



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Station Road, Barton under Needwood, Burton on Trent, STAFFS, DE13 8DS



Tel: 01283 239350



Fax: 01283 716834

Co-Headteachers: Mrs S Burton & Mrs L Farmer



E-mail: office@thomasrussell-infants.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk

7th September 2012

Newsletter No. 1

Dear Parents

Welcome!

Welcome to the start of a new school year! We would like to offer a very warm welcome to all of our new families and welcome back our returning families. We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children.

It was fantastic to see the children enter school so enthusiastically this week with plenty of smiles and settling well into their new classes with their new teachers. Our new Reception children did extremely well in their first week with only a few teary eyes on the first day. It was lovely to see them gain confidence and relax more as the week went on. We are sure they will soon be settled into school life.

Thank you to all of the staff who spent time in the holidays, ensuring the classrooms were looking bright and colourful for the arrival of the children. Mrs Walker's classroom has received a makeover over the summer and 1W now benefit from more space and new decor and flooring. Mr Morley has also been busy painting windows and keeping school looking spick and span.

Uniform

Thank you for dressing the children so smartly and appropriately this week. Can we please ask that this continues. Trainers or high shoes are not permitted in school and the only jewellery permitted is one pair of small stud earrings and an analogue watch, as and when your child starts to tell the time. Girls' hair accessories must be kept simple and to school colours or black and white wherever possible. Please do not send girls in brightly coloured headbands and flamboyant bobbles.

Our Vision, Motto and Values

Below are our vision, values and motto which are reviewed by staff and governors on an annual basis. Each year we also set school improvement targets which tie in very closely with these. The staff work extremely hard to incorporate these into their everyday teaching and learning which takes place in their classrooms and across school and we hope that this ethos is visible



whenever visitors come to school.

Our School Vision is to:

'Develop the child at the heart of the community, inspiring them to love learning and to believe in themselves'.

Our School Motto is:

'Children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Our 5 key values are:

'Visionary, passionate, inspiring, challenging, enriching'

This Term

You will have received your child's topic overview for this half term in book bags tonight. We hope that you find these useful in providing you with an insight into your child's learning for the next half term.

Your child will also have received their first reading book today accompanied with their home school book. You will find instructions for the use of these books on the inside of the front cover. Please note that the books have two sections to them this year, as we have included a reading record part. We are asking parents to record in the reading section of the book once or twice a week so that we can monitor the input that children receive from home.

We would like to thank all the parents who returned the homework questionnaires sent home at the end of last term. We will soon be sending home the results of these and our revised policy as a result of these.

For one afternoon a week all classes will be taught once again by Mr Holland from Progressive Sports and the teaching assistants from their year group, to enable teachers to receive their entitlement of 'planning, preparation and assessment' time. PPA afternoon for Reception is on a Monday, year 1 Tuesday and year 2 Wednesday. 2K will also be taught by Mrs Cameron on Wednesday mornings to enable Mrs Kelly time to carry out her Deputy Headteacher responsibilities.

Book bags

Please can we urge you to check book bags daily and empty them out weekly. Can we also ask that any additions to book bags (such as key rings or something to make them more identifiable) are kept to a minimum to ensure that we can get them in and out of your child's drawer easily. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Please find a diary date sheet enclosed in book bags tonight. This provides dates of specific events planned throughout the term. Please be aware that it is inevitable that some dates may change between now and then but we will attempt to keep to the original ones as far as possible and inform you of any changes or additions as soon as possible.

Dinner Money

For the parents who pay dinner money for the half term, the amount to pay is £79.80 for children in Year 1 and Year 2. This is for the period Wednesday 5th September to Friday 26th October 2012 inclusive. If your child is in Reception class the cost will be £63.00. The cost remains at £2.10 per day or £10.50 for the week (cheques payable to Staffordshire County Council)

Reception parents will be notified individually next week of their Parent Pay information and sign on details. Thank you.

PTA Meeting

The first Parent and Teacher Association meeting of the year is to be held in school at 7.30pm this Monday (10th September). Our PTA are a fantastic team of parents who help the school by organising events and raising funds to enable us to buy extra resources for school. We are looking to recruit new members as many of our existing members have left as their children have moved on. You can offer as little or as much time as you can spare. It is also a great way to meet other parents from school and become involved in the social side of school life. Please come along to the meeting on Monday to find out more.

And finally!

We do hope that the children have enjoyed their first week in their new classes and wish you all a very happy weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer
Co-Headteachers