



Thomas Russell Infants' School
'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'
Station Road, Barton under Needwood, Burton on Trent, STAFFS,



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

15th February 2013
Newsletter Number 20

Dear Parents

Pancake race

Another exciting pancake racing event was held in the village on Tuesday with our year 2 children taking part in the races. Well done to all of the children involved. The following children were the winners and runners up of their races:

Race 1 - Freddie Kugelmann and Ryley Evans

Race 2 - Lewis Da Rosa and Poppy Mitchelson

Race 3 - Charlie Draycott and Amber Conyers-Davies

Race 4 - Isaac Gill and Sol Leyland joint 1st

Race 5 - Charlotte Brammer and Alice Hudson

Race 6 - Hugo Taylor-Jones and Malissa Buajeeb

The best pancake flippers were Imogen Smith and Finlay O'Brien. Fantastic work but I'm not sure there were any edible pancakes left by the end of the morning!

World Book Day

We hope you are putting your minds to a costume for Thursday 7th March when the children are invited to dress up as a book character for the day. We have a wonderful array of characters each year.

Keep your eyes peeled for our book fair leaflets coming home after half term. This has been booked to be held at the end of school for a week to coincide with World Book Day.

Reception Parents

On March 6th at 7pm, Mrs Moore will be leading a literacy curriculum evening for any interested Reception parents. Information will be shared about the current teaching methods and strategies used in school during the teaching of reading, writing and phonics and will provide you with practical support for how you can help your child at home. Do you feel confident in knowing how to teach your child to hold a pencil correctly, to form cursive letters, to encourage strategies for reading unfamiliar words, to say the phonemes correctly



when reading with your child, etc, etc? Parents are always keen to help their children but are sometimes unsure of how to help. Come along and let us help. Further information will be provided in book bags during the first week back after half term.

Themed Lunches

Once again our Valentines themed lunch this week was very popular with a definite hint of love in the air. Our next themed lunch is the Mothers' Day lunch on Friday 8th March. Our dinner numbers have increased quite significantly since we have changed to a cooking kitchen with on average at least an extra twenty dinners most weeks. Well done to Mrs Cullen and Mrs Gould for working so hard to make it such a success and continuing to encourage the children through offering themed and parent lunches.

Advance notice - One parent for each child in Mrs Smith's class are invited for a parent lunch with their child on Friday 22nd March.

County Council Seeks Assurances On Food Supplies

Staffordshire County Council has gained assurances from its catering suppliers that meals served in schools are not affected by meat contamination. The County Council acted swiftly to confirm that its services are unaffected. Cllr Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Environment and Assets on Staffordshire County Council, said: "People should have absolute confidence in what they are eating. As soon as we saw stories about contaminated meat, we contacted our suppliers to ensure that the County Council's catering services were not affected. We have had assurances from all of our suppliers that neither they, nor their own suppliers buy beef products from those companies implicated in recent reports. However, we will continue to seek a cast iron guarantee on the quality and origin of the food we buy. It is our policy that where possible we source meat and other products from Staffordshire suppliers - in a current pilot over 20% of our schools are currently buying their meat from Staffordshire farms ensuring we get a high quality product, we know exactly where our meat comes from and in the process, we support the local economy. We hope to extend this pilot to all of our schools. In the meantime, our contracts with food suppliers continue to demand that they have comprehensive systems in place to show where all of their products come from."

Parents Views and Opinions

We have always been very appreciative of our supportive community of parents and relatives and try our very best to encourage and seek feedback from parents about our school and their child's / children's time spent here. Each year we send out a parent questionnaire to seek your opinions and use the information you provide to help deliver the best education and experience we can for our pupils.

In addition to these questionnaires there is also an area on the OFSTED website where parents can provide feedback to the school and to OFSTED, also in the form of a questionnaire. We would be grateful if you would consider spending the time completing this to help us with our ongoing school evaluation work. We look forward to viewing the information but would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if there is anything that you are not happy about with regards to your child's schooling then we would encourage you to please come and speak to us in person, providing us with the opportunity to try to resolve it, rather than posting negative outcomes on Parent View.

If you do have the time to complete the questionnaire then please visit

TRISPTA Easter Activities

Firstly, a big thank you to the PTA and all parents for our new maths resources which have recently arrived and are now ready for use.

On Thursday 28th March the egg hunt and bonnet parade will take place in school with delicious cakes and drinks on sale by the PTA. Please come along at any time from 9-11 am. Each class will take turns doing the hunt - RECEPTION: 9.15am, YEAR 1: 9.35am, YEAR 2: 10am. We hope your Easter bonnet preparations are well under way as bonnets will be paraded and judged after the egg hunt event. Toddler bonnet parade and judging will take place after this. We look forward to seeing you there.

Donations to the cake stall would be gratefully received and need to be delivered to the hall first thing Thursday morning. Many thanks in anticipation.

Dinner Money

For the parents who pay dinner money for the next half term, the amount is £50.40. This is for Monday 25th February to Thursday 28th March inclusive. Year 1 have a school trip on Thursday 21st March so if your child usually stays lunches on this day please deduct £2.10. The cost of a school dinner remains at £2.10 per day for children who stay on a daily basis. If you wish to pay by Parent Pay and need further information please contact the school office. Thank you.

Workers of the Week

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

2K - Two next time

2M - Mayah Quinlan-Jones for fantastic story writing

Hugo Taylor-Jones for fantastic story writing

1W - Harry Johnson for working hard to add by partitioning and recombining

1S - Jack Church for excellent work in science about how the ear works

RR - Laura Lloyd for super high frequency word writing

RL - Beau Woollaston for beautiful writing

Keep up the super work children!

Wishing you a happy, restful half term holiday and we will see the children back at school on Monday 25th February.

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

Co-Headteachers