



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Station Road, Barton under Needwood, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE13 8DS



Tel: 01283 239350



Fax: 01283 716834

Co-Headteachers: Mrs S Burton & Mrs L Farmer

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Kelly



E-mail: office@thomasrussell-infants.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk

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Friday 20th December 2013

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Christmas is finally upon us and we have certainly been getting into the festive spirit over the last couple of weeks in school. This week our key stage 1 children presented two fabulous performances to the parents with many staff and parents saying it was the best yet! Well done to all of the children and staff for such a super effort and making us proud.

On Wednesday, Mrs Cullen and Mrs Gould began their day very early in order to cook up a Christmas feast to serve at lunch time. It is the one occasion in the year where all of the children and staff sit together in one sitting in the dining hall. Many thanks to the PTA who kindly donated the festive tableware and crackers. This was then followed by a visit from a very special person dressed in red and with a long white beard. It is always a special moment witnessing the children's look of awe and wonder when they hear his sleigh bells and see him enter with a sack full of presents.

We drew the week to a close this afternoon with our end of term, Christmas sing a long which is always a lovely way to end the year and say goodbye to the children. Thank you to the parents who attended and to Mrs Lawrie for the musical accompaniment.

2K

We are fairly optimistic that Mrs Kelly will be returning to school on Tuesday 7th January to teach her class. Unfortunately we will not be 100% sure until the first Monday back after her visit to the hospital. In the meantime Mrs Lewis will continue to teach 2K and we will provide further information to 2K parents as soon as we know in the new year.

Great News!

Our I-pads are here! All 16 of them and we can't wait to start using them in the new year, once staff have received their training and the APPS have been uploaded. Many thanks to the PTA for their fundraising efforts, enabling us to afford this fantastic resource for our children.



Thinking ahead to next term there are a number of dates for your diary. Further information will follow in the new year.

Friday 10th January - Reception classes visit Birmingham Sea Life Centre

Tuesday 14th January (9.15 - 10.15) - 2M family workshop

Wednesday 15th January (9.15 - 10.15) - 1W family workshop

Thursday 16th January (9.15 - 10.15) - 1S family workshop

Friday 17th January (9.15 - 10.15) - RR family workshop

Monday 20th January (9.15 - 10.15) - RL family workshop

The date of 2K's family workshop will be confirmed in the new year once Mrs Kelly has settled back into class.

Wednesday 22nd January - 2K parent lunch

Wednesday 12th February - 1W parent lunch

Friday 14th February - last day of the half term

Family workshops are a chance for you to come along and see a typical lesson. You will have the opportunity to work with your child on a number of activities which will then be used for displays around school.

PTA News

Just an update on the Christmas Fundraising. So far the Fayre and raffle have raised over £1,300, Christmas cards £370, with calendar and DVD sales still to come! A fantastic effort from everyone so a huge thank you for your generosity.

The next PTA meeting will be on Monday 27th January at 7.30pm at school. Please come along, especially if you have some new fundraising ideas for the New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas and healthy, happy New Year. We will see you back at school on Monday 6th January.

Regards

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer

