



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

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Newsletter Number 32

Dear Parents

End of term

Once again, another half term has been and gone; just where does the time go? In a couple of weeks time our new Reception children and our year 2 children will begin their transition visits which can be both an exciting and daunting time. If you have any concerns about your child during this time then please make sure you speak to somebody in school.

Gardening

We have had a very busy week with our raised beds seeing a transformation. After our plea in a recent newsletter for parent helpers, Mrs Brant came forward to help Mrs Smith and Miss Rowley with preparations for this year's Gardening Olympics, for which we are very grateful. It was lovely yesterday to see all of the year 1 children, followed by Reception children, helping to weed and plant up the raised beds. (These are located on the adventure playground and in the Reception playground.) They were thoroughly engrossed in the task at hand and did a super job. This was just the beginning of the work as there are lots of other gardening jobs planned. If you feel that you could offer some time to help and support the children in this way then it would be very much appreciated and would really help to speed things along a little. If anyone finds they have left over seedlings (particularly tomato and strawberry), seeds, bedding plants, etc from their own gardens then we can certainly find a good home for them!

The Governing Body

After a very good discussion at a Governors meeting last night we decided that parents may find it helpful to be reminded as to who our school Governors are. After half term we will send out an information leaflet with photographs and a short pen portrait of each of our Governors (this information can already be found on the school website), but in the meantime here is a list of names and details. If you wish to find out more about their role in supporting the school then they are very approachable and would be more than happy to expand on this. Chair of Governors - Neil Taylor (child in year 3 at the Juniors)



Vice Chair and maths link Governor - Caroline Kugelmann (child in year 2 and Reception)
Chair of the Curriculum and Personnel committee plus safeguarding and SEN link Governor - Stuart Bavester (child in year 2)
Chair of the Finance, Premises, Health and Safety - Nik Antona (child in year 3 at the Juniors)
Vice Chair of Finance, Premises, Health and Safety - Tom Cowgill (child in year 1)
Health and Safety Governor - Lorraine Brant (child in year 1)
Maths and ICT link Governor - Fay Adkins (child in Reception)
Early Years link Governor - Debbie Welsford (child in year 1)
Parent Governor - Katie Rawlins (child in Reception and year 2)
Parent Governor - Jo Cooper (parent of year 1 child)
Parent Governor - Esther Ashton (parent of a Reception child and year 2 child)
Community Governor - Tim Hopkins (employee of Humpty Dumpty Day Nursery)
Community Governor - Sue Gent (ex Parish Councillor and village resident)
Staff Governors - Mrs Burton, Mrs Farmer, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Moore

Recycled Planters

A reminder to get your thinking caps on for exciting ideas for your recycled planters over the holidays. The theme is 'Space, Aliens - Out of this World'. To be in school by Monday 17th June.

Class Photos

These will be taken on the morning of Wednesday 5th June.

Reception Father's Day Assembly

With the year 1 Mother's Day assembly being such a success, we really didn't feel that we could leave the Fathers out. Therefore Reception Dad's are invited to a special assembly on the Friday 14th June at 9.20am. (Other relatives are also very welcome to accompany Dad or to come instead of Dad if he can't attend). We envisage the assembly lasting about 20 - 30 minutes and hope to see as many Reception parents as possible.

Lost Property

We have a variety of lost property in the school office including clothing and water bottles. Please drop in if you think you are missing anything!
Any items not claimed by the end of the school term in July will be given to a charity shop.

Fashion Show

There is a Fashion Show and sale to be held at school on Thursday 13th June, doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. The tickets are £5 each with the proceeds going to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and Myeloma UK. Tickets are available from Mrs Holden (mum of Ella in 2M and Jay RR) or the school office. In previous shows clothes have been included from Monsoon, Wallis, Next, M&S, Hobbs and Dickens and Jones. There have been some fantastic reductions in previous shows and clothes come in a good range of sizes. A great evening is expected and it is a fantastic way to support these worthwhile charities. Please come along!

Dinner Money

For the parents who pay dinner money for the next half term, the amount is £71.40. This is for the period Tuesday 4th June to Friday 19th July inclusive. If your child is in Reception they have a school trip booked for Friday 21st June and if your child is in Year 1 they have a trip booked for Thursday 4th July. If your child usually stays lunches on these days please deduct £2.10. The cost of a school lunch remains at £2.10 per day for the children who stay on a daily basis. Please make cheques payable to Staffordshire County Council. If you wish to pay by Parent Pay and need further information please contact the school office.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Thank you to everyone for the fantastic response to the Sainsbury's Active Kids 2013 vouchers. The promotion has now ended so can we ask you to return any vouchers you might have in your purse, kitchen drawers, pockets or cars to school as soon as possible for us to exchange them for the sports equipment on offer. Once again, thank you.

Workers of the Week

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

2M - Eve Heaps for fantastic dictionary work

1S - Kaylen Uncles for working hard all week

RL - Caitlin Cuthbert for reading and story writing

Keep up the super work children!

TRISPTA

Thank you to the parents who attended the meeting on Monday. A lot of time was spent discussing and planning the Summer Fayre which is held after Sports day on Thursday 27th June. They are going to need lots of volunteers to help make it a success so please watch out for more information after half term. In the meantime if you are able to help out on the day please could you contact Sam Cowgill either at drop off or pick up or by emailing her at sam@sportsmastersinternational.com Thank you.

The sponsored scoot or cycle is on the first Friday back after the holiday (Friday 7th June). For the children to take part they will need to bring either their bike or scooter to school with them in the morning plus a cycle helmet if they are bringing their bike. The event will begin soon after registration with each year group taking it in turns. Just to remind you that unfortunately parents are not invited to attend on this occasion. As for arrangements on the morning, you can imagine the chaos if we were to have over 170 bikes and scooters under the bike shelter. Can we please ask that you take note of the following:

Reception children to take their bikes and scooters onto the Reception lawn area.

Year 1 children to put theirs between the greenhouse and the shed on the carpark, through the gates.

Year 2 to put theirs on the grass area behind the year 2 classrooms.

Can we ask that completed sponsor forms be returned by Tuesday 4th June.

The next cinema night is arranged for Friday 14th June. More information to follow soon.

A reminder that there is a PTA meeting in school on the evening of Monday 10th June, beginning at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Half term

We hope you all have a good bank holiday week and take this opportunity to remind you that the children are not back at school until Tuesday 4th June.

Kind regards

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

Co-Headteachers