

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 32

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

23rd June 2023

Musical Tuition

At Thomas Russell Junior School, we have a very strong tradition of musical development. Many of our children enjoy playing the keyboard in Y3, as well as the clarinet in Y5 as part of our whole class music lessons. We have nearly half of the school attending Choir throughout the year and participating in concerts such as Young Voices and Burton Town Hall Christmas Carols. I am proud to say we have 43 children who participate in peripatetic lessons on a host of different instruments. We also run clarinet and keyboard club after school.

This week we have sent home letters find out if children would like to continue peripatetic lessons into next year – please ensure that this letter is returned by Friday 30th June to reserve your child's place.

After this date, additional availability will open up to other pupils in school and those new to Y3.

If your child is interested in taking up playing a musical instrument, please e-mail questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and we will send you all of the information you need to make a decision.

Musical Showcase Invitation

We would like to invite parents to two music concerts – these showcase the children's learning and progress.

Y3 will be putting on a concert on Wednesday 5th July at 2:45 where they will play their keyboards and sing some songs they have learned. Alongside this, the children who play violin and cello in peripatetic lessons will also play a piece.

Y5 will be performing on Tuesday 11th July at 2:45 – here you will be able to see all Y5 children playing their clarinets and singing. Alongside this, children who have woodwind lessons or attend clarinet club will be playing.

To reserve your tickets, please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/kbXELeRXym>

Leavers' Events

We will be holding our **Leavers' Assembly** for Y6 parents on Friday 21st July at 10am. This is always a wonderful (if emotional) celebration of children's achievements and memories throughout their time at Junior School. Due to capacity in the hall, unfortunately we have to limit entry to Y6 families only - two tickets per family. Please follow this link to sign up for your tickets: <https://forms.office.com/e/DRfsbfZ6mZ>

We will be holding our **Leavers' Parade** at 3:20 on Friday 21st July. All families across school are invited to come down on to the playground early to say farewell to our Y6 children as they leave school for the final time. Y5, 4 and 3 children create a tunnel on the playground, down which the Y6 children parade. It is a lovely way to end the year.

Leavers' Lunch – Y6 children will be choosing the menu for the day on Wednesday 19th July. Once they have made their selections, we will let you know the menu so other children can join in for the lunch should they wish. We know lots of our younger children have a close relationship with the Y6s, especially the Mini Me's and Big Me's, so they will no doubt be keen to get involved.

Twycross Zoo Visit

On Wednesday 21st June, Year 4 had a great time visiting Twycross Zoo. The children took part in a 'Life in the Rainforest' activity led by centre staff, as well as having time to explore the zoo and learn about the habitats, food chains and threats to wildlife during the visit. We all had a great time and the children had lots of fun.



Enterprise Project

We are really looking forward to our Enterprise Awards Assembly on Monday, where all of the children who have contributed to this amazing fund-raising project will be recognised. We have a prize draw including every child who participated, we will have various different prizes and certificates to give out as well as announcing the grand total raised (an unbelievable amount!)

If you have yet to return any funds raised, please could we urge you to do that this weekend. If you thought you would like to participate in the project, but have not had the opportunity, then please return your £1 start up loan.

Dove Valley Cup Final

On Thursday 22nd June, Thomas Russell football team competed in the Dove Valley Cup Final against All Saints, Alrewas. Alrewas took an early lead in the first half and were soon 2-0 up. Thomas Russell showed great determination, resilience and teamwork to claw back to 2-1 at half time, courtesy of a great goal from Zachai. In the second half, Thomas Russell piled on the pressure and equalised through a wonder strike from Jacob H. The match continued to be incredibly hard fought and as the final whistle blew, extra time was needed. In the first half of extra time, Alrewas again took the lead but again Thomas Russell fought back with Zachai scoring another goal to level at 3-3. As we entered the final minutes of extra time, Alrewas scored again and won the match 4-3. All of the team played excellently and should be very proud of their achievements throughout the season and in the final.



Reading Plus Award, 2023

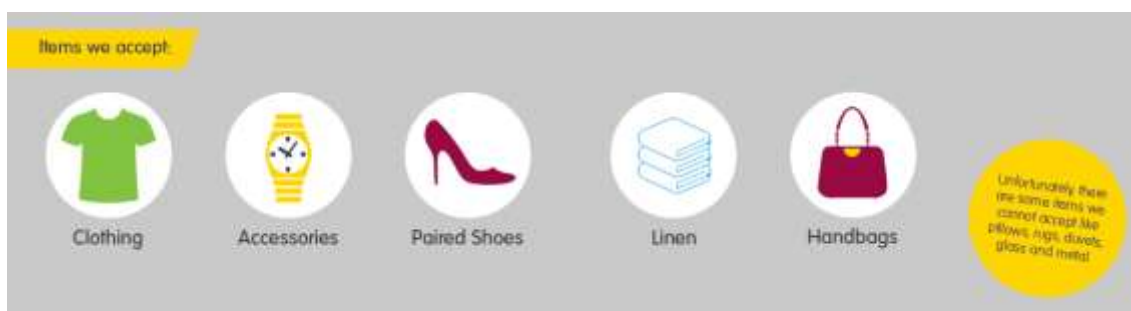
Don't forget that nominations for the Reading Plus Awards will be made based upon individual data from the Reading Plus system and children have until **Wednesday 28th June** to boost their online reading profiles!

We are pleased to inform you that access to Reading Plus and TT Rockstars will continue throughout the summer holiday. These are an excellent way to occupy children's time and keep their brains ticking over, giving a great head start for next year!



Children's Air Ambulance Clothing Bank

You might have noticed that we have now taken delivery of the Children's Air Ambulance Clothes Bank in the staff car park, just to the left inside the gates.



Please do make use of the clothing bank at any time the gates are open.



WE NEED YOU!

Dear Parents, Carers and Extended Family,

I am writing to appeal for some volunteers to come and hear children read in the afternoons from September in all year groups. As I prepare for the role of SENCo, I am keen to create as many opportunities as possible for TRJS pupils to read aloud.

Reading fluency is essential for children to be able to access almost every area of the curriculum. If you could spare an hour a week (between 13:15 –

14:15 or 14:30 – 15:20) or know an extended family member who might be interested, we would really like to hear from you. Please get in touch by emailing me at krollins@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk to ask any questions and let me know your preferred day and time.

I would like to ask that you are able to commit to a seven-week period (a half term) but would also welcome a longer-term commitment.

Kind regards

Katie Rollins

N.B. Thomas Russell Junior School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our care and as such, any volunteer in a role working with children is required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure check. Further details regarding this check are available from school or by visiting www.crb.gov.uk

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe