



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.36 Friday 27th June 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 1st July - y1 visiting Shobnall in the morning for a sports' festival

Monday 7th July - y2 watching the juniors dress rehearsal for end of year show

Tuesday 8th July - 9.15 am current Reception parents invited to a meeting with year 1 teachers

Tuesday 8th July - 2.15pm keyboard concert for parents of current keyboard children and prospective parents of next year's year 2.

Tuesday 8th July - 2.45 pm current year 1 parents invited to a meeting with year 2 teachers

Wednesday 9th July - 2.30 pm music concert for parents of children in the choir / recorder club or ukulele club

Wednesday 9th July - 3.30 - 5.30 pm parent consultation evening for those parents requesting an appointment (further information enclosed with annual reports)

Friday 11th July - Reception visiting Plantasia

Monday 14th July - y2 leavers' party straight after school until 5.00pm

Wednesday 16th July - y2 leavers' assembly. Parents invited.

A huge thank you and a well done to all the children for behaving so well and enjoying themselves on their sports afternoon this week. It was a great afternoon, with all children competing in 14 events and truly getting into the team spirit! The results were very close with Robins winning and Swans a close second. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came along to cheer the children on, it means a lot to the children. We hope you all enjoyed it. Feedback from parents and children has certainly been very positive so well done to Mrs Walker for the organisation behind the event.

This was followed by a wonderful summer fayre; the weather couldn't have been more perfect and the turn out fantastic. Another huge thank you to all members of the PTA, especially those who were at school all day setting up and preparing the stalls for everyone to enjoy. During the actual fayre we had at least 40 parents and staff members who stayed to help out, so thank you to everyone who did a stint. These events cannot take place without your help so we really do appreciate it. The proceeds are still being counted so we will update you as soon



as possible.

Gardening Olympics

Thank you to everyone who has brought in a recycled planter or a miniature garden. They are all wonderful so we have decided to take all of them to Shobnall to hopefully use as many as we can in our display. We have managed to choose 2 winners from each year group and these children will receive a special prize next week. The winners are:

Jake Howells - y2 recycled planter
Joshua Harrington - y2 miniature garden
Trae Hurst - y1 miniature garden
Jessica Ashaa - y1 recycled planter
Isla brittle - R recycled planter
Grace Garrett - R miniature garden

Please come along to Shobnall tomorrow to see all of our hard work if you can. Mrs Smith and Miss Rowley have spent weeks working with the children on the beds and borders and in the greenhouse and then this week they have been creatively pulling everything together for the display. So come along to the Shobnall playing fields in Burton to enjoy the 'under the sea' themed activities; donkey rides, sand pits, magicians and ice cream. You will be able to see our school display from 12 onwards, with prizes being awarded at 1pm. The event finishes at 4pm.

Keyboard concert

A short concert led by our keyboard players will take place in school on Tuesday 8th July at 2.15pm. All parents of the players are very welcome as are any year 1 parents who are interested in their child taking up the keyboard in year 2. There will be chance to meet Mr Atterbury who takes the lessons and talk about costs, etc.

Choir, Recorders and Ukulele concert

On Wednesday 9th July at 2.30pm the 3 groups will be playing and singing for us and we invite parents of the performing children to join us. We are really looking forward to it!

Annual Reports

Please note that your child's annual report will be sent home with your child next Friday so please look out for them in book bags.

Work with the Junior school

We have recently been working closely with Thomas Russell Junior staff to develop further our transition for our year 2 pupils. As you know, year 2 children met their new teachers this week and are looking forward to spending the day at the juniors next week. We have agreed that in order for the children to continue all their good work as soon as they start the juniors, we are sending all their work books from year 2. This means you will have very little work sent home at the end of this term, instead it will be waiting for your child as they start year 3. In reality this will enable the children to look back and be reminded of what they can do and with



maths problems how they went about solving them. The year 3 teachers will be able to refer back with the children to support new learning and we believe this will ensure as little slippage as possible.

We have also had our judgements moderated alongside year 3 teachers by local authority leaders. Two days were spent looking at year 2 children's books and assessments and we are pleased to say that the literacy and numeracy experts who work across many schools in Staffordshire agreed on our levelling judgements.

End of term arrangements

Please can we ask that all library books and reading books are returned to school no later than Friday 11th July. They will all be collected in on this date and books will not be sent out during the last week of term. This is to ensure time is given in school for counting and cataloguing them all ready for the new year. Please have a look at home for any books which belong to school as unfortunately we still have over 100 books missing and this amounts to a lot of money!

Dinner Money

Can we remind parents to pay their outstanding dinner money as soon as possible please. There are quite a few debts and all balances must be paid by Friday 4th July. We will be speaking to people in person if payments aren't received by this date. Please note, due to all children receiving free school meals next year, Parent Pay will not be used in school from September. Thank you for your co- operation.

Workers of the Week

2K - Autumn Bowater for an outstanding year

1W - Carla Towlson for writing a great recount about our trip to Snibston

RL - Oliver Mitchell for good 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story writing

RR - Finley Oakes for super doubling and halving

Grace Garratt for fabulous 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story writing

Well done to all our children!

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Mrs Farmer & Mrs Burton

