



Thomas Russell Infants' School
'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'
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Dear Parents

Comic Relief

We had yet another exciting dress up day today for Comic Relief with a real sea of red and colour in our assembly this afternoon. Thank you for all of the donations which totalled a fantastic £190.67. This does not include the cakes we will be selling at the end of the day. Thank you also for the generous cake donations which went down a treat and made a nice change from our usual break time fruit. The children thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility of spending their own money and the school council representatives were certainly kept busy.

Parent Lunches

A reminder that one parent or relative for each of Miss Smith's children are invited to join the class for lunch on Friday 22nd March. You should have already received the letter in book bags and we look forward to seeing you at 11.45 am.

Easter Church Service

Once again the whole school will be visiting St James' Church on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th March for our school Easter service. This is always a special occasion. The children will begin to walk from school at about 1.40pm. All parents are invited to attend the service and are asked to wait outside the Church until all the children are settled inside. At the end of the service (approximately 2.45pm) the children will be dismissed from the church in the same way we dismiss from school. Any parents unable to attend, or those attending Barton Badgers please do not worry, these children will be walked back to school by school staff and can be collected as normal at 3.15pm or from Badgers later. Help from parents to walk to the church from school at 1.40pm will be gratefully appreciated. Please let class teachers know if you are able to help.

Travelling Book Fair



The Travelling Book Fair will be in school from Thursday 21st March until Wednesday 27th March. The fair will be held in the school library and will be open from 3.00pm until 3.45pm every day. Travelling Books will be sending books suitable for children of both Infant and Junior age and they always have a super range available, with many books in their 'bargain' book range with prices starting from £1.00. The school will be earning a good rate of commission from the fair so we are hoping to be able to stock up our classroom book boxes with some lovely new books afterwards! We are hoping to see as many people as possible popping along to see what is available - you might find the perfect book to keep your child occupied over the Easter break!

On Line Self checking Of Free School Meals Entitlement

Staffordshire County Council are now introducing an online self-checking service. This means that parents apply by inputting all of the same details as previously completed on the paper forms, but the system will then automatically check with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to see if you are entitled. You will then be given an instant decision and any successful application will be forwarded to the Free School Meals Entitlement Team to set up on the system and advise the relevant school(s). The applicant also has the opportunity to print a copy of the page confirming their entitlement, and so can provide this to the school to start the meals on the same day. If you require any assistance with this then please ask at the school office.

The link to the self checking application form can be found on their website at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals.

Please check as you may be missing out on your entitlement. This link will also soon be found on our school website.

Road Safety Problem

As you know from school newsletters we are working constantly with local councillors to plan further safety measures to put into place around school to ensure everyone is protected. Year 2 children have completed holiday projects on 'The Road Safety' problem around our school and Mrs Farmer has spent time listening to the children explain their projects and why they feel strongly about road safety in Barton. From this, an open event has been arranged for Wednesday 20th March at 10.00am, where all the projects will be on show, for parents, local residents, governors and leaders from the council to view. The local media have been invited and we look forward to seeing as much support as possible for this event.

Lost and Found

A special piece of jewellery has been found outside the school gates this week. If you have lost an item or know of anybody who has, please enquire at the school office.

Dates for Next Term

Tuesday 23rd April - St George's themed lunch and drawing competition

Wednesday 1st May - 2.30pm Y2 Maypole Dancing (all parents welcome)

Friday 3rd May -Parent lunch for one parent of each child in RR - 11.45 am

Friday 10th May - Disco for all children 5 - 6.30 pm (tickets and further information available soon)

Friday 17th May -Parent lunch for one parent of each child in RL - 11.45am

Wednesday 15th May - Parent meeting for new Reception children 7pm.
Monday 3rd June - INSET day (children not in school)
Wednesday 5th June - class photographs
Friday 7th June - TRISPTA sponsored cycle / scoot
Friday 14th June - Reception father's day assembly - 9.20 am (all Reception parents invited - please note that this has been planned instead of the original Reception class assemblies.)
Friday 14th June - Father's day themed lunch (for children only)
Thursday 27th June - Sports day (afternoon) followed by Summer Fayre
Saturday 29th June - Gardening Olympics at Shobnall Fields
Monday 15th July - Year 2 leavers' party - 3.30 - 5pm
Wednesday 17th July - Leavers' assembly - 2pm

TRISPTA Easter Activities

We had a very productive PTA meeting on Monday evening with lots of plans for forthcoming events. The first of these is the Easter egg hunt and bonnet parade which will take place on Thursday 28th March, 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.

We would be very grateful of any help serving refreshments on the morning of the Easter celebrations, to ensure that there are enough volunteers to enable all to take part in the Easter egg hunt with their child at the relevant time. If you are able to offer your services for a short stint then please either email Aly Church at alysonchurch@rocketmail.com or complete and post the reply slip in the red PTA box. Thank you very much.

We have a request for any budding quiz masters. We have two options - firstly a person, or a group of people who have the time to produce and present a quiz at one of our PTA quiz nights, or someone willing to play quiz master as we do have a quiz we could possibly use. Please speak to a member of the PTA or to Mrs Burton or Mrs Farmer if you may be interested or know someone else who may be interested.

Workers of the Week

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

2K - Niamh Jones for brilliant story writing

2M - Edward Hall for fantastic writing about Florence Nightingale

1W - Two next week

1S - Daniel Turner for excellent subtraction work

RR - Trae Hurst for a super speech bubble

RL - Jacob Rawlins for good name writing and ring words practice

Keep up the super work children!

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

Co-Headteachers