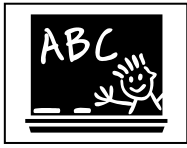


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 3

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

23rd September 2016

Parent Consultations - Autumn 2016

Consultation evenings this term will be held on Thursday 6th October and Tuesday 11th October between 4.00 and 7.00 p.m. The purpose of these consultations is for you to discuss with your child's teacher (and teaching assistant if applicable) how well your child has settled into their new year group; as well as being an opportunity to share any information or concerns. The staff will also be able to indicate any areas of support required. We strongly advise that you meet first with your child's Literacy and Numeracy teacher; then if you require an additional appointment with your child's class teacher to discuss any specific concerns, make it after your first appointment so that you already have a clear picture of learning. I know some parents last term felt compelled to make two appointments; it is not compulsory, just offered.



Electronic booking for consultations can be completed following the steps below:

- 1) Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
- 2) Enter **Parent Consultations code: KD4CZ**
- 3) Enter e-mail, child(ren)'s first **AND** surname.
- 4) Choose the exact date and time(s) to suit you.
- 5) Receive instant e-mail confirmation of booking.

Bookings close on Monday 3rd October.

Consultations take place in classrooms. We ask all parents to congregate in the hall where we will be serving complimentary tea and coffee and there will also be an opportunity for discussion with school governors. From this point we will ring a bell every 10 minutes and send parents to the appropriate room. We hope this will ensure equality for all parents in the amount of time with their teacher. If you would like more time, please either make an additional appointment following your consultation, or for an informal update pop onto the playground at the end of the day to see your child's teacher.

After School Club will run until 5:45 as normal on both evenings, but there are no extra-curricular activities. Children are welcome to use the playground, but it is only to be accessed via the hall doors. Please note the playground is not supervised and parents are responsible for ensuring normal playground rules are adhered to such as no climbing trees or accessing out of bounds areas.

We will also be holding a Scholastic Book Fair on both evenings for parents who wish to purchase any books. For every book sold, Scholastic will donate 60% of the value towards books for the School Library, so we are really grateful for any support you are able to offer.



Secondary Transfer

Mr Donoghue from John Taylor High School will be visiting Thomas Russell Junior on Wednesday 28th September at 3:45 to talk to prospective parents and their Y6 children about the move to John Taylor High School and the Secondary School Application process.

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

Consultation

As you will be aware, we circulated information yesterday regarding the proposed expansion of Thomas Russell Junior School through the provision of two additional classrooms on site by September 2017. This will provide additional places to mitigate against the new housing developments in the catchment area. Our PAN is currently 60. Our PAN will remain at 60 but we have agreed to admit catchment children up to 75. The works to provide the 2 additional general teaching rooms will be funded through Section 106 contributions secured from the developers of new housing in the catchment area.

A key priority for Governors was to reassure parents about how the proposals will affect children currently in school, so we wanted to highlight:

- Pupils currently at the school would not be affected and would stay until they move to secondary school. The proposed changes will be implemented from September 2017, although the school do already admit additional children within the existing accommodation, where possible.
- There will be no substantial changes to the way in which children are taught as a result of these changes.
- It is intended that where possible children will remain in classes of 30-32, with the three smaller classes (20-22) for Literacy and Numeracy continued across all year groups. Should numbers rise sufficiently higher than 64 per year group then Governors propose to extend to three classes for the full day (up to 25 children per class) rather than for only Literacy and Numeracy.

Don't forget you are invited to our
Helping Hands Coffee Morning
Thursday 6th October 9:30 - 10:30am.
Booking is essential via 'questions@'
See Newsletter 2 for more information.

Advanced Notice

Y5 Bikeability
7th - 8th November.



Watch out for more information and consent form which must be returned to school.



MacMillan Coffee
Morning
Friday 30th September at
10:30am.
Homemade or shop bought
cakes very gratefully
received. Please bring
them to the school office
on the day - thank you.

50 / 50 Club - please look out for information that children are bringing home tonight.

First Friends' Meeting of the year
Wednesday 19th October 3:45 - 4:45pm
There will be free cake and free childcare -
what more could you want?!



We are really pleased with how well the introduction of our After School Club 'Night Owls' has gone. I would like to remind parents that children are not allowed to return to their classrooms, lockers or any other areas of school after the end of the day.

This is for a number of reasons:

- to ensure staff are able to have confidential meetings and discussions without interruption.
- so we can clean the school thoroughly without the risk of children slipping on wet floors etc.
- to give staff the time they need to complete marking etc. so they are properly prepared for the following day.
- to ensure that children are not left unattended in any area of school.

We would be really grateful if parents could reinforce this. Of course if you would like to discuss any issues with staff, you are most welcome to contact the office to make an appointment.

Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe

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