



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 881002

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

Newsletter No. 29 Friday 2nd May 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

What a busy first week back at school with so much going on already.

Thank you to everyone who came to watch our brilliant year 2 dancers on Thursday. We have a particularly large group of country dancers this year and they danced around the maypole and shared their traditional dancing with enthusiasm and fantastic coordination for youngsters. It clearly showed just how much hard work they have put in over the last two terms with the help and support of Mrs Osborne and Mrs Atkinson. Well done children.

Green Fingered Gardeners

A huge thank you to the 6 parents who gave up their time on Wednesday morning to help the children plant up tubs and borders ready for the Gardening Olympics. We really appreciated their help, as did the children, who were able to get nice and messy and enjoy the sunshine while planting.

As you know the theme for the Gardening Olympics, held on Saturday 28th June at Shobnall Playing Fields is 'Under the Sea'. We would like to invite all children to create a recycled planter or miniature garden at home to fit this theme. To fill the brief you need to find something with an under the sea link and fill it full of plants. Things like a fish tank, a boat, bits of netting, shells, crab shells could be good.....be creative. We will be taking some of the best ones to Shobnall to form part of our display. The rest are on display at school for a couple of weeks for all to see. We usually have a fantastic array of weird and wonderful creations, from very simple ones to more extravagant ones. You have the next holiday to do some planning as we ask they are brought to school on Wednesday 25th June, clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Thank you.

Reception class assemblies

Parents are invited to watch their child's class assembly as follows; -RR 19th May and RL 20th May both at 9.15am. The assemblies will last for approximately 20 - 30 minutes.

Homework

You will remember that in January we began the use of the reading diary with the intention of engaging all families to read regularly and record this in the books for teachers to see. This has made a huge difference to us in school, children are talking about their home reading with



enthusiasm and teachers and parents are communicating in writing which is proving beneficial. At this time we stopped using the home school log part of the book. This was received with a mixed response. Most year 1 and 2 parents we spoke to had no opinion about this and were happy they could talk to teachers daily if need be. However we received feedback from many reception parents who were disappointed we had taken away a means of finding out about their child's week. Reception parents enjoyed seeing what had been taught and the challenges for the coming week, particularly as Reception children are often less able to verbalise this back at home.

We have thought long and hard about it and have decided to reinstate the diaries in the Reception classes. Essentially homework in Reception will continue to be open ended research type activities which do not need to be brought back to school, alongside their reading and word / phonics work. Anything brought into school will be acknowledged but will not be marked as teachers are very busy all day teaching. We are looking forward to reception parents writing in the books and telling us how their child has got on with the activity

Year 1 will continue with their reading, spelling and phonics. Year 2 will continue to have the same but will also continue to have literacy or numeracy homework activities sent home in addition. All children also have their termly targets if parents wish to work on additional areas with their children at home. We will review this again ready for the new school year in September.

The teaching day is a long one for our children and we expect them to apply themselves fully during the time they spend here. We therefore advocate practical homework activities at home to help them to apply their learning, such as baking where the children measure out the ingredients themselves, shopping, where the child writes the list and uses coins to pay. As always please ensure you speak directly to a teacher if you are able, in the first instance, with any queries should you have them, thank you.

Mrs Evans

We are sad to inform you that due to personal circumstances Mrs Evans, who taught class 2M for 2 days a week, will not be returning to school. We wish her success in the future. Mrs Moore is now working full time in 2M.

PTA News

Disco on Friday 9th May - Everyone should have now received the letter about the school disco next Friday. Please return them as soon as possible and let us know if you are able to help out on the night!

Sponsored Activity Morning on 22nd May - To celebrate the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer, on Thursday 22nd May, children will be taking part in four fun activities; running, throwing, jumping & skipping in the school grounds to re-create their own games! Everyone will be encouraged to have a go at all the activities and medals will be given to everyone taking part. This year we would really like to raise money for the school to update the adventure playground with some new exciting climbing and balance equipment as well as a trim trail for the school field. Sponsor forms will be in book bags this week.



We are going to get the children to go out in the different classes and the timings will be as follows:

9.15 2K

9.45 2M

10.15 1W

10.45 1S

11.15 RR

11.30 RL

We will need parent helpers based at the different stations stamping cards and setting out equipment in-between classes. It would be great if you could come along and help out when your child's class is taking part. We will need at least 4 helpers for each time slot.

PTA AGM - The AGM meeting will be held on Monday 19th May. All welcome, further details of the committee positions available will be in next week's newsletter.

Reminder

We have had a request from the lunchtime supervisors, that we ask parents that all items brought into school are clearly labelled. This includes clothing, shoes, pumps and all items brought for lunchtime (lunch boxes, drink bottles and sandwich containers). With many items looking the same, the supervisors are spending a great deal of time sorting these items to the right children. We thank you once again.

Be Aware!

We have been informed by the police that from Monday 5th May, Fixed Penalty tickets will be issued if vehicles are seen blocking drives and causing obstructions in dangerous positions around school. Please take care with parking when arriving at school.

Packington Field Farm Open Day

Open Farm Sunday is to be held on 8th June 2014 at 10am - 3pm at Packington Fields Farm, Tamworth Road, Lichfield, WS14 9PN. There will be tractor and trailer rides, machinery displays, piglets and sows to look at, a hog roast, ice creams and much more!

Workers of the Week

2M - Jade Barker for a super riddle about fruit

2M - Emily Thompson for a positive attitude and hard work in maths

Well done children.

Please remember we are not here on Monday as it is a bank holiday but are back on Tuesday 6th May.

Wishing you a restful long weekend

Mrs Farmer & Mrs Burton



