

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 30

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

9th June 2023



Sports Day

What an AMAZING day ☺ It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and family friends joining us at Sport Day to cheer the children on.

Huge thanks to Mrs Vardy for the fabulous organisation and to all of the staff who played their part in helping the day run so smoothly. The children did us proud - they were excellent competitors, supported each other and their Houses, behaved impeccably and displayed great sportsmanship and resilience.

The sun shone beautifully and it was great to be able to offer refreshments, so thanks to the parents who helped to organise and run the stall throughout the day.

House and Vice Captains were rightly proud to lead their House in the parades, carrying the banner and promoting wonderful team spirit. **Overall winners were Jervis.** Congratulations. A wonderful day of happy memories created which children, families and staff can treasure ☺

Enterprise Project

Our Enterprise Project is coming to an end this half term and we are absolutely delighted to tell you that we (you!) have already raised over £6,900 for the school. I said before the holiday that we were overwhelmed hearing about how much effort the children had put in to the project, but this amount of fund raising is absolutely phenomenal.

Please do keep sending your money in if you have taken part in the project, or send your £1 back if you thought you'd like to do it, but haven't had chance.



Next week we will be asking children to present to their year groups to share their projects and achievements. If children want to make a PowerPoint or present their project in any other way, then you could e-mail anything to the teacher e-mails (please see Newsletter 29). Alternatively, they could talk through their project booklet or talk from memory if they would prefer. We have seen some brilliant photos too - so again, please keep sending these in.

There will be a reward for every single child who took part.
Thank you again for your amazing support and engagement ☺





Class Organisation 2023 - 2024

As is normal at this time of year, we are finalising our plans for transition up into the next year group. We are extremely lucky at Thomas Russell Junior School to be able to enjoy the three group structure for core subjects, which means children can benefit from much more tailored teaching to suit their ability, smaller classes which offer more individual teacher time and excellent support from our teaching assistants to ensure all children are well supported.

Children have been given the opportunity to share their friendship choices - we guarantee a minimum of one from their list, but many end up with more. I have worked closely with teachers, teaching assistants and other staff to ensure we achieve a good balance in each class, socially and emotionally as well as academically.

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Miss Murfin	Miss Sinclair	Mrs Preston	Miss Wortley	Miss Marston	Mrs Hiatt	Mrs Khalid	Miss Hurdman
6M	6S	5P	5W	4M	4H	3K	3H

When we split into 3 classes for core subjects:

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
	Mrs Vardy will teach in Y6.		Mrs Rollins will teach in Y5.		Mrs Kerr-Delworth will teach in Y4.		Miss Branson will teach in Y3.

Teaching Assistants across school are:

Year 6		Year 5		Year 4		Year 3	
							
Mrs Vydelingum	Mrs Shorthouse	Mrs Graves	Mrs King	Mrs Windsor	Mrs Alcock	Mrs Cozens	Mrs Watling

Children and parents will find out their personalised information with end of year reports on Friday 14th July. There will be an opportunity for children to meet the teachers and teaching assistants during our Move up Morning on Monday 17th July.



We are also delighted to inform you that Mrs Rollins will be taking on the role of SENCo from September 2023. Mrs Jones is in the process of completing a thorough hand over and there will be an opportunity for parents of children with SEN to meet with Mrs Rollins over the coming weeks or in September, if you haven't already.

Mr Emery is looking forward to joining the school as Headteacher.



John Waterhouse Visit

On Tuesday afternoon, some of our most talented artists across all four year groups took part in a workshop with local artist John Waterhouse. The children were shown a number of techniques to make their drawings look three-dimensional, they had the opportunity to see one of John's paintings close up and they really enjoyed hearing about his career 'journey' from being a pupil at our school to making a living from doing something he loves. The children had a wonderful afternoon and John was very impressed with their drawing skills. TRJS would like to say a big thank you to John for running the workshop.



Year 6's trip to The Museum of Cannock Chase

On Wednesday, Year 6 visited The Museum of Cannock Chase to learn more about World War Two. The children had a brilliant time investigating 1940s' foods, seeing what homes were like during this period and learning about the different roles of those people defending Britain on the Home Front.

They also had the opportunity to experience an aid raid and took part in some role-play, which explored what it was like to have been a child who was evacuated. The children behaved brilliantly and were a credit to the school.



And finally...next week our assembly topic is all about Personal Boundaries.

We will be exploring the difference between safe and unsafe secrets. This will be supported by the use of NSPCC resources.



With this Newsletter we have attached the assembly planning so that parents are able to understand the context of the discussions which will be had.

In our assemblies, Year 3 and 4 will be discussing the NSPCC PANTS rule. This is designed to teach pupils how to stay safe from sexual abuse, without giving explicit information or telling scary stories or even using the term "sexual abuse." In the lesson, children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for:

Privates are private

Always remember your body belongs to you

No means no

Talk about secrets that upset you

Speak up, someone can help

The assembly will be delivered in a way that is fully age-appropriate. More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule.

As a parent, I know it can feel like there is never an appropriate time or age to talk about such issues, and the desire to protect them from knowing these problems exist is overwhelming. However, I also believe it is vitally important to give children the information they need to keep themselves safe, the confidence to know that they are 'the boss of their body' and the bravery to speak up if they do need help.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

