



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 33 - 5 June 2020

## Welcome Back to the final half term of the school year

It has been so lovely to see so many children back at school from Reception and those of key workers, filling our classrooms with smiles and laughter again—we have missed that. While this half term looks and feels quite different to any other, we are adamant we will continue to educate and inspire your children and give them the very best we can, whether it be in school or at home.

We have been delighted with the wonderful work ethic and positive nature the children back in school have displayed; they certainly have not forgotten our learning behaviours. We have seen lots of resilient, confident children who have worked very hard this week. We are equally pleased with the amazing work we are seeing on Seesaw. As you know, it is the first full week of using it and it has been great to see how quickly and effectively work can be shared. Teachers are loving being able to give instant feedback and love seeing the videos the children have been sending. We are looking forward to experimenting with its features and offering the children some further variety in their home learning and communication with their teachers.

If your child is attending school, we need you to please take note of the following:

- **Please arrive and collect at the allotted time. Please do not arrive earlier; this is to ensure safe distancing of different 'bubbles'.**
- **Please respect social distancing when entering school and on your journey to and from school; keep your children with you at all times and do not allow them to play with other children while you are waiting. It makes it very hard for staff to help the children understand the social distancing rules we have in school if they are allowed to get close to others outside the school gates.**
- **Clothing/uniform is your choice, with the emphasis on comfort and ease of washing as fresh clothes must be worn each day.**

The government stipulate that schools must allocate places for Key Worker children over those for Reception children and with our key worker numbers rising significantly we have to prioritise these. At the moment, we can accommodate all those who want a place across our key workers and Reception but we are keeping a close eye on numbers as they continue to grow.

In Reception, we had low numbers request a place initially and so we have amalgamated the two RM groups into one. This leaves us with one group of RM children and two groups of RR children. We will undoubtedly receive requests over the coming weeks for more Reception children to come back, so please be aware that we will be allocating spaces into a group which may not be the one we originally allocated. This is to ensure numbers in each group are kept as balanced as possible as it would be unfair for one group to have thirteen children when another only has three! If our numbers continue to rise over the next few weeks then new Reception children returning will be offered a place on a first come first served basis until we reach capacity in our three groups.

If Reception parents do wish their child to return, we do require a week's notice moving forward and ask that you call or email the office with your request.



### Introducing Zoom Class Meetings!

We are thrilled to announce that we are introducing class Zoom meetings beginning next week and over the course of the next half term we are welcoming each class to join us online for 2 meetings each. It will be lovely for staff and children alike to all see each other socially, even if it is virtually.



Please see the letter emailed with the newsletter tonight for further information and the dates.

### Message from the Governors

We are now at the end of the first week of our new school half term with additional pupils returning to school. On behalf of the Governing board we would like to thank everyone who has played a part in making the Government's guidance a reality. During the last three weeks there have been no less than a dozen guidance documents and updates to these documents for the schools staff to work into their practice. The Governing board have been very active during the lockdown period and we have continued to meet virtually and offer our comments and questions to the leaders of TRIS on their thorough planning for the phased return of additional pupils. It is worth saying a thank you to all at JT MAT as well as we are an academy school and the decision to ratify the schools risk assessment and plans to reopen actually lie with the Trust Board. The Government made it clear to schools that they prioritise the year groups to be returned first and in the context of us as an Infants school Reception should be prioritised over Year 1. With this in mind the school has also had to ensure that there has continued to be provision for those children of 'Key and Critical Workers' to the COVID-19 battle.

The School has worked collaboratively with the other Trust Schools to offer as much as they can to the pupils of our school. As always they have used research and best practice methods to ensure the content can be used in your homes.

I have been so humbled by the resilience the children using school have shown us and the grit and determination of not only the Teachers and support staff who have been into school but also those members of the TRIS team who have continued to work from home to ensure resources for home learning can continue. We would also like to thank all of the children and their parents who have played their part and continued to stay at home and learn and support each other as much as possible.

Continue to keep safe everyone and we will be in touch when the school can move onto the next stage of the new normal we find ourselves in.

**Tim Hopkins — Chair of The Governing Body at Thomas Russell Infants School**

### Weekly challenge!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the email sent out on Monday. This will be a weekly activity for the rest of this term and we hope lots of the children will join in to earn team points! This week, we asked the children to design a flag supporting NHS workers and have received some lovely pictures. Team points go to - Swans 8 , Robins 4 , Owls 8 and Penguins 6. Well done and thank you to everyone who sent in entries.

Please see the children's newsletter for details of next week's challenge all about making scarecrows!



*Stars of the Week*



**RR—Sophie Workman** for settling back to school so well and for working hard. We are also really proud that she is a lot more confident in class.

**RM—Callum Whitby** for being brave and settling into our new routine well.

**1P—Oscar Simmonite** for challenging himself to do the Maths challenges and all his effort on NumBots.

**1F—Logan Banks** for his super adjectives to describe the different fruits.

**2M—Jacob Hughes** for making the most of every outdoor opportunity he can get!

**2W—Taavi Westwood** for writing super speech bubbles for the character from The Black Hat.



### Symptom and illness reporting

Can we remind you of our expectations and procedures around potential coronavirus infections:

- If any member of the household displays symptoms of the virus, the whole household must isolate. DO NOT bring your child to school. Please advise school immediately via phone or email.
- Any child or member of staff showing possible symptoms of the virus will be sent home as soon as possible and asked to self-isolate for 7 days and other household members for 14 days. All families within that group will be informed of the situation.
- If a child or staff member tests positive for having the virus, then the children and staff in that group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Now that school is starting to re-open, it is vitaly important that families with children attending observe the recommended social distancing and hygiene routines outside of school. This is to protect children and staff. We are sure you will understand our concerns if this is not observed and we will contact parents if we witness potentially unsafe behaviour. We want life to return to normal as much as anyone, but at present we all have to remain vigilant and reduce risks as much as possible. Thank you.

### Updated Government guidance on the actions for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The government have updated their guidance on the actions for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak to include additional information on the NHS Test and Trace programme, the necessity to prioritise certain year groups during the wider re-opening of schools and travelling to and from school.

The full document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

## Online Vigilance – Do you know your children are safe online?

With the increased time some children may be spending on line the following links show information that parents may find useful. To follow the links from a PC, hold Ctrl and click on the link:

[Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online

[Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

[Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support

[Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world

[London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online

[Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games

[Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

## Active June!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Do some <b>sit ups</b> : Bronze: 10 sit ups Silver: 20 sit ups Gold: 40 sit ups	2 Do some <b>star jumps</b> : Bronze: 20 times Silver: 30 times Gold: 50 times	3 Practise <b>balancing on right leg</b> : Bronze: 1 minute Silver: 2 minutes Gold: 3 minutes	4 Practise <b>balancing on left leg</b> : Bronze: 1 minute Silver: 2 minutes Gold: 3 minutes	5 Have a <b>jog</b> around: Bronze: 5 minutes Silver: 10 minutes Gold: 15 minutes	6 Create your own <b>throwing and catching game!</b>	7 <b>Teach</b> the people at home <b>your game</b> and see who scores the most points!
8 Do some <b>burpees</b> : Bronze: 10 burpees Silver: 15 burpees Gold: 20+ burpees	9 Try and do some <b>mountain climbers</b> : Bronze: 10 times Silver: 20 times Gold: 30+ times	10 Carefully try and do a <b>plank</b> : Bronze: 30 seconds Silver: 45 seconds Gold: 60+ seconds	11 See how many <b>tuck jumps</b> you can do in a row: Bronze: 10 jumps Silver: 20 jumps Gold: 30 jumps	12 <b>Push ups!</b> Bronze: 10 push ups Silver: 15 push ups Gold: 20+ push ups	13 Use a pack of cards and <b>create a game involving different exercises</b> and the different suits!	14 <b>Compete against someone at home</b> to see who can complete more exercises in a given time.
15 Try and do some <b>crunches</b> : Bronze: 10 crunches Silver: 20 crunches Gold: 30 crunches	16 Do some <b>lunges</b> on both legs: Bronze: 10 each leg Silver: 20 each leg Gold: 30 each leg	17 Do a <b>wall sit</b> – remember, stay still: Bronze: 20 seconds Silver: 30 seconds Gold: 60 seconds	18 <b>Squat</b> – count how many squats you can safely do in a minute: Bronze: 10 squats Silver: 15 squats Gold: 20+ squats	19 <b>High knees</b> – Keep going without stopping Bronze: 30 seconds Silver: 50 seconds Gold: 1+ minute	15 Challenge yourself to <b>learning some new yoga posts</b> – watch a Youtube video to help.	16 Practise those yoga skills your learned and see if you can <b>balance for longer</b> than you did yesterday.
22 Try doing some <b>scissor kicks</b> : Bronze: 30 seconds Silver: 45 seconds Gold: 60+ seconds	23 Do some <b>shuttle runs</b> : Bronze: 15 runs Silver: 30 runs Gold: 50 runs	24 <b>Hop</b> on the spot: Bronze: 10 each leg Silver: 25 each leg Gold: 50 each leg	25 <b>Hopscotch</b> until you need to stop Bronze: 30 seconds Silver: 45 seconds Gold: 2 minutes	26 Try safely to do some <b>jump squats</b> in a minute: Bronze: 10 squats Silver: 15 squats Gold: 20+ squats	27 Go outside and be active with someone from your house. <b>Go for a run or a walk!</b>	28 Use your outdoor time to <b>jump over things, balance</b> along things and move in different ways.
29 Try <b>hurdling</b> over something (or just jumping!): Bronze: 1 minute Silver: 3 minutes Gold: 5 minutes	30 <b>Step jumps</b> – find a step and jump up and down on it safely: Bronze: 10 times Silver: 20 times Gold: 40+ times	<p><b>Let's get active in June!</b>  <b>Try each of these activities with the people you're with!</b>  <b>Challenge yourself to get as many bronze/silver/golds as you can! Keep track and celebrate your achievements!</b>  <b>Remember it is important to stay active and healthy!</b></p>				

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

*Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer*