

Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 38

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

22nd July 2016

Cricketing Success

On Monday 18th July, two teams headed off to Dunstall Cricket Ground to represent TRJS in the final Dove Valley fixture of the calendar.

For Year 5 – Hugo, Sol, Jed, Aidan, Isaac, Greg, Maddy and Ellie-Mae. For Year 6 – Steph, Katie, Reeve, Jack C, Jake T, Jamie, Archie & Noah. They children played fantastically well, they were so supportive of each other and pupils from other schools, and showed the fantastic sportsmanship we have grown to expect from our children.

A teacher from another school sent the following message the next day: "Without a doubt one of the best set of cricketers I have seen in 25 years. All children can bowl, and bowl well! The batting was terrific too."

Sadly Y5 lost to a very strong team and were knocked out in the group stages. The Y6 played brilliantly and went on to meet All Saints' Alrewas in the final. They batted, bowled and fielded supremely well and won a thrilling match to be crowned champions.

We were very proud to have completed one of our most successful sporting years with another victory.

Governors' Corner By Mrs E Watling

Huge congratulations to the children on their SATs results this year!

We would like to thank everyone - staff, children and parents, for your hard work and dedication on the run-up to this year's more challenging SATs. I must say it has been a delight to observe such happy and enthusiastic children, who are constantly determined to do their absolute best! A special thanks to the teaching staff, who have not only been successful in keeping children stress-free, but have also succeeded in bringing out the best in them and producing amazing results!

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and well-deserved summer break!

Marvellous Musicians

On Tuesday 19th July, 45 children headed to John Taylor High School in the sweltering heat to take part in their prestigious Music Concert.

Mr Moss – Chair of Governors: "I wanted to record my thanks and congratulations to your great pupils who performed at John Taylor tonight. They were a credit to you, the staff, their families, the School and, most importantly to themselves. Their performances were fantastic and I was so impressed at the way they dealt with the technical hitch during 'Abba'."

Apologies to the rest of choir who were unable to attend. We will make sure you get your chance to shine again next year.

For those members of choir who are REALLY keen or even new children who are thinking of joining us - we have uploaded the words and sound tracks for Young Voices 2017 onto the school website.

Head to Our Learning > Choir - Young Voices and have fun over the summer holiday!

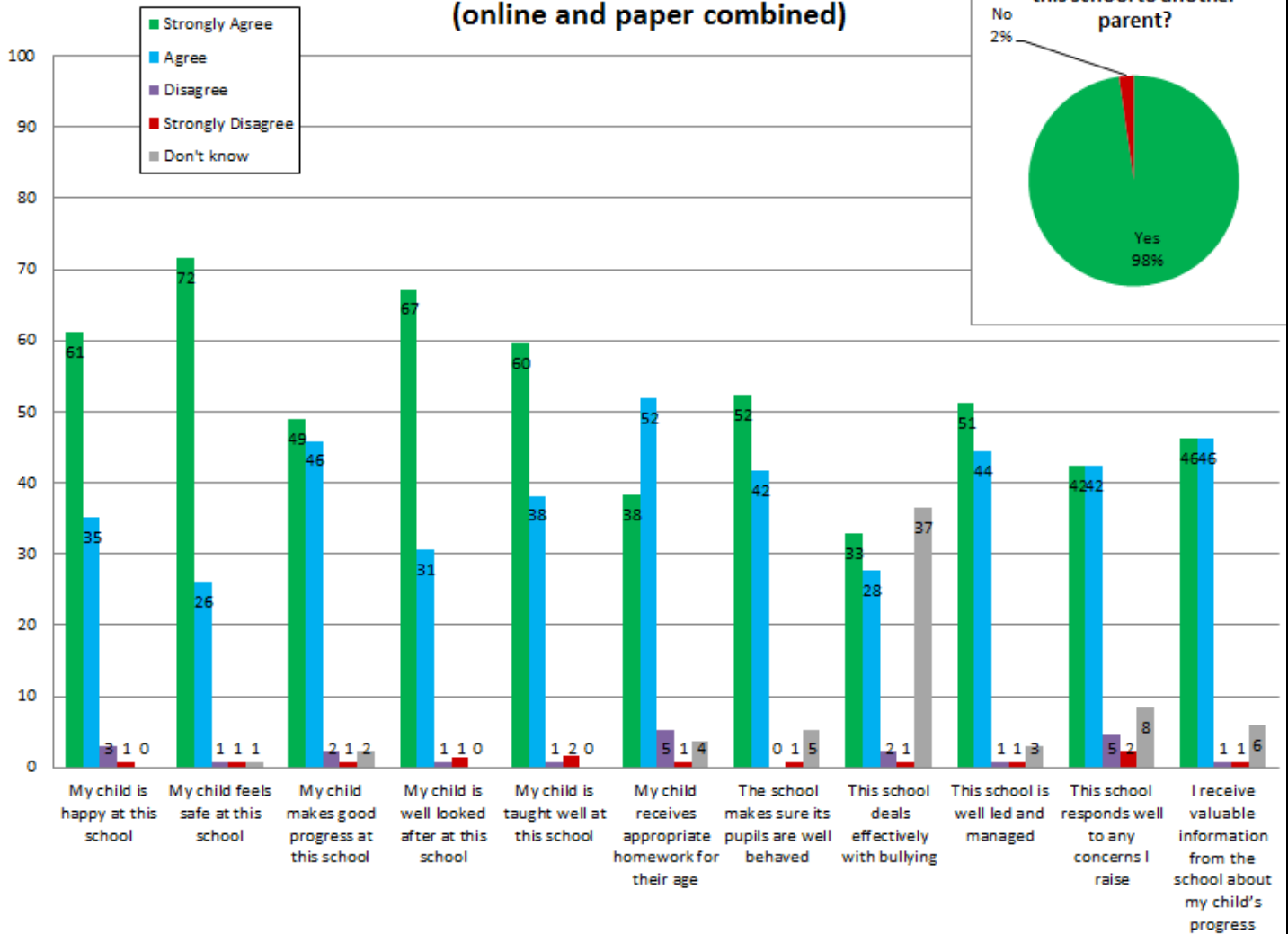
Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to the 103 parents who returned a paper copy of the Parent Questionnaire. The response was overwhelmingly positive. We have combined these responses with those already uploaded on to Parent View to give a full and complete picture. We are really pleased with the improvements it demonstrates in all areas since our Ofsted Inspection and grateful for the comments received.

You will recall our target was to: **Do more to convince all parents that this is a rapidly improving school that is going to help their children to do well and stay happy, fulfilled and safe. Also, reassure them that their worries are being listened to and prompt and fair action is being taken to lessen them.**

Clearly in the vast majority of parents' opinions, we are well on the way to achieving this target. As always if there are issues or concerns that you would like to discuss, please do share these with us and we will do our best to resolve them. It is very easy to post messages on social media, but very hard to defend against these

Ofsted Parent View Results - July 2016 (online and paper combined)



My child is happy at this school

- I struggled to get my child to school before coming to this school. He now loves it thanks to Thomas Russell Junior School staff.
- Exceptionally happy.
- He loves school and is eager to come every day!
- My child has loved every minute at this school.
- Supported to settle well following relocation.

My child makes good progress

- Great progress made in current year.
- Since joining he has flourished.

My child is taught well

- My child's teacher is excellent.
- Teaching is great. His confidence + knowledge has ^.

The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

- Assemblies and conduct in and out of school shows this.
- There are exceptions where that isn't dealt with.

My child receives appropriate homework

- Sometimes it seems to be a lot, but we appreciate this is an area where it is difficult to please everyone and we also appreciate the effort that goes into setting and marking the work.
- Enjoyable too which makes motivation easier.
- Some weeks I feel there is a little too much.
- Often the work involves a lot of adult involvement.
- Too much.
- Need more HW before transition to John Taylor
- Hmwk can be tricky, but it is a MUST! Hmwk is varied and enjoyable.
- Sometimes too much! Children need free time too.
- Too much at times thought limits free time.
- We sometimes feel that we have to 'teach' some topics.
- I do feel there is too much sometimes at this age but understand it is an Education Dept. setting guidelines issue.
- Some of the homework is beyond me but we have the resources available to assist if required.

The school deals effectively with bullying

- This is the reason why my child is so happy at school, previous school did not!
- Never had an issue.
- Very satisfied.
- We have no first-hand experience of this.
- Not experienced or aware of bullying.
- Not had to deal with this situation.
- I have not experienced / NA.
- I have never had an issue with bullying.
- Although I haven't had a case yet.

The school is well led and managed

- Strong Leadership. Approachable.

The school responds well to any concerns I raise

- Always very quickly
- Never had a concern
- Always reassured or dealt with.
- They are always very approachable.
- I have previously asked questions but not had a response.
- We haven't had any concerns about the school
- The school responded excellently to an issue my son had at the start of the year.
- Excellent communication with Mrs Vardy
- I have only had to speak to the headteacher once (because of my child's anxiety) and changes were implemented immediately.

I receive valuable information about my child's progress

- Website is knowledgeable and reports and graphs are very informative.
- Would like to receive it more regularly.
- A bit more information on individual child would be appreciated.

Would you recommend this school to another parent?

- Definitely.
- We have been very happy indeed with our daughter's time at TRJS. We feel that she has made fab progress and just as importantly has been happy and secure. The school worked with her in early years to overcome worries and problems. Thank you.
- Thank you for another super year and for your flexibility with Breakfast Club arrangements at such short notice.
- Thomas Russell Juniors is an amazing school. I have two very different learners and the progress they have made is exceptional. Both are always happy to come to school. Well done to an excellent team; teachers, heads and office staff!
- Strongly agree – very good school.
- We are very happy with TRJS. The teaching our son has received has been fantastic. There is a strong mix of academic, other subjects, fun events and sporting events. We really support the 3rd teacher principle for maths / literacy. It would be wonderful if the school could offer Spanish lessons. We pay for French and whilst German is sometimes taught, in practice Spanish is more widely used. We have noticed that the school, its leaders and teaching team have really grown in confidence. Everyone seems very focussed and determined. We are excited about the prospect of the After School Club. Since our son has been attending TRJS, his achievements seem to have stepped up a gear. We find the reporting document very useful and informative. Thank you very, very much.
- Absolutely. We are lucky to have a good school in our village.
- Definitely. Both my boys love it and they have come on so much since being at the school. Teachers are fantastic and very passionate about what they do. Couldn't ask for any more for my boys.

And finally...

Huge thanks to all of the parents who have sent presents, flowers, cakes, chocolates, cards and such lovely messages. They are all wonderful to receive.

We would like to bid a fond farewell to Mrs Cuthbert and Mrs O'Hara. We wish you both health and happiness on the next step of your journey.

All that remains is for us to wish those children leaving us a happy transition to their new school; wherever that may be.
Be brave. Be bold. Be brilliant!

Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe



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