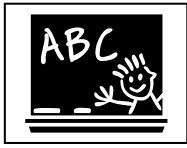


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 32

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

10th June 2016

Links to Learning

Supporting children with homework is one of the most effective ways of keeping in touch with how your child is doing at school, helping them to progress, consolidating what they've learnt and giving individual help where they are struggling.

We know we have a really large group of parents who are very keen and willing to do this. However, with the huge changes in the curriculum over the last couple of years, we are finding incredibly willing parents are being put off from helping or becoming frustrated because they are unfamiliar with the vocabulary, terminology or expectation that is now being placed on Junior age children.

Many adults (including teachers) look at the curriculum our children are studying and recall learning the same when they were at High School, even whilst they were doing GCSEs, O-levels or A-levels!

This week we are launching a new addition to our Newsletter: 'Links to Learning'

We hope to use it to help to unravel some of the mystery behind the children's learning. We cannot possibly hope to cover everything and where there are gaps, please continue to defer to Mr Google as I know many of you already do!

In addition to this I cannot stress enough how helpful it is when parents drop us a (polite!) line to let us know if their child has found something easy or really challenging...from a teacher's perspective it can be difficult to know, as they sit looking at two almost identical pieces of homework, that one child completed it in 15 minutes with no support and the other took closer to an hour and was nearly in tears.

We would never advocate forcing a child to continue with homework if it has reached the point of causing upset.

Please stop; either draw a line under it and return it to school incomplete, send your child back to the class teacher to ask for further guidance or Mrs Kerr-Delworth is always in the ICT suite on Tuesday lunchtimes running Homework Club which is open to ALL children.

See next page for enlightenment on 'modal verbs'.

Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a co-opted Governor. Would you like to:

- *play your part in determining the strategic direction of the school?*
- *have your say about important decisions regarding staffing structure?*
- *make decisions regarding financial investments and spending?*
- *contribute to the growing success and achievements in a positive way?*

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then you could make an excellent Co-opted Governor. No prior knowledge is required – just a willingness to learn.

Please speak to myself or any of our existing Governors if you would like to know more. The closing date for expressing an interest is Monday 20th June.

Parent Forum

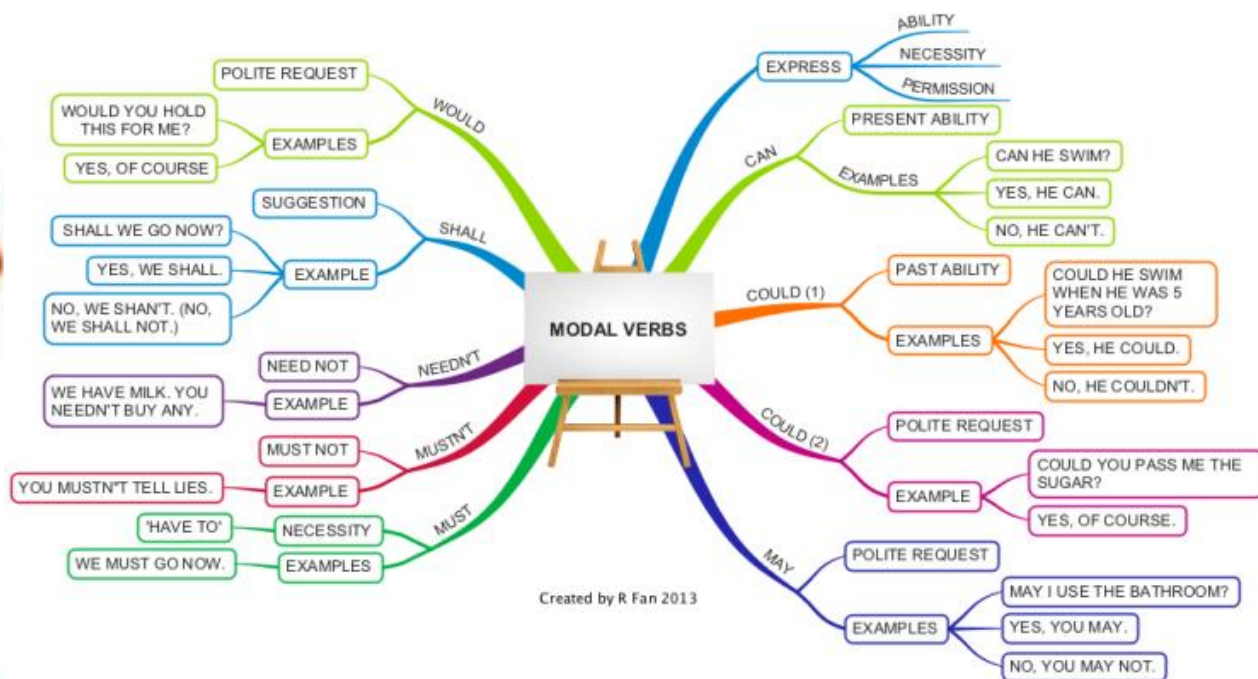
We are holding our next Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 15th June. If you have an item that you would like to add to the agenda, please ensure it is sent to school via '[questions@](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)', passed to an existing member of the forum or send a note into school by 9am on Tuesday 14th June so the agenda can be prepared.

We would be particularly keen to hear your feedback on changes to school catering services, from Y3 & 5 parents on the musical instrument tuition as we review for next year and any other areas of school where you have been particularly pleased or had concerns.

Thank you.

Links to Learning

Y5 have been learning all about modal verbs. We use them all the time in everyday language - most of us just didn't realise that's what they're called. See how many of them you use this week!



Diary Dates

Tues 14 th June (after school)	Duathlon – FULL Please ensure you have received personal race information.
Wed 15 th June	Parent Forum – 9am
Sat 18 th – Sun 19 th June	Barton Open Gardens Weekend (inc. Scarecrow Competition)
Mon 20 th Jun	Deadline for expressing an interest in the Co-opted Governor role.
Fri 1 st July	 Please ensure you have uploaded responses to Parent View by today. www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk
Fri 1 st , Mon 4 th & Tues 5 th July	Y6 to JTHS Transition Days
Wed 6 th – Fri 8 th July	Y6 to PGL
Fri 15 th July	Summer Term Reports
Mon 18 th July	Move up Morning
Fri 22 nd July	10:00am – Leavers' Assembly 3:15pm – Leavers' Parade Break up for Summer
Tues 6 th Sept	Back to School

Duathlon – 14th June

Please do come along even if you are not competing. It is a great opportunity to see what happens and support your friends as well as supporting fund raising efforts. Any volunteers to help for an hour 4.30-5.30, 5.30-6.30 or 6.30-7.15 would be most welcome - please contact friends@trjs.co.uk

We will have hotdogs/burgers, raffle, hot/cold drinks, beat the goalie, lucky dip, minions, inflatables, stocks, pick a lolly & tattoos and maybe a few more if we get enough volunteers.

Finally, please return any outstanding raffle tickets to the school office by Tuesday morning.

Barton Open Gardens – Paratedics

There are still vacancies for children to act as Paratedics, particularly on Saturday 18th June from 3:30 – 6:00. Please see the last Newsletter for more information.

Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe