

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 33

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

30th June 2023



Derby County Girls' Football Tournament

On Friday 30th June, Thomas Russell girls' football team took part in a tournament at Moor Farm (Derby County's training centre). Across the eight matches that the children played, we came up against a lot of fierce opposition but the girls always persevered, supported each other and showed excellent team work skills. Thomas Russell A team finished 5th in the competition and Thomas Russell B finished in 7th place.

The girls' sportsmanship, effort and enthusiasm should be commended, we are very proud of them all.

Musical Showcase

Congratulations to all our performers at Wednesday's Keyboard and Strings Concert. There was singing, dancing, super ensemble and trio keyboard playing as well as group string performances.

The children had been practising hard and performed confidently and skilfully together. Thank you to all family who were able to attend and to Miss Cassells and Mrs Edwards.



Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2023!



It was lovely to hear from Miss Murfin and some of our Reading Ambassadors in assembly on Monday who told the children all about the Summer Reading Challenge.

See Newsletter 33 for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/home-zone-src>

Rosliston Forestry Centre Year 3 trip

We all had a fantastic time at Rosliston Forestry Centre on Tuesday. For half the day we became 'Nature Detectives' and discovered the plants and animals that live in the woodland. Andy the leader was very impressed with our knowledge of the names and scents of a variety of herbs. We used Venn diagrams to sort woodland creatures and built animal habitat shelters out of the natural materials around us. We pretended to be squirrels and hid an acorn that we had to find later in the day (some more successfully than others!). The other half of the day was spent exploring the woodland, going on a Sculpture Trail and having fun in the open air. Well done Year 3 – we were delighted with the joy, curiosity, knowledge and respect you showed throughout the day.



Year 6

It has been a huge week for our Y6 children this week. The vast majority of them took part in their transition day on Monday – most of them visiting John Taylor High School. It was wonderful to hear how confidently the children had handled the day – there were lovely smiles and excitement when they returned to school.

We are sure they are ready for the next chapter in the journey, and would like to wish each and every one of them success, wherever they are moving to.

We also spend Wednesday to Friday this week at Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre. Our activities included Crystal Maze (a great selection of teamwork activities just like the TV programme), High Ropes, Climbing, Fire Lighting, Axe Throwing (a first for us all, that Miss Murfin proved very good at!), Low Ropes and Bridge Building. Evening activities were a Night Hike and Campfire (with some great songs and stories!).

The instructors were very complimentary about our children, saying they were a credit to the school and to their parents. They praised how kind, supportive and encouraging they were towards each other – praising Arthur and Eisa in particular. They also praised the children on their integrity, listening skills and resilience.

We were incredibly proud of them all. Huge thanks to the staff who accompanied the trip, as I always say...it wouldn't have been possible without you...Mrs Rollins, Mrs Alcock, Miss Murfin, Mrs Shorthouse and Mrs Vardy.

For me personally, the residential was extra special, being my final one as Headteacher – I would like to say a special thank you to the children for making it such a fun, enjoyable and memorable one. You are an extraordinary year group ☺ and I will take away so many memories to treasure.

Final reminders

As you'll have noticed in previous Newsletters, we've got a few events coming up which require a reply from parents to support with our planning.

If you haven't yet done so, please follow the links to complete the forms:

FOR EVERY CHILD:

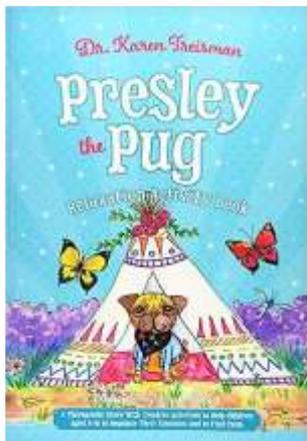
TRJS Fest (20th July) and Leaver's Lunch (19th July): <https://forms.office.com/e/xYPZtREX9L>

JUST FOR Y6:

Leavers' Assembly - Friday 21st July at 10am.

Don't forget to reserve tickets (Max. 2): <https://forms.office.com/e/DRfsbfZ6mZ>

Transition



Last week we started our transition work, with all children. In our whole school assembly they listened to the story of 'Presley the Pug' (Watch here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmYOICJJKI> FROM 57 secs). This is a book written by the award-winning clinical psychologist Karen Treisman and is a story about Presley and his canine friends, and what he discovers helps him when he is worried. Please ask your children where their 'Brain Breaks' would take them.



Year 6 then worked in small groups thinking about what worries children might have moving from Y6 to Y7. They were very reflective and thoughtful and produced some wonderful comic strips, giving suggestions and solutions.



Over the coming weeks we are also going to be looking at our positive qualities and reflecting on how we felt this time last year, and how this can help us when we feel wobbly about the next step in September.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Mrs Kerr-Delworth
skerrdelworth@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Early Birds and Night Owls

The ethos of our wrap around care is to provide a 'home from home' environment, rather than an extension to the school day. Our familiar and friendly staff nurture a feeling of family. Activities are plentiful and there is always an element of free choice, just as would be enjoyed at home. Children are encouraged to play together and many form strong cross year-group friendships. Children all sit down around a table to eat breakfast and tea together, where the art of table manners and dinner conversation are promoted.



Early Birds runs daily between 8:00 and 8:45 and is based around a range of sports, team games, construction activities & ICT.

Breakfast is provided and includes toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt and a drink of fruit juice, milk or water.

Early Birds costs £3.25 per session.

Early Bird Bookings for Autumn 1 2023 can be made via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **syd57**

Night Owls runs daily from 3:30 until 5:45

(Except last day of term - Christmas, Easter & Summer.)

Activities provided include a range of free play, construction activities, art & crafts, outdoor games and toy sheds.

Children receive fruit and drink at the beginning of the session, then a light tea just before 5:00. Tea includes a selection of sandwiches, toast, soup or hot dogs fruit, yoghurt or cake and a drink. We have a winter and summer menu.

Night Owls costs £8.75 per session.



Night Owls Bookings for Autumn 1 2023 can be made via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code: **bffk6**

**We only guarantee availability for bookings made before 31st August 2023.
Please book early to support our planning for the new academic year.**

Terms and Conditions

Bookings for all sessions must be made in advance via the online booking system www.schoolinterviews.co.uk using the code published in the Newsletter each half term. Bookings made via this system will be charged at the prices indicated above.

For safeguarding purposes, it is essential that a booking is made for each session before your child attends.

Bookings must be made every half term, even if you always require a regular pattern e.g. M, W & F.

All late bookings, additional sessions and cancellations must be made in writing to jpatrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and will be subject to a 50p admin charge.

Refunds will only be given where 48 hours' written notice is provided (with the exception of child illness, in which case a refund will be made on the second day of absence).

There is an additional charge for early drop off (before 8:00) and late pick up (after 5:45) at a rate of £5 per 5 minutes or part thereof.

You should ensure you have a second contact who will be able to collect your child in the case of emergency if you are unable to collect from Night Owls before closing time.

Payment should be made in advance via ParentPay for all sessions used and any admin charges as a result of changes.

If you wish to pay by Childcare Vouchers, please register this with the school, then wait until you receive your invoice at the end of the half term before making any payment. Once your invoice is received, please pay the correct amount via your electronic Childcare Voucher account.

We reserve the right to refuse future bookings where the above terms and conditions are persistently disregarded.

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe