



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

19th April 2013
Newsletter Number 25

Dear Parents

Welcome back

Welcome to the Summer term. As usual the year is flying by and with any luck we will soon have some glorious summer weather to enable the children to take part in lots of outdoor learning and activities in the coming months. We have certainly been making the most of the field this week with children enjoying the space at playtimes. Please remember to send the children appropriately dressed for the weather, with coats during the cooler weather and sunhats / suncream if warmer weather arrives.

Easter Service

Casting our minds back a few weeks now, the children enjoyed the Easter service, filling the church with their wonderful singing. Thank you to those parents who joined us and to those who walked with us.

Attendance

We were delighted last term with each classes attendance.

Overall the whole school attendance was 96.73% last term compared to 95.40% during the Autumn term. This equates in Ofsted speak to the highest possible grade (1) with the description 'Overall attendance is high - attendance is consistently high for all groups of pupils'.

Mrs Moore and Mrs Evans' class had the highest attendance with 97.82%. It would be fabulous to see this continuing during the summer term.

Last term we had 77 children with 100% attendance which is a fantastic achievement. A huge well done to everyone who received a special certificate; too many names to mention in this newsletter!

Please can we take this opportunity to thank you for getting your children to school every day and remind you that holidays taken in term time should be requested only in exceptional circumstances. The local authority's definition of this is 'When it is absolutely impossible to



take a holiday during the school holiday dates'.

Although each class attendance is fantastic, we did have a number of children in school last term with less than 90% attendance which means if this rate continues these children will miss out on at least 4 weeks of learning during the year. This clearly has a detrimental effect on children's learning. We will write to inform parents if their child's absence falls below 90% and if this persists through the following term we will have to contact the School Education Welfare Officer whose duty it is to call or visit parents whose child has a low attendance record.

Themed Lunch

On Tuesday, Mrs Cullen and Mrs Gould will be cooking up a feast for St. George's day. You should have already received a letter in book bags to request a school lunch if your child requires one.

Maypole Dancing

Our year 2 dancers will be performing their dances for the first time this year at 2.30pm on Wednesday 1st May. Please come along to watch and support the children.

Reception Parent Lunches

1 parent for each child in RR is invited for lunch with their child on Friday 3rd May and RL parents on Friday 17th May. Can parents please arrive at 11.50 am for a prompt 12 o'clock start. Letters with further information and booking forms can be found in book bags next week.

Walk to School Week 2013

National Walk to School week is fast approaching. Walk to School Week takes place between Monday 20th May and Friday 24th May 2013 with Staffordshire's WOW (Walk on Wednesday) day being on Wednesday 22nd May.

In the past Staffordshire has been very successful in encouraging schools to get involved in the campaign. Last year in 2012, they had over 170 schools taking part and over 40,000 pupils walking to school on Walk to School Day! With your help Staffordshire are aiming to break the record again this year!

Holiday Dates

If you have a child in Reception or Year 1, a list of holiday dates including inset days for the academic year 2013/2014 can be found in your child's book bag tonight.

TRISPTA Easter Activities

Well done to our PTA volunteers once again for a very successful Easter Egg Hunt and bonnet parade. It was a rather chilly morning but fortunately it was able to go ahead as planned, with some super bonnets, making it a very difficult task for the judges

PTA May School Disco

Please see in your child's book bag tonight information and booking form for the school disco to be held on Friday 10th May

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Kindest regards

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

Co-Headteachers