



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 35 26 June 2020

The New School Year

As the end of term is fast approaching, we want to tell you about the arrangements for September. The children will all move up to their new teacher together in the class they are currently in.



<i>Current class</i>	<i>New class</i>	<i>New teacher</i>	<i>New TAs</i>
	RM	Mrs Mears	Mrs Hough/Miss Hollender
	RP	Miss Pearson	Mrs Hough/Miss Hollender
RR	1F	Miss Fairley	Mrs Warner/Mrs Wilson
RM	1RS	Miss Rowley/Mrs Smith	Mrs Warner/Mrs Wilson
1F	2W	Mrs Walker	Mrs Olbison/Mrs Garrett
1P	2M	Mrs Moore	Mrs Olbison/Mrs Garrett

At the time of writing we still do not have a definitive answer for September and have been informed today that we won't have this from the government until next week. We understand this is unsettling and frustrating for you and we wish that we could provide more concrete information. What we can say is that the government have indicated that they hope to see all pupils return to school next term so our plans behind the scenes are working along these lines with new bubbles of 30 being introduced with measures in place to keep bubbles separate from other bubbles. We are also working on a 'plan b' which also ensures all pupils return to school but in smaller bubbles which means that a rota system would have to be implemented, just in case a u turn is made in the government's announcements. Let's hope it is the first option! Whatever September looks like, we will have your children's safety, wellbeing and education as our top priorities and as always will inform you as soon as we hear anything.

Summer Holidays

Badger's holiday club are still attempting to determine whether they are able to run a holiday scheme over the summer this year with guidance once again being very late in the day and limiting in terms of what they may be able to offer due to certain restrictions. As soon as we hear anything more definite we will let parents know but if you are interested in using this service whether at Lichfield or here then please do let them know as this will really help with their planning arrangements.

01543473195 (Yoxall)

01543416002 (Lichfield).

We are currently trying to find other clubs and activities to signpost parents to for activities over the summer holidays so if you are aware of any then please do forward the information to the school office.

Transition Arrangements

As you can imagine, all our normal routines for ensuring a smooth transition for the classes from one school year to the next are impossible due to the current situation so we are having to get creative to ensure all the children are ready for the next stage of their school life.

In normal circumstances, we would have arranged opportunities for each class to visit their new teacher in their new classroom, have a get-to-know-you chat and do a little bit of work for the class walls. We are unable to do that right now therefore at your child's last Zoom session of the year (with their current teacher) their new teacher will join to say hello and to start to get to know the children. They will also be sending you and your child a welcome letter with everything you need to know about the new school year. Hopefully this will go some way in reassuring you and your child that September will be a time to look forward to.

We are very aware the majority of children have been away from school for a long time now, so welcoming them back in a calm and nurturing way will be our priority, as will ensuring wellbeing and mental health needs are met. As part of this, we will be focusing on rekindling old friendships, establishing new ones and developing positive relationships across all our classes.

In order to help with the above we would love for the children, over the summer, to produce a scrap book or journal which they use to document their summer of 2020. This can include drawings, photographs, diary entries, items they have made or collected, etc which we are asking them to bring into school on their first week back so that they can share these with the teachers and the rest of the class. This will really help the teachers learn a little bit more about the children and the types of things they have enjoyed doing over the summer.

Please note that home school learning will cease over the summer holidays.

Year 2 leavers

Whilst looking forward to the new school year, we are also very aware that we will be saying 'goodbye' to our Year 2's without the normal transition activities and leavers' celebrations. This is a huge disappointment for us and we are sure you and your children will be equally saddened that the normal calendar of events can't go ahead. We definitely want to celebrate their time at our school but want to do it when it is possible for all the children to be together, so we are looking at organising an after-school gathering in the autumn term (assuming this is allowed), where we present our Draper's Prizes and have a proper, post end of term celebration.

Call for books!

As the end of the school year draws closer, we are starting to audit our stock of reading and library books ready for September. At the moment, we have over 500 books out on loan and we would really appreciate these being returned before the summer break.

From Monday, we will be leaving a box just inside the school gates (weather depending) where you can deposit books if you are passing school at any time during the day. We are sure that you will appreciate how keen we are to get such a large number of books back into our stock ready for the children to use in the new term. Thank you.



Numbots

Our trial of Numbots and Times Tables Rockstar ends on Monday 29 June. With only 15% of children accessing the site, we won't be renewing our subscription. All children still have access to Maths and Spelling Shed if people would like online games to access.

Zoom meetings

Don't forget your class's Zoom meetings - 2W is next Tuesday, RM on Wednesday and RR on Thursday, with the other classes the following week. All are at 4.00pm and your class teachers are sending invitations directly.



Stars of the Week



RR- Bella Hopkins for fabulous writing and 100% effort in everything she does.

RM- Jack Sylvester - for fabulous 'What the Ladybird Heard' Police report writing.

1P- Florence for her super progress with recognising 2-digit numbers and being able to compare them using more than, less than and equal to.

1F- Eva for her positivity and enthusiasm towards our learning projects.

2M- Amun Kular for a great character description of the Giant in Grandad's Secret Giant.

2W- Lawy for writing a super description for the giant from Grandad's Secret Giant



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer