



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.20 Friday 7th February 2014

Dear parents and carers

Another busy week.....

Author Visit

All classes enjoyed their time with published author and illustrator Steve Smallman when he visited the school on Tuesday. He read to each class and drew some amazing cartoons with the children's ideas. He has left the signed cartoons in school for us to use as our literacy stimulus next week. The children were utterly inspired by him and his work, with some classes already working very hard at being authors this week and some classes looking forward to it next week. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the visit and we would like to thank the PTA for paying for this fabulous opportunity. We have had a number of parents ask about his books and we hope to soon have some available for children to borrow from the school library. They are also readily available to buy from various websites and bookstores.

Argos Presentation

Class 1S recently entered a competition organised by Argos Distribution Centre about road safety in the village. They got up very close and personal with the cab of a lorry, so that they saw first hand the difficulties lorry drivers have seeing pedestrians down on the ground. The class produced a super poster highlighting the dangers of pedestrians not using the pavement. On Wednesday, Mrs Farmer took Hannah and Mica from class 1S to Argos for the presentation. We were delighted to win a selection of wonderful science equipment, including a microscope and an investigation kit. Well done to everyone in 1S for impressing the judges. We believe the photograph has been in the Burton Mail already this week.

Bookmarks

Today your child will bring home a bookmark which is designed to aid parents when listening to their child read at home. The bookmarks are different for each colour band within our reading schemes and therefore have the success criteria for that specific colour band. These are the same skills your child will focus on when reading at school. We hope that they will prove a useful tool, in helping parents guide the children in discussions about the books and



how to focus your child's reading skills. If your child moves on to a new colour band in reading then they will receive the appropriate book mark. Bookmarks can be kept at home in order to avoid them going missing. Again, constructive feedback about the introduction of these would be much appreciated.

Home School Learning Logs

Thank you to the parents who have given their views on our home school learning logs and how we have altered their use over the past half term. We have received very mixed views from parents in each year group. We do listen to your concerns and consequently we are currently discussing the success of the reading diaries, which we feel have had a huge impact on reading across school, as well as how we can move forward with other comments parents have raised.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along to the book fair over the past week and bought books from the wonderful selection. We are pleased to say we have made £278.42 commission which we will be spending on new books for the library.

Gym Competition

On Wednesday 12th February a few children will be attending a gymnastics competition at Greenbank Leisure Centre. We wish them good luck and would also like to thank Mrs Trinh for supplying the T shirts they will be wearing.

Mrs Kelly

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Kelly will be returning to school after half term. She will be working every morning for the first week building up to full time over the following 3 weeks. Mrs Lewis will be teaching the other sessions, and meetings are planned for effective handover of the class.

Apps to Use at Home

All classes have been busy using the apps on our new I-pads and we have already been finding lots of ways to use them in all lessons. As we explore more apps we will continue to detail them on the newsletter so you can use them at home. At the family workshop Reception and Year 1 used some maths apps which are listed below. **Beebot** which is good for direction, **Colours and Shapes** which can help practising counting to 20, **Flow Free** which is good for pattern and problem solving and finally **Patterns** which can be used to practice repeating patterns. Hope you have fun.



1W lunch

A reminder that this will be on Wednesday 12th February at 12 noon. Please note that we will not be able to provide a parent lunch if they have not been pre-ordered.

Lunchtime Menu

Week beginning Monday 10th February will be week 3 on the school menu.

Inset Days

We would like to highlight the fact that the inset day originally added on February half term holiday has been moved to the end of the school year. We now break up on Friday 18th July and the forthcoming half term is Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February inclusive.

Workers of the Week

Workers of the week this week are:

2K - Benjamin Kadoch for his imaginative vocabulary in his story writing

2M - William Smith for his enthusiasm in his writing about the 'Stuck' story.

1S - Laney Sanderson for an excellent self-portrait in art

1W - Mercy Sanderson for creating a symmetrical pattern

RR - Nivraj Virk for super pirate writing

RL - Lucy Lloyd-Jones for amazing writing about pirates

Well done to all our hard working children this week.

Wishing you a happy weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Farmer & Mrs Burton

