



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter Number 25

Dear Parents

Well, this week certainly took an unexpected turn when we received a phone call from Ofsted on Monday afternoon. We have been anticipating an inspection since last July, so it has been a long time coming. The two inspectors arrived in school at 8.00 am on Tuesday morning and left us at approximately 4.30 pm on Wednesday, leaving no stone unturned! The children were fabulous in their usual, delightful way and made them feel extremely welcome. We enjoyed hearing about some of the conversations they had with the children with examples such as, 'are you coming to play with us this afternoon?' when the answer was 'no, I am afraid not', the child added, 'oh that's sad'. Another child told one of the inspectors that, 'if a child is naughty in school then they are taken to the Headteacher's office and they never come out again.' We did reassure the inspector that this wasn't the case! The staff weren't feeling quite as relaxed about things and are relieved that it is now over. The children have since enjoyed a slight reprieve from the usual hard work in school as a bit of a treat, but its back to the grindstone on Monday.

As explained in yesterday's letter, we will share the report with you as soon as we receive it. In the meantime, our result has to remain confidential in case there are any changes to the decision during the quality assurance process.

Sport Relief

We saw a super array of sporting heroes today along with plenty of red. Thank you to all who made a donation. We made a fantastic £141.22 to send to this charity.

After School Arrangements

Can we please ask that if you use Badgers after school care that you let Badgers, as well as school know, if there are changes to collection arrangements. Thank you.

RR Parent Lunch

A reminder that RR parents are invited to join their children for lunch on Wednesday. Please be here for 12pm prompt. Remember that these lunches must be pre booked and that we cannot just accept parents on the day.



Easter Events

Easter Assembly

On Tuesday 8th April the children will lead an Easter assembly in St James' Church starting at 2pm. It will last about 40 minutes. All children will be taking part and we invite all families to come along and join in. We walk the children to church for 1.50pm and get them settled in before we open the doors for other family members. Each class will need help walking the children to church. If you would like to help please contact your child's teacher personally. We are sorry but once we have the specified number of adults we will not be able to take any more volunteers. We thank you in advance for your support with this event.

Easter Bonnet Parade

On Wednesday 9th April the annual Easter egg hunt led by the PTA will take place. Cakes and drinks will be available in the hall from 9am. This is followed by the hunt. As we have a lot of children we are splitting the time as follows. Reception 9.15am Year 1 9.45am year 2 10.15am. Parents are welcome to come along and enjoy the hunt with their child.

At approximately 10.30am the Easter bonnet parade will begin, hopefully on the playground in the sun (or the hall if it rains). Prizes will be given to those which show a creative flair and have been created by the children themselves. There will be a toddler show of hats too so 'Get making!' Please do not bring the bonnets in until the morning, many thanks.

Key Stage 1 Assessments and Year 1 Phonics Screening

In both of the above year groups, all children are assessed, with their assessment results reported to parents and used by the government to monitor standards in schools. Year 1 children will all be assessed on their phonic knowledge by the teacher, on a one to one basis, during the week 16th - 20th June 2014.

In year 2 the assessments are quite comprehensive, requiring the teachers to draw upon their knowledge of the children throughout the year in reading, writing and maths and to carry out supporting assessment activities during the period of 6th - 22nd May. We try to make this time as anxious free for the children themselves so we will appreciate your support with this during this period.

School Improvement Projects

Over the last 4 or 5 years we have invested large sums of money on improving and updating the school environment. Internally, we have now refurbished most of the school with the exception of the library area and the year 1 and 2 toilets. With an old building, it is a very costly job keeping on top of this and with school budgets getting tighter and tighter, this proves more and more difficult. Wherever possible we attempt to tap into any extra funds we know can be available, for example, after recently applying to Lady Clark in the village she has agreed to fund us £5000 towards refurbishing our library which is fantastic news. We are also in the process of putting together a funding request to send to the Drapers to see if they could possibly support us in the refurbishment of our internal courtyard to transform it into a quiet, outdoor learning space. The County Council have also agreed to help fund our leaking roof after we spent thousands repairing the roof on the older part of the building a few years ago. Fingers crossed, they have also agreed to refurbish our year 1 and 2 toilets.

We have fantastic visions for many projects around school, including our Early Years outdoor space, new planting in some of our flower beds in addition to the other projects mentioned

above. If you are aware of any grants we can apply for to aid this then do please let us know. It is also worth bearing in mind that local companies or employers of school families also often have pots of money available for helping with these sorts of projects or have resources they can provide. Again, we would welcome any support available so please do think of us and possibly ask the question.

PTA

A reminder that the next PTA Meeting is on Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm at school. Please come along if you can as we need lots of help for the events planned this term.

There will be a **Cinema Night** on Friday 4th April beginning straight after school and finishing at approximately 5.00 pm. Further details and payment information will be in book bags at the beginning of next week.

Lunchtime Menu

Week beginning Monday 24th March will be week 2 on the school menu.

Workers of the Week

Our chosen children for Worker of the Week this week are:

2K- Oliver Slatcher-Ball for his gymnastic skills

2M - Katie Church for super creative story writing

1W - Bonnie Dolan for working hard to make a number line to subtract

1S - George Reeves for an excellent demonstration of core shapes in gymnastics

RR - Two next week

RL - Edward Reynolds for super work in phonics

Well done to all of our children for their continued hard work and particularly to the children named above.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Mrs Burton and Mrs Farmer
Co-Headteachers

