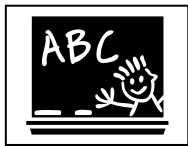


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

9th September 2016

Welcome and welcome back!

We are really pleased to welcome you to Thomas Russell Junior School. Each week you will receive a Newsletter which will help to keep you updated with what has happened and what is planned. They form a vital part of communication between home and school. The Newsletter can be e-mailed, downloaded from the website or a paper copy collected from the School Office.

Super start

Firstly, I must start by saying well done to all of our new Y3s and children joining us in other year groups who have settled ever so quickly and already begun to impress! Good behaviour and manners are essential for a positive and thriving school, we set high expectations and we have not been disappointed. We have also been pleased to see how quickly children have picked up new rules and routines, and are thankful to our existing pupils for being such good role models.

Parents, we understand there are lots of new routines for you too, so please do not be afraid to ask questions at any time - there are no silly questions. If you think of a question in the middle of the night, e-mail it in to

questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

and we will do our best to answer asap.

Open playground

Please remember that you are welcome and encouraged to come onto the playground to collect your children at the end of the day.

It is really important that children are collected from the playground until parents are confident their child has the maturity and safety awareness to allow them to leave school unaccompanied.

By coming onto the playground you can make the most of the informal opportunity to see your child's class teacher if you have anything to ask or just to chat about how your children are settling in to their new class.

Younger children are most welcome onto the playground and may use the trim trail should they wish, but please make sure that they are closely supervised at all times and scooters/bikes are left in the scooter park.

House Captains

We were really pleased and proud to see so many of our Y6 children stand for the prestigious roles of House and Vice Captains this week. Some had worked exceptionally hard on their speeches and delivered with confidence and maturity.

Anson	
Captains	Vice Captains
Tilly E	Ellie-Mae Y
Sol L	Lewis DR

Bassett	
Captains	Vice Captains
Isaac G	Niamh J
Mollie H	Thomas M

Clinton	
Captains	Vice Captains
Amber CD	Charlie E
Freddie K	Dawn B

Jervis	
Captains	Vice Captains
Aidan J	Alice H
Ella H	Cush S

Our House and Vice Captains perform key roles across school throughout the year and we are sure those who have been voted for will prove excellent ambassadors. Congratulations!

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Getting organised!

Below is a timetable to help parents and children to be clear about which equipment is required in school on which day for each of the classes.

	Swimming	PE (indoor)	Games (outdoor)	Instrument
3M	Thursday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Keyboard on Monday
3P	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
4S	Tuesday	Monday	Thursday	N/A
4V	Wednesday	Monday	Thursday	
5E	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Clarinet on Monday
5D	Monday	Wednesday	Tuesday	
6M	Wednesday	Thursday	Monday	N/A
6P	Tuesday	Thursday	Monday	

PE kit – house colour t-shirt, black shorts & black pumps. PE kits are left in school.

Games kit – house colour t-shirt or school games top, plain tracksuit & trainers. Games kit can be brought in weekly or left in lockers if children have spare trainers.

Swimming kit – swim suit or trunks, towel & hat in a waterproof bag.

We like our children to look smart and appropriately dressed for their sports, so please save fashion wear for evenings and weekends.

Please ensure all kit is clearly labelled. Changes will be communicated via the Homework Diaries.

All jewellery **must** be removed every lesson. Those children with pierced ears will be expected to remove their own earrings. The school cannot accept responsibility for any items of jewellery brought into school.

Swimming

We hope to begin our swimming lessons on Monday 19th September and once again are putting out a request for parents to act as 'Eyes'. The role of 'Eyes' is a simple yet vital one of keeping watch over the children whilst in the water. If you are able to offer an hour (or more) of your time each week, please email the school via '[questions@](mailto:questions@trjs.co.uk)' indicating which session or sessions you could help. We would not be able to offer swimming lessons without the continued and valuable support of parents, so thank you in advance.

	1.15 - 2.25	2.20 - 3.25
Monday	Session 1	Session 2
Tuesday	Session 3	Session 4
Wednesday	Session 5	Session 6
Thursday	Session 7	Session 8
Friday	No lessons	

Individual Photographs

Last year we moved our individual photographs to earlier in the year following a number of requests from parents who like to give these as Christmas presents and it proved a success. These will take place on Wednesday 5th October. All children and sibling groups will be taken in school throughout the morning. For those with siblings not at TRJS who would like a group photo, you are invited to attend from 8:30.

Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning

We will be holding a coffee morning at 10:30 on Friday 30th September. For parents new to the school, these are a great opportunity to meet new faces and find out a name or two.

We do not wish for children to miss out if they do not have parents attending, so will be running a cake stall for them on the playground - these have proven incredibly popular since their introduction last year.

In order to make this event a success, we would like to ask for parental support through donations of cakes which should be sent to the office on the Friday morning. We also need a number of helpers for other jobs, please drop a line to Jayne Castle and Steph Cartwright (our joint Friends chairs) on friends@trjs.co.uk if you are available to help with shopping, setting up, cashing up and tidying away. We look forward to seeing lots of new faces on our first Coffee Morning of the year.

Advance Notice – Diary Dates

Fri 16 th Sept	2:00	Y3 Parents invited to attend Merit Assembly
Fri 30 th Sept	10:30	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Wed 5 th Oct	8:30	Individual Photos
Thurs 6 th Oct / Tue 11 th Oct	4:00 - 7:00	Parent Consultations
Fri 21 st Oct	3:30	Last day of half term
Mon 31 st Oct	8:50	Back to school
Fri 16 th Dec	3:30	Last day of term (No ASC)

Wed 4 th Jan	8:50	Back to school
Thur 16 th Feb	3:30	Last day of half term
Mon 27 th Feb	8:50	Back to school
Fri 7 th Apr	3:30	Last day of term (No ASC)
Mon 24 th Apr	8:50	Back to school
Fri 26 th May	3:30	Last day of half term
Mon 5 th June	8:50	Back to school
Fri 21 st July	3:30	Last day of term (No ASC)

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Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please see below the superb selection of extra-curricular activities that we have on offer this term.

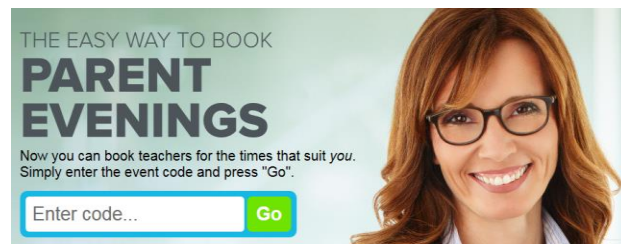
Thank you to our superb staff who are willing to give so freely of their time to provide such great experiences for the children. When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend **EVERY** week and will need a written note or telephone call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff running	Time	Year Groups	Dates running	Cost
Monday	Forest Schools	Mrs K Jones	3:30 - 4:30	All	31/10, 7/11, 14/11, 21/11, 28/11, 5/12	Free
Tuesday	Gymnastics	Progressive Sports	3:30 - 4:30	All	1/11, 8/11, 15/11, 22/11, 29/11, 6/12	Free
Wednesday	Tennis	Mrs Vardy	3:30 - 4:45	All	14/9, 21/9, 28/9, 5/10, 12/10	Free
Wednesday	Netball	Mrs E David	3:30 - 4:30	Y5 & 6	14/9, 21/9, 28/9, 5/10, 12/10, 19/10	Free
Wednesday	Craft	Mrs G Gahagan	3:30 - 4:30	All	14/9, 21/9, 28/9, 5/10, 12/10, 19/10	Free
Wednesday	Craft	Mrs G Gahagan	3:30 - 4:30	All	2/11, 9/11, 16/11, 23/11, 30/11, 7/12	Free
Thursday	Football Club	Miss C Marston	3:30 - 4:30	Y6	15/9, 22/9, 29/9, 13/10, 20/10	Free
Friday	Choir	Mrs S Sharpe	3:30 - 4:30	All	16/9, 23/9, 30/9, 7/10, 14/10, 4/11, 18/11, 25/11, 2/12, 9/12	Free

It's not fair!! - Our range of clubs is always exceptionally popular and places are given on a first come first served basis. Last term we found that some children were managing to get booked on to 4 or 5 clubs and doing something every single night, whereas others were missing out, finding clubs fully booked before they had a place on any of those they wanted to attend. In an attempt to create a fairer system, you will only be able to book two clubs this weekend. On Monday we will open up any additional availability to all children. We hope parents will support this decision and appreciate this attempt to create a fairer system for all.

Electronic Booking for Clubs

We are always looking for ways to communicate more effectively and efficiently with parents. Last year we implemented a new **electronic booking** system which parents found much more efficient. This system is used for Extra-curricular clubs and parent consultations.



- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Enter **Extra-Curricular code: 3ZGKQ**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first **AND** surname.
- 4) Choose child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
- 5) Receive instant e-mail confirmation of booking.

There are other clubs which are available and can be booked directly with the relevant provider:

Swimming Lessons (every night 3:45 - 6:00) - Sam Owen - 07976 620028

French (Wednesday lunchtime) - Sharon Kingston - sharonkingston@hotmail.co.uk

SoccerStars (Friday 3:30 - 4:30) - Please call into office for company booking form.



Please see separate e-mail regarding NSPCC assembly visit next week.

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After School Care

In April, parents were consulted regarding the possibility of the school offering an 'After School Care' facility to sit alongside our other after school clubs. Parental response was very positive and governors decided the service would commence this term. Any funds that are received over and above the costs of providing the service will be used to provide additional equipment in the school, such as iPads and new whiteboards, to the benefit of all our children.

The school is aware that in July a number of parents received a letter from the after school provider - Badgers. That letter contains a number of factual inaccuracies which, having taken advice, the school wishes to correct.

Badgers believe they have provided a service on behalf of the school but that is not the case. The school has been upfront with them since we contacted them to inform them before the parental consultation. As an independent company, without any formal relationship with the school, Badgers are free to make their own decisions irrespective of any other provisions that are provided by us or any other organisation. It appears that Badgers believe that they can no longer run their service in the new term alongside our own but this is a commercial decision for them. We do wish them the best in their other ventures. If Badgers choose to continue their service, parents are free to use this or any other local provider, in the same way that parents always have been.

The TRJS 'After School' provision got off to an incredibly successful start this week!



Children have been very happy with the snacks, the activities and the open space to play. Thank you also to the parents who have already taken time to offer such positive feedback. Children have affectionately taken to calling themselves the 'Early Birds' at Breakfast Club and the 'Night Owls' at After School Club!



There are still places available at either club. Details can be found on the school website. www.thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Parents' Information > Breakfast and After School Club Booking Form

Booking is **absolutely essential**. Please note Breakfast Club does not begin until 8am and children should not be dropped off before this time.

And finally...the newsletter is not always this long, so well done if you made it right to the end! We do try to keep to one page where possible but on some occasions we have lots of important information to share and we know parents find it more useful to have it all in one place rather than lots of shorter notes.

Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe

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