



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.10

Friday 15th November 2013

Dear parents, carers and guardians.

Sorry to start off with some bad news, but the PTA shed was broken into on Monday night and our lovely bottles of wine/port and champagne for the raffle prizes have been taken. We would be very grateful for donations as replacements if you can spare anything.

Remembrance Service

Thank you to the children who represented our school on Monday 11th November at the Memorial Service. They were super ambassadors for our school.

Children in Need

A huge thank you to all of the children who participated in this year's event and to the school council for organising it. There was a wonderful array of teddies and pyjamas! The school council counted the donations this morning and a fantastic £201.68 was raised for Children in Need.

Sports News

Year 2 enjoyed a morning of sport at the Meadowside Leisure Centre on Wednesday, alongside many other children from local schools. This was part of our drive to educate the children about healthy lifestyles and deliver more sports in school. We were pleased the children and staff had so much fun! New activities were tried and, as always, the children were a credit to the school.

Music News

On Tuesday night, the school recorder group took to the stage at Burton Town Hall and played and sang to a packed audience at the Burton Mail's annual music event. They all performed beautifully and we had many members of the public commenting on how well the children performed and behaved. We were very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to Mrs Lawrie, Mrs Smith and Mrs Atkinson and to the parents who came to support them - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Maths Bonanza Day

On December 3, we are taking part in the National Maths Bonanza day in aid of the NSPCC. As well as raising awareness and money for this worthwhile cause, we will be thinking about maths all day and encouraging children to solve number problems. Next week, a family problem-



will be sent out, with prizes for the families who manage to solve them all, so start brushing up on your maths skills in readiness!

Pupil Premium Funding - Free School Meals

School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money.

Did you know that you can claim free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

Income Support

Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance

Child tax Credit, but not Working Tax credit and the household income is not more than £16,190

The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (from 30th April 2005)

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps the school. The more eligible parents who register for free school meals, the more funding the school receives!

You can apply online via the Staffordshire County Council website:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educationlawrdsbenefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Online-Application.aspx> or contact the school office if you need any help.

A thank you!

We just wanted to say how much we appreciate your response to the recent changes in legislation to school dinner money payment and absence in term time. In particular, requests for term time absence have dropped significantly. It's early days yet, but we're very hopeful that with your continued co-operation, unauthorised absences will stay low and drop even further in the future.

Morrisons Vouchers

Thank you for the fantastic response to collecting Morrisons vouchers for gardening equipment for school. They have now finished the promotion so we ask if any surplus vouchers be sent to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Samaritan's Shoe Box Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse. If you have been able to fill a shoe box this year, can we ask that they be delivered to school by Monday 18th November. They will be collected later in the week and forwarded to deserving children overseas in time for Christmas. Thank you in advance.

2M Parent Lunch

We look forward to welcoming 2M parents for lunch on Wednesday 27th November. Please remember it is just for one parent per child and you must have pre-booked. Parents are asked to arrive just before 12 noon.



PTA NEWS

Quiz Night - we now have 14 teams confirmed for the quiz, but I am sure a few people have said they are coming but are yet to enter. Please can all entries be in by **Monday** at the absolute latest as we have to place the order with the chip shop. Please think about entering a team if you haven't already - it is always a great night out!

Christmas Cards - many thanks to everyone who has ordered Christmas cards. We will be processing the order on Monday so we hope to have the cards back to us at school in the next two weeks.

Planning for the Christmas Fayre is well under way and we will send out a letter shortly asking for volunteers to help out on the day - watch this space!

We also need someone to film the Christmas productions so we can produce the DVDs again this year. Steph Cartwright has kindly offered to produce all the DVDs again but we need someone on the following days for filming:

Wednesday 11th December - **RECEPTION NATIVITY PLAY 2.00PM**

Tuesday 17th December- **CHRISTMAS PLAY FOR 2M AND 1W - 2.00pm**

We already have a kind volunteer to film the 2K and 1S production - thanks Olympia! Please let Sam Cowgill know if you are able to help out.

Workers of the Week

2M - Riley Widdowson for working hard at everything

2K - Jake Howells for good writing on 'The Gunpowder Plot'

1W - Harley Gazzard for working hard in gymnastics

1S - Edison Garside for using excellent adjectives to describe the fruit

RR - Jamie Marshall for fabulous letter recognition

RL - Jake Boulter for trying hard with his number recognition

Well done to all our children this week.

Wishing you all a good weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs L. Farmer and Mrs S. Burton

