philosophy for Children	Mrs Rollins	12:40 - 1:10	Y5 & Y6	Free	Every Monday Lunchtime
Monday	History Club	Miss Wortley	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	5/6 12/6 19/6 26/6 3/7 10/7
Monday	Forest School	Mrs Jones	3:30 - 4:45	Y3 & Y4	Free	5/6 12/6 19/6 26/6
Tuesday	Mindfulness & Reading Den	Miss Murfin	12:30 - 1:15	All	Free	Every Tuesday Lunchtime
Tuesday	Clarinet Group	Mrs Owens	3:30 - 4:10	Y5 & Y6	£30	25/4 2/5 9/5 16/5 23/5 6/6 13/6 20/6 27/6 4/7
Tuesday	Football	SoccerStars	3:30 - 4:30	All	Please sign up directly with SoccerStars (Information above on Newsletter)	
Wednesday	Keyboard Group	Miss Cassells	3:30 - 4:10	All	£30	26/4 3/5 10/5 17/5 24/5 7/6 14/6 21/6 28/6 5/7
Wednesday	Rounders (Upper School)	Miss Sinclair & Miss Hurdman	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	26/4 3/5 10/5 17/5 24/5
Wednesday	Rounders (Lower School)	Miss Sinclair & Miss Hurdman	3:30 - 4:30	Y3 & Y4	Free	7/6 14/6 21/6 28/6
Wednesday	Science Club	Mrs Hiatt	3:30 - 4:30	Science Ambassadors	Free	3/5 10/5 17/5 7/6 14/6 21/6
Thursday	Cat's Cradle & playground games	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	12:30 - 1:10	All	Free	Summer 2 Every Thursday Lunchtime
Thursday	Cricket (Lower School)	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	Y3 & Y4	Free	27/4 4/5 11/5 18/5
Thursday	Cricket (Upper School)	Miss Branson	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & Y6	Free	8/6 15/6 22/6 29/6
Friday	Cooking	Mrs Preston	3:30 - 4:45	By Invitation	Free	TBC
Friday	Hope Orchard Helpers & Gardening	Mrs Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All	Free	9/6 16/6 23/6 30/6
Friday	Skiing and Snowboarding	Mrs Sharpe	3:25 - 5:25	All	Bookings made last term	21/4 28/4 5/5 12/5 19/5

Science Ambassadors need to select 'Science Ambassadors' from the drop down class list to book this club.

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 a commitment to pay the amount indicated - this will be added on Parent Pay w/c 24th April.

Any additional availability will be opened up on Monday.

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

Electronic Booking for Clubs

Bookings will open at 6:30pm tonight

- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Select: **Make a booking** and enter code: **h9fhg**
- 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.

Y6 Residential visit to Standon Bowers on 5th to 7th July.

This is just a polite reminder that the balance for this trip was due by the end of the Spring Term (except for those making £20 instalments, the final of which is due on 4th May). Please could we ask those who have a balance outstanding to log in to ParentPay asap so this can be settled.

Vacancies

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Mrs Williams - one of our lovely lunchtime supervisors who has been with us this year, but has made the decision to return to nursing - their gain is our loss.

Classroom Teacher - SCT / Main Scale
Full-time Temporary for one year
Required September 2023 to August 2024
Main Scale - £28,000 to £34,502

Are you?

- An excellent and resourceful classroom teacher with the ability to inspire children.
- Ambitious to develop both personally and professionally.
- An enthusiastic and organised teacher with proven behaviour management skills.
- Ready to work in strong partnership with the Headteacher and whole staff team.

Can you?

- Lead by example.
- Encourage and motivate children to be the best they can be.
- Contribute to all aspects of school life helping to develop well-rounded children.
- Respond to adversity and the ever-changing face of education with resilience and determination.

We are:

- Committed to continuous school improvement and raising standards.
- Keen to work in partnership with children, school and home to achieve the best for every child.

We can offer:

- Hard working, friendly staff and enthusiastic, motivated children.
- ECTs - release time and a supportive mentor to guide you through this crucial early stage of your career.
- Main Scale Teachers - a supportive team structure to nurture and develop your leadership skills as well as furthering your own classroom practice and sharing your skills and talents.

Applicants are required to fully complete an application form and are also asked to state strengths and experience within their letter (no more than 2 sides of A4). Please do not include CVs (these will not be looked at).

The post is temporary due to a temporary increase in funding allowing us to facilitate smaller class sizes of 20-22 children. There may be potential to extend if additional funding permits.

Applications should be sent by e-mail only to headteacher@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk
Closing date: Friday 19th May at 9:30am
Interviews will take place: Tuesday 23rd May
Any appointment will be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

Additional Information
This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Further details regarding this check are available from schools or by visiting www.crj.gov.uk

This Authority and school are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

If a candidate is short-listed any relevant issue arising from his or her references will be taken up at interview. Please be aware that social media checks will be carried out on short-listed candidates.

Two Teaching Assistants
Part-time (15 hours) Permanent
Part-time (10 hours) Temporary plus a SEN Lunchtime Supervisor post
Required September 2023 (to August 2024 temp)
£21,575 - £21,968 (FTE) pro rata per annum

We are looking to appoint two **enthusiastic** and **highly motivated** teaching assistants to join our outstanding school. One of these posts is permanent and one is temporary due to fluctuations in numbers of SEN children in school and the availability of additional funding; however this may also become permanent.

The successful applicants will work alongside a knowledgeable and committed team, supporting children with additional learning needs of all abilities. Experience of implementation of wave 2 and 3 intervention strategies would be welcome, but is by no means essential. The ability to use your initiative and a high level of subject knowledge in both English (Reading, Writing and SPaG) and Maths is an absolute necessity. Applications are welcome from all good or outstanding teaching assistants, regardless of qualification. Flexibility, resourcefulness and a shared commitment to supporting our children to achieve their full potential are essential. Training will be available for the successful applicant.

Primarily we are looking for TAs to work during morning lesson times. Working hours will likely be spread over 4 or 5 days during the week and can be flexible to allow for any school drop off responsibilities you may have. We would not consider combining both TA posts as we require support for children in different year groups at the same time.

We also have two posts available for Lunchtime Supervisors, one of which is linked to the temporary TA.

Availability to take additional hours to support in our wrap around care with Early Birds (8:00 - 8:50) or Night Owls (3:30 - 4:45) could be advantageous, but is certainly not essential.

Applicants are required to fully complete an application form and are also asked to state strengths and experience within their letter (no more than 2 sides of A4). Please do not include CVs (these will not be looked at).

Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Chaddock or Mrs Patrick on 01283 247505 or there is significant information about the school on our website and in our Ofsted Report.

Applications should be sent by e-mail only to headteacher@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk
Closing date: Friday 19th May at 9:30am
Interviews will take place: Wednesday 24th May
Any appointment will be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

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For more information about these vacancies,
please speak to Mrs Sharpe

Retirement

After over 30 years at Thomas Russell Junior, we bid farewell to Mrs Gilly Roach our dedicated kitchen assistant.

Mrs Roach will be sadly missed as a mother figure to the kitchen staff and for her quick sense of humour.

She loved the children and I know the joy of seeing them grow kept her working well beyond retirement age. I hope leaves with many fond memories.

Wishing her health and happiness.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

Lunchtime Supervisors
Part-time (6.25 hours) Permanent - two posts
£20,812 pro rata per annum
Start date - as soon as possible.

We are looking to appoint two **enthusiastic** and **highly motivated** lunchtime supervisors to join our outstanding school on a permanent basis.

6.25 hours per week - 12:05-1:20 - Monday - Friday - Term time only.

The positions will involve working as part of a team under the direction and support of the Senior Lunchtime Supervisor and the rest of the school team.

Responsibilities include monitoring and ensuring the safety and good behaviour of children during the lunch break, supporting pupils into lunchtime play activities and administering first aid.

We are keen to appoint people to our team who are willing to support the ethos of the school and have the energy and enthusiasm to work well with our lovely children.

For the right candidate, it would be possible to combine these posts with one of our TA posts as both positions run consecutively.

To apply for this post, please download the application form below or contact the school office to collect a paper application form.

All completed applications must be returned to the school as soon as possible.

Tel: 01283 247505
headteacher@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Additional Information
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Community News

THE CORONATION
KING CHARLES
III
2023

**You are cordially invited to join
Barton Churches Together
for an ecumenical service of
thanksgiving on the occasion of
the Coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III
and Her Majesty Queen Camilla**

**Sunday 7th May 2022
6:00pm
St James' Church, Barton**

It is hoped this service
will be held outside.
Chairs / Rugs are welcome!

CHURCHES
TOGETHER

OFFICIAL

Community Safety Flash

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children are drowning. On average, there are 50 of these tragedies each year in the U.K. Keep reading to see our top tips on how to stay safe around open water.

Water is often far deeper than people think. Only swim where there is supervision or a lifeguard. Water that looks calm on the surface may have a fast current underneath.

It's very cold and can quickly cause cramp and breathing difficulties. Cold water shock can paralyse your ability to move and kill within a minute

There may be hidden dangers

The depth of water can be deceptive and may contain hidden rubbish and debris such as shopping trolleys or broken glass which can cause injuries and drowning.

Waters could be polluted

Sometimes it can be polluted and make you ill. There is a serious risk of waterborne diseases

Think!
Stay safe and keep out of open water

Please find attached to the Newsletter a safety flash from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue regarding swimming in open water.

National UK Emergency Alert Test

As you may be aware, the National UK Emergency Alert test is due to take place at 3pm on Sunday 23rd April 2023. This is a test of the system, which will be deployed in case of future national emergencies. It involves an automatic notification to all mobile phones, on all networks, in the form of an alert sound.

There may be reasons why parents decide that they **do not** want the alert to be received, or do not wish for a specific mobile phone to sound the alarm. We wanted to make you aware that the alert will sound even if a mobile phone is switched to silent and also how to turn off receiving the emergency alert.

To turn off the alert on an android phone:

- Go to settings
- Type emergency in the search bar and Emergency Alert should appear as an option
- Select Emergency Alerts
- This should take you to a page titled either emergency alerts or broadcast settings
- Click or tap on the blue toggle beside emergency alerts to switch the option off. It will turn grey and the alert will be switched off.

To turn off the alert on an iPhone:

- Open the settings app
- Select notifications, a red square with a white bell
- Scroll down the notifications screen to the bottom to find emergency alerts
- Tap the toggles to turn the emergency alerts off. They will turn grey, and the alerts will be switched off.