



Thomas Russell Infants' School  
'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'  
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1st February 2013  
Newsletter Number 18

Dear Parents

### Family workshop

Our final family workshop took place this week with parents from 1W spending time with their children on activities linked to the 'Funnybones' book. Thank you and well done to Mrs Walker and Miss Wain for delivering an interesting and exciting lesson for children and parents alike.

### New Resources

Mrs Moore and Mrs Kelly have been busy placing orders for some exciting new resources to support our phonics and maths teaching which we hope will arrive in school very soon. We are always looking for ways to enhance our teaching and after seeing some fantastic phonics resources in use at Shobnall Primary School we decided they would be perfect to supplement our current resources. The maths resources will be kindly paid for by the PTA from funds raised at recent events. Children across school will benefit from these due to the hard work of our PTA members and the support of parents and relatives at school events.

### National Assessments - Year 1 and 2

In both of the above year groups, all children are assessed, with their assessment results reported to parents and used by the government to monitor standards in schools. Year 1 children will all be assessed on their phonic knowledge by the teacher, on a one to one basis, during the week 17th - 21st June 2013.

In year 2 the assessments are quite comprehensive requiring the teachers to draw upon their knowledge of the children throughout the year in reading, writing and maths and to carry out supporting assessment activities during the period of 7th - 17th May. We therefore ask you to be very mindful if you are requesting leave of absence for children particularly at this time of the year as it is a particularly important time for the children.

### Parent Helpers



We are very fortunate to have a handful of regular parent helpers who come in to school to help the children and the teachers. This often involves hearing children read, working with small groups of children to support their learning or preparing classroom resources. This help is invaluable and greatly appreciated. If you feel that you could help for an hour or more a week in school or know someone else who would be interested then we would love to hear from you. Please speak to either Headteacher or Mrs Kelly.

### **Cash Donation**

During last Friday afternoon's assembly we welcomed two visitors from the local team of MWH Direct. This is a company who carried out some works down near the sewage works on Station Road some months ago. As an incentive for safe working, the team are presented with a lump sum to donate to somewhere within the local community if they work safely, avoiding any accidents among the public. As they were successful in achieving this they asked if we would accept a £100 donation. Our school council representatives undertook the very important task of taking receipt of the cheque in assembly and I am sure they will be able to think of a good cause within school to put the money towards. A big thank you to MWH Direct for choosing Thomas Russell Infants.

### **World Book Day - 7th March**

The school council have been busy planning this event and have asked that we pass on the information as soon as possible so that you can begin planning. For World Book Day they are asking the children to dress up as a book character. The year 2 children will be visiting the juniors in the afternoon to join the older children for some reading activities while some of the junior children will be visiting Reception and year 1 to read to them here.

### **Village Pancake Race - Tuesday 11th February**

On Tuesday 12th February at exactly 11am the year 2 children will be racing along Main Street with their pancakes. All year 2 children are asked to bring in a small pancake and their own light weight pan. Year 1 will also attend to watch the races and will walk down with year 2. Hopefully as always the local papers will be there to take some great photos. This event has been a tradition in Barton for many, many years and is always very well supported, so we need as many spectators as possible. There will of course be an adult's race!!! We would appreciate the help of any parents who can walk down from school with the children.

### **1W Parent Lunch**

A reminder that 1 parent for each child in 1W are invited to join the children for lunch on Thursday 7th February.

### **Workers of the Week**

Achievement assembly has been cancelled this week due to the PTA needing to prepare the hall for the cinema night and therefore there are no workers of the week.

### **TRISPTA**

Thank you to all of the PTA helpers who have volunteered to help set up and supervise children for the film tonight. It is always a popular event with the children. Please be patient when we release the children at the end as it always takes a little time to ensure we release them all safely to the correct adults.

Can we please ask that any PTA money is placed in a well sealed envelope before placing it in the PTA box as money is falling out on occasion. Thank you.

An early warning - our annual Easter bonnet parade and Easter egg hunt will take place on Thursday 28th March in the morning. All parents are invited to attend and tea and cakes will be on sale. It leaves you plenty of time to get creative with those bonnets!

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

Co-Headteachers