



Thomas Russell Infants' School

Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.8

Thursday 24th October 2013

Dear parents, carers and guardians

Open Day

We held a very successful open day this Wednesday for prospective pupils and their parents. More than forty five visitors came, looking around the site, visiting lessons and getting first hand experience of the school's welcoming atmosphere.

Each year seems to go faster and faster - it seems only a minute ago that we were meeting our current Reception children for the first time! Today in book bags all Reception parents/guardians will receive a short questionnaire about how they felt about their child's start to school; this includes the induction visits and meetings during the summer term, up until the consultations recently attended. By collecting parents and guardians views, we can continue to improve on what we do for the children and families of the school. Please can questionnaires be returned by Friday 8th November.

E Safety

These are some useful tips from the website www.kidsmart.org.uk to share with your children on using the internet:

TOP TIPS FOR SAFE SEARCHING

- Be clear in your online searches. Try to use more than one word to describe what you are searching for. For example, if you are searching for information on the planet Mercury, entering 'planet Mercury' into the search box will get better results than just entering 'Mercury'.
- Take care to spell correctly when typing in a search. Even a small typing error can bring up unwanted results.
- Remember that not all the information on websites returned in searches is reliable. Look in books, ask people who might know and look up at least three other websites to check your information.
- Make sure you filter your searches online - especially if you are doing an image search.
- Bookmark your favourite websites or check your history to make sure you are revisiting the same websites.



- If you see something that upsets you, make sure you turn off the screen or make the window smaller (on a laptop) and tell an adult as soon as possible.

Dinner Money

The cost of dinners for the next half term is £71.40 if your child stays for lunches Monday to Friday and you wish to pay in full in advance. This takes into account 12th December when all the children will be asked to bring a packed lunch to school, as they will be going to the pantomime and the return time is uncertain. The cost of a school dinner remains at £2.10 per day. Please read the letter (in book bags today) regarding new arrangements for payments.

School Photographs

Your child will be having their individual school photograph taken on the morning of Monday 11th November. We will be taking family photographs at this session, which we usually take at the beginning of the day. A text message will be sent the week before to let you the time for the family sessions. These photographs tend to make lovely Christmas presents for family and friends.

PTA News

EASYFUNDRAISING - Please take 5 minutes to click on this link to our internet site and read about how you, your family and friends can raise money for our school when shopping online at no cost to you. We have 170 children at the school and so far only 45 registered supporters, so let's see if we can get this number up to 100! <http://www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk/PTA>

Halloween Party

All is set for the party tomorrow night! Children should be dropped at school for 5pm and collected at 6.30pm. There's no need for parents to stay unless you have said you can help. Tickets haven't been issued as we have a class list of all the children who are attending. If you would prefer your child not to have tattoos or nail painting at school discos then please inform your child of this before attending.

Please congregate on the playground when you come to collect your child. A year group at a time will be called into the hall, where you will collect your child and leave by the front entrance. Please bear with us as this process can be a little slow but is the safest way to ensure the children leave safely.

Quiz Night

It's that time of year again, so get your team together for the Quiz Night with a fish and chip supper on Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm. Entry forms are in book bags tonight and as spaces are limited, you need to return your form as soon as possible for a fun-filled night.

CD Bell Plant Orders

Orders from CD Bell will be delivered and be ready for collection on Thursday 7th November. Many thanks to everyone who ordered - you won't be disappointed!



Plans for Christmas are well under way, so watch this space for raffle tickets, calendars and Christmas cards... We are still looking for Christmas raffle prizes so please let us know if you are able to donate a prize!

Next PTA meeting will be at school on Monday 4th November at 7.30pm. We will be making plans for the Christmas Fayre and will need lots of help, so please come along if you can!

Correction!

Apologies about the mistake on last week's letter - we are seeing Snow White at the Theatre, not Sleeping Beauty, on Thursday 12th December.

Twycross Zoo

After removing the old and unused gymnastics equipment from the school hall, Mr Morley suggested the fabulous idea of donating the ropes to Twycross Zoo for the monkey enclosures. Twycross were thrilled with the idea and we look forward to hearing reports of our ropes being used for lots of monkey business!

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

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Thank you for your time in advance.

School Fund Bank Account

In the past, our school fund account has been audited annually by kind relatives of children in our school. We are currently seeking a volunteer who would be willing to provide a little of their time to help us with the auditing of our accounts this year. The person needs to be a qualified accountant but not a parent of a child in our school. There is approximately £2500



of funds to audit. If you know someone who may be willing to help us with this, then please contact the school office. Thank you in anticipation.

Books suggested by The Guardian for the holidays are:

The Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

The Legend of Captain Crows Teeth by Eoin Colfer

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

We finish for half-term today, Thursday 24th October, and return on Monday 4th November. Wishing everyone a very restful and happy half-term holiday!

Kind regards

Mrs Farmer and Mrs Burton

