



Thomas Russell Infants' School
'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'
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Newsletter Number 17

Dear Parents

A busy week

Apologies for the absence of a newsletter last week. Even though it was ready for distribution, last Friday afternoon was a little hectic to say the least, so we decided to wait and combine it with this week's.

Thank you to all of you for your understanding last Friday. We have both children and staff who we felt ought to be starting their journey home as soon as possible after lunchtime. The children thoroughly enjoyed their snow play during the morning break time. As the cold snap looks set to continue can we ask that children are always appropriately clothed with hats, scarves and gloves, even if arriving by car, as we try to get them out into the fresh air whenever possible at break times.

As always in school the busy schedule continues with five family workshops already having taken place. Firstly, many thanks must go to the teachers and teaching assistants for their hard work and organisation for these sessions. Moving into the hall to teach requires a lot of setting up and teaching in front of a room full of parents when you are used to having only the children in the room, can also be quite nerve wracking. Secondly, thank you to all the parents who attended and for your feedback on the evaluation forms; we hope it gave you a real flavour of the types of lessons your children experience every day. Our apologies to the parents of 1W. Due to Mrs Walker being off sick we had to cancel at quite short notice. We have rearranged for Thursday 31st January at 9.10am.

Crossing Holland Park

Since losing our crossing patrol on Holland Park last year due to County cutbacks, Mrs Jo Cooper (one of parent Governors) has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to improve the safety for our children. She has called for and attended numerous meetings with both Parish and County Councillors in recent months and at last has been successful in getting them to agree to some safety measures being implemented. Initially we are to be involved in the '20 is plenty' scheme which encourages motorists to slow their speed down to 20 mph outside



school on Station Road and Holland Park. You will have noticed new speed detectors and signage to advertise this and in book bags last week children received some '20 is plenty' products and information to launch the scheme. Please do make sure that as a parent you are setting the example to other motorists and sticking to 20 mph when driving around school. The next stage of the developments relates directly to the safety of the children when they are crossing the road. All being well we will soon have some railings on the edge of the pavement to stop children running down from the school gate and straight out onto the road and also further parking restrictions which will restrict cars from parking near to the school gates. This will help parents cross their children safely over the road with a clear view up and down the street. In the meantime we ask that parents are considerate and please do not park directly opposite school as it restricts the view of families attempting to cross the road.

Reception Visit to Sea Life Centre

Our Reception staff and children braved the weather today and visited the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. They had a fabulous time exploring first hand the types of environment and creatures they are learning about in their half term's topic.

Parent Consultation Replies

Could you please ensure the Parent Consultation appointment slips are returned to the class teachers as soon as possible. Thank you.

Forthcoming Lunchtime Events

Please be aware that further information regarding the following theme days and parent lunches will be in book bags soon along with booking forms:

Thursday 7th February - Mrs Walker's parents are invited to join their children for a school lunch (only 1 parent per child please)

Thursday 14th February - Valentines Day themed lunch Friday 8th March - Mother's Day themed lunch (children only)

Friday 22nd March - Mrs Smith's parents are invited to join their children for a school lunch (only 1 parent per child please)

TRISPTA

Monday 28th January - PTA meeting at 7.30pm in school.

Friday 1st February - Cinema Night 3.30 - 5.00pm. Showing Ice Age 4 - Continental Drift (U)

Workers of the Week

Our well deserving children for 'Worker of the Week' this week are:

2K - Poppy Mitchelson for fantastic reading

2M - Charlotte Brammer for problem solving in Maths

1W - Harry Cox for writing super instructions to make a paper snowflake

1S - Thomas Cooper for working hard all week

RR - To be announced next week, due to school trip today

RL - To be announced next week, due to school trip today

Keep up the super work children!

Wishing you a lovely weekend.
Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer
Co-Headteachers