



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

*'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'*

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5th July 2013

Newsletter Number 37

Dear Parents

## Dates to remember

8th July - 9.15am meeting for new year 1 parents

8th July - 2.30pm meeting for new year 2 parents

9th July - 2.30pm Mr Atterbury's keyboard concert for prospective year 1 parents and parents of current keyboardists

10th July - Year 2 visiting Conkers

11th July - Open evening for parents to discuss reports. Please arrange a convenient time with the class teacher.

15th July - 9.15am year 2 parents invited to a performing arts show by year 2 children (choir, violinists and recorder players)

15th July - Year 2 leavers' party 3.30 - 5pm

17th Leavers' assembly 2pm

18th July - R and Y1 visit new teachers

19th July - last day of term

4th September - children begin new school year

## Gardening Olympics

Congratulations and a huge thank you must be said to Mrs Smith and her gardening team which include Mrs Brant, Miss Rowley and the children for their fantastic efforts with our school entry. For those of you who managed to visit Shobnall last Saturday, you wouldn't have been disappointed; we decided Mrs Smith has missed her vocation and should be in landscape gardening or interior design! There were lots of children represented in one way or another with their space poems, recycled planter or things they had made or grown in school on the display. We received a very well deserved gold award for the overall display with a variety of other awards for specific categories including: gold for the poetry and artwork, silver for a miniature garden, bronze for recycled planters, growing vegetables and harvested vegetables. Thank you very much also to Katie Brant and Sol Leyland who represented the school during the award ceremony. A result to be proud of!



## **End of Year Reports**

Today you will have received your child's annual report. Teachers spend a lot of time and effort ensuring that these are as informative as possible and to provide information about the progress your child has made over the last year in all areas of their education. We hope that you find them an informative read. If you do wish to discuss the report further then please arrange a mutually convenient time to meet the class teacher during our Open Evening on Thursday 11th July.

## **Data Collection Sheets**

Included with your child's report you will find a Data Collection Sheet. Can we ask parents to check all the information on these sheets, make any amendments, then sign and return to school as soon as possible please. Even if there are no alterations can you sign and return the document. Thank you.

## **Year 1 Visit**

The year 1 children and staff thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Crich Tramway Museum on Thursday where they spent time riding on and learning about the trams as a mode of transport to fit with their topic 'Make it Move'.

## **New Year 1 and 2 Transition Meetings**

Please see above for the dates and times of these meetings. We hope that you are able to attend in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for your child/children into their new year groups.

## **Keyboard Lessons for New Year 2 Children**

The current year 2 keyboard players will be performing to the school on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm. If your child is interested in taking up keyboard lessons in year 2 next year and you wish to come along to the concert to see how well your children could have progressed in a year, then you are very welcome to join us.

## **Safe Scooting and Cycling**

As we recognise both the environmental and health benefits of cycling and riding scooters to school, we would like to work in partnership with parents to help to support safe cycling/scooting at school. Can we ask children to dismount as they approach school gates both at the start and end of the day and request that children don't cycle/scoot in the car park.

## **School Lunches**

One of the areas we agreed to consider further after parent questionnaire responses was school dinners. There were various comments from parents about these including comments about such things as: the limited portions of vegetables and salad that one parent feels is on offer to children, a question as to just how fresh some of the products are and that some parents still don't feel that some menu choices are as healthy as they could be. In response to this we met with Entrust catering services who employ our kitchen staff,

provide the menus, ingredients and recipes, etc for our school and many other Staffordshire schools this week and fed back these responses.

As a result of this we will soon be introducing a self service style salad bar where the children are able to help themselves to as much as they want, our school council and parents will be canvassed for their thoughts on menu choices in order for us to feed this information back to Entrust and finally we have been promised that more fresh vegetables rather than frozen ones will be available for the children. We will continue to keep you informed as things progress.

Can we please also remind parents that sweets and chocolate bars should not be included in children's packed lunches. Thank you.

### **Dinner Money**

Can we ask parents to pay any outstanding dinner money as we approach the end of term. This can be paid directly at the school office or via your child's book bag. Parents who pay via Parent Pay also need to check their accounts, as balances for children in year 1 and Reception are carried forward to the next academic year but children in year 2 with debts owing will be passed to Staffordshire County Catering Debt Collection and if refunds are due these will be issued before the end of term. The price of a school lunch remains at £2.10 per day in September 2013.

### **TRISPTA**

Even though our Summer Fayre was a complete wash out, literally, we still raised just over £1000; a fantastic achievement! Thank you once again to all involved. We have just received two quotations for a set of sixteen I-pads which we hope to put the money towards very soon, for all of the children to benefit from in school.

There is still time to purchase a good quality tea towel displaying your child's self-portrait. Each year group have done their own tea towel, which make an excellent present or keepsake of your child's time at Thomas Russell Infants. To place an order, simply send in a request via your child's book bag or the school office. Tea Towels cost £4.50 for 1, or £8 for 2. Please make cheques payable to TRISPTA.

Our TRISPTA annual general meeting is to be held on Monday 15th July at 7.30 pm in school. Changes are afoot with our current Chairperson, Aly Church, stepping down due to her own increased work commitments. We would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to Aly for all of her hard work over the last few years. She has been a real asset to the team. We will keep you informed of any further changes once these have been confirmed at the meeting.

Kind regards

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer  
Co-Headteachers