



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.33 Friday 6th June 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back everyone to probably the busiest half term of the school year. There is so much happening over the next 7 weeks so please remember to check newsletters and texts as often as possible so you don't miss anything.

The whole staff spent their training day planning for your children for the Autumn Term on Monday. You may be aware that the National Curriculum changes in September and while we are able to keep many of the exciting things we already teach we are also making changes. Exciting topics have been planned and we are looking forward to sharing this with the children from September.

We also had an update from a support teacher from the Lichfield Dyslexic centre on ensuring we are a dyslexic friendly school. We are pleased to say she thought we were doing very well, catering for children with any dyslexic tendencies.

Thank you to the parents who came into school on Tuesday and Wednesday morning to do even more planting, pruning and tidying of our garden areas. We were visited by Paul Steed and his team of judges on Wednesday morning as part of the gardening Olympics competition. They were pleased to talk to some children and look at our growing vegetables and planters around school.

Thank you to children who have brought an 'Under the Sea' poem in, it is not too late to bring one in if you are still working on it.

Our healthy living week has certainly kept the children and staff busy this week. It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and involved in the activities. Here are just a few examples:

In Reception they have been learning about healthy foods which can be bought from the butcher, baker, greengrocer and fishmonger (some weird and wonderful misconceptions were addressed as to where and what different foods come from!). They have also been busy writing



instructions for making fruit kebabs and then followed their own instructions to make them ready for today's picnic.

In Year 1 they have been busy carrying out a breakfast survey, making plates with healthy, balanced meals on and had the most wonderful tasting session of healthy foods from the different food groups. They even managed to squeeze in some parachute games as well as also making their healthy snacks for the picnic.

In year 2 they looked at where food comes from with the geographical element in mind, they designed and made a placemat, made their own healthy food dictionary, talked about their food likes and dislikes and of course made their healthy snacks.

After all children visiting the tennis club in the village today for a taster session, the sun continued to shine for us to all enjoy our snacks on the field in the afternoon. It was a wonderful sight and hopefully a memory which will stay with the children for a long time to come.

2M

We are pleased to be able to tell you that after a number of years working part time, Mrs Moore has agreed to continue working full time in 2M on a permanent basis.

Reception Homework Diaries

Can we please remind parents that the Partnership Diaries have been re-introduced in Reception classes and they now include a homework challenge.

Year 3 Transition

We began the first of our transition sessions with the junior school on Thursday with a very productive meeting between the Headteachers, year 2 and 3 teachers and a literacy advisor from County. Lots of organisational matters were discussed around the teaching and learning of literacy across the two schools, to ensure that a consistent approach is taken as far as possible.

Packed Lunches

Please, if you put a pot of yoghurt in your child's lunch-box, can you make sure you provide a spoon. We are currently losing a huge amount of school spoons as these disappear into lunch-boxes and aren't returned to school. Thank you.

Open Morning at Stapenhill Greenhouse in Burton

This Saturday between 10am and 1pm. Go along and buy some lovely plants and shrubs grown by local people.

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! For more information please go to www.packingtonfreerange.co.uk or www.farmsunday.org



Breast Cancer Fundraiser

A strawberry tea party is being held on Sunday 29th June at The Immanuel Church, Hawthorn Crescent, Stapenhill, between 1-4pm to raise money for breast cancer care. There are several exciting stalls including face painting, cake stall, tombola, book stall and bric-a-brac. Please go along to support this worthy cause.

PTA

Thank you to everyone for supporting the activity morning held last half term. The sponsor forms have been returned and we have raised a magnificent £1500 so far! If you haven't returned your sponsor forms to school yet, please hurry, as the draw for the girls and boys sports prize will be drawn on Monday.

PTA AGM - this will take place on Monday 9th June at school at 7.00pm. All the committee positions will be available, Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, so please come forward if you would like to stand for any of these positions or if you are just interested in joining the committee. It would be nice to go out for a drink or meal after the meeting if anyone is interested? Please let Sam Cowgill (sam@sportsmastersinternational.com) know if you would like to come along afterwards so we can book a table.

Summer Fayre - 25th June - the Summer Fayre is fast approaching and we are looking for raffle prizes. Please could you let us know if you would be able to donate a prize to the raffle.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend
Kind regards

Mrs Farmer and Mrs Burton
Co-Headteachers

