

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 8

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

27 October 2023

Harvest Assembly

It was lovely to see such a full hall for our Harvest Assembly, supporting the children in all year groups as they performed poems and songs. We were very glad to see two special visitors: Mrs Sharpe and Rev Andy. I do hope the songs are ringing round in your head all weekend (I don't know about you, but I can't get them out of my head!). I think I am going bonkers about conkers 😊. Seriously, I have been very impressed with the children and how they have risen to the challenge of working hard as a class, demonstrating real pride in their performance. Thank you for all the generous donations of food, which have been loaded in the car by Mrs Cramp, ready to take to the charity HOPE. It is right to be thankful for the good things we have, but also to share that love with others who are in need. Thank you everyone.



End of Day Routine

After reflecting on our end of day routines, talking to staff and a number of parents, we are looking at some changes to ensure that we have procedures in place to keep all children safe. From **Monday 13th November we will insist that ALL pupils in Year 3 and 4 are collected from school. From this date, children in Year 5 and 6 will only be allowed to walk home alone (without an adult) if they have signed permission.** A letter will go out to all parents after half term to clarify the end of day routine. The vast majority of parents follow this routine already. It may be that we feel we are in a village that is safe, however, we still need to be vigilant and have clear procedures in place. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

After-School Clubs

For the rest of the Autumn Term and throughout the Spring Term, we ask that any child attending an after-school club is collected by a parent/carer and are not allowed to walk home on their own. As the nights draw in, it is often dark at 4.30 during the winter and we appreciate the co-operation of parents to help us keep all children safe.

Choir

Next half term, choir will continue on a Friday after school (3.30-4.30) on the following dates: 10 November, 17 November, 24 November, 1 December and 8 December. This club is for the children who are already signed up. We are doing really well at learning all the songs for Young Voices (on Thursday 25 January), with the Matilda Medley being a firm favourite. We are not revolting children (honestly!).

Year 7 Transition

Parents of Year 6 pupils are reminded to complete the application forms for secondary places by 31 October.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Thank you to all those parents who attended the parent consultations this week. We had a brilliant turnout (over 90%) and it shows the importance of working together in partnership. The meeting next term will include looking through the children's books and a book fair. Thank you for your support.

Early Birds and Night Owls

The booking system for Early Birds and Night Owls for next half term is now open. We ask all parents to book these sessions by Thursday 2nd November so the school can plan ahead to ensure the relevant staffing is in place. Places on certain sessions are limited due to staffing ratios, so please book early. Please be reminded we can only guarantee places if booked through this system. The codes for the clubs for next half term are as follows:

Night Owls – 6acx5; Early Birds – q63qz

Y4 Greek Pots



This week, Year 4 have been making Greek pots out of clay. During this half term, we have created prototypes for spouts, learned the coiling and thumb pot methods and how to score and use slip to join clay together. The children all enjoyed making their final Greek pot. We were all impressed with how they approached the task with determination and great enthusiasm.



Y4 Teeth

Year 4 have been making models of their teeth to consolidate their learning about the different types of teeth and their function.

Y6 Information Meeting

We are holding a meeting for Y6 parents on Thursday 9th November at 6pm in the school hall, to outline important plans for the year ahead. We will cover information about Y6 in general,

the preparation for SATs, Y6 residential and the transition to high school. Although this session is aimed at parents, children may attend with their parent, if they are prepared to sit quietly and listen to the presentations 😊. The meeting is scheduled to last about 45 minutes. Please let us know if you plan to attend by booking for this session, including how many people are planning to attend, via www.schoolinterviews.co.uk with the code: **8gy5k now**



Leadership Assemblies



One of the themes of recent assemblies has been leadership and the people that inspire us. Some pupils have shown great leadership themselves by preparing and presenting an assembly to the whole school. Wow! TRJS is the place to be brave and these guys have



shown amazing courage to present to over 260 people! Freya (Y6) told us all about Steve Backshall and his incredible passion for wildlife; William (Y6) outlined why Stephen Hawking inspires him: "No matter what your limitations, chase your dreams!". Ella, Poppy, Elicia and Millie (Y5) told us all about how Emma Watson started acting in the Harry Potter films when she was only 11 years old, while Niamh (Y4) informed us that her family members are her biggest inspiration. Well done, everyone.





WANTED!

Y4 READING AMBASSADORS

Do you love reading?

Then TRJS needs you...

We are now inviting applications from **current Y4 pupils** who are interested in undertaking the important role of **Reading Ambassador** within school. Our Reading Ambassadors must love to read and want to inspire others to read too. You should be able to encourage reading for pleasure, offer book recommendations or run reading activities with other pupils. Reading Ambassadors attend a meeting every half term with Miss Murfin and provide regular support with our reading scheme, lunchtime reading den and Reading Café events at Barton Library.

Key Duties

- Read, review and recommend books to others
- Organise and lead reading activities at break/lunchtimes
- Help to run our Reading Den, Reading Café events and Book Fairs
- Listen to others read and provide support as a reading buddy
- Monitor and maintain our reading scheme book corridor

To apply for the position, please either send in either a written letter (no more than one side of A4 paper) or video application, explaining:

1. Why you want the job
2. How you would make a good reading ambassador
3. What you love about reading and your favourite authors
4. A few suggestions about how we could improve reading in school.

Please send your application to Miss Murfin via email by **Friday 10th November**:

cmurfin@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Library Visits

Our termly visits to Barton Library will recommence after half term so whilst you are enjoying a well-deserved rest, dig out those **library cards** in readiness! Visit dates for each year group are as follows:

"READING IS A PASSPORT
TO COUNTLESS ADVENTURES."
- MARY POPE OSBORNE



- Y6 – Monday 13th November
- Y5 – Monday 20th November
- Y4 – Monday 27th November
- Y3 – Monday 4th December

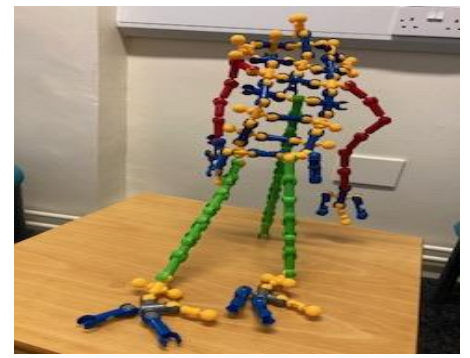
During each visit, children will be able to relax and enjoy some reading for pleasure, return or take out new books on loan and try some book-themed colouring, wordsearches and quizzes! **New Y3 pupils** have been issued with Library Joining Forms this week, to complete and return to school by **Friday 10th November**, if they are not already members.

Happy reading! 😊



Wow!

Some children use their free time to design and make wonderful creations. Vincent (Y3) is an expert at origami and George (Y3) made this person at Night Owls. Great stuff boys; designers and architects of the future. 😊

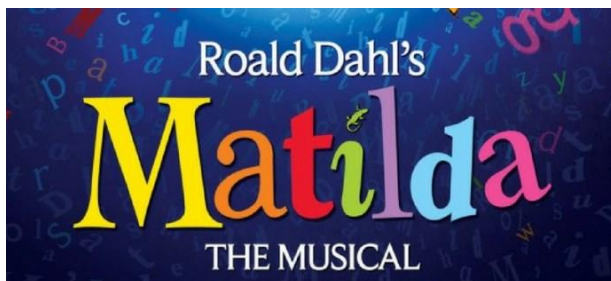


Brain Breaks



It was so lovely to see so many children creating their Brain Breaks out of Lego (or using Photoshop to visualise theirs 😊). One child said that their Brain Break helps them when their 'mind is going crazy'. Exactly what we want to use these for: to help us regulate and find that inner calm. We would not be surprised to see the netball brain break image come true in the future!

If you would like to show your Brain Break in a creative way, please share with Mrs K-D skerrdelworth@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



In assembly on Friday afternoon, the whole school were treated to a wonderful performance of Revolting Children. The girls from CDA Musical Theatre group kept in perfect time and performed brilliantly. The stars were: Penny, Nancy, Francesca, Lucy and Olivia from Y3; Lex, Annie and Izzy from Year 6. Well done, girls – you rocked the school! 😊

Firework Safety

Every year in the UK, there are accidents with fireworks involving children. Please do read the Firework Code with your children and let's work together to keep everyone safe on Bonfire Night. See the flier below.



Soccerstars?

If you are interested in football coaching after school on a Tuesday, please see the flier from Soccerstars below. Please note that parents need to book these sessions with Soccerstars directly.

Dinner Money

May we remind parents to check any outstanding dinner money debt on ParentPay? If the debt rises to £25, we may ask that the child does not have a school dinner until the debt is cleared. Thank you.

St James' Church

If you want to get involved in the local parish activities, please see the flier below.

Dates for the Diary:

Half Term- Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November

INSET DAY (School closed to pupils) - Monday 6th November

Y6 Parent Workshop – Thursday 9 November 6pm

At the end of my first half term at TRJS, may I say a big thank you to the parents and governors for making me so welcome. The staff have been brilliant and managed to put up with my singing around school 😊. The children have been so positive, cheerful and hard-working. Thank you to you all. I wish everyone a good break over half term. We look forward to seeing all the children, bright and breezy, on **TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER**.

J Emery



SoccerstarsUK specialise in After School Football Clubs, we provide an exciting football programme for boys and girls of all abilities ensuring that they can enjoy the game in a safe and positive learning environment.

soccerstarsuk
After School Club at
Thomas Russell Junior School

Course Information:
School Years: **3, 4, 5 & 6**
Time: **3:30pm - 4:30pm**
Dates: **Tuesday 7th November – Tuesday 19th December**
Price: **£38.50**
Check out our other courses online!

Highly Qualified & Trained Coaches | Fun Story Games | Individual Ball Familiarity | Dribbling & Turning | Themed Tournaments

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
WWW.SOCCESTARSUK.CO.UK ☎ 01332 368000 ☎ 07385 670939

WOW!

JOIN US FOR FUN, FRIENDSHIP, INFORMAL WORSHIP
AND CAKE EACH WEEK

WEDNESDAYS - ST JAMES' CHURCH
BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD
FROM 9:15AM

THURSDAYS - TATENHILL VILLAGE HALL
TATENHILL
FROM 9:00AM

NO NEED TO BOOK
JUST JOIN US AT THESE FAB, FREE,
SESSIONS

St James Church
Barton

Sunday 5th
November 2023

2:30pm - 4:00pm

0-99

A chance for all
the family to
interact, explore
and grow whilst
having fun within
our friendly church
community

Snacks
Games
Craft
Wii
Sunday
Papers
Chill, Chat
Worship