



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

*'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'*

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## Newsletter No.1

5th September 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians

**Welcome back to the new school year.**

Welcome back to everyone but particularly to all our reception children who are settling really well into school, and to Hannah who has joined class 2M. While we welcome many new children to our school we also say goodbye to Joshua from class 2K who left us this week.

It has been a pleasure to watch all our children come back happily to school and settle into their new classrooms with ease. They all look so grown up in their new year groups and have all been a credit to their previous teachers.

We are delighted also to welcome Mrs Asghar to our school, who is studying to be a primary teacher on the 'Schools Direct' route, meaning she will spend the vast majority of the year in our school. She will be working alongside Mrs Moore in 2M and I am sure you will make her feel welcome.

Mrs Towlson will be with us for a little while longer, working as the teaching assistant in Mrs Smith's class, while Mrs Byer's recovers from a recent knee operation. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We are excited for the year ahead and wish everyone a happy and successful school year.

### School Motto and Vision

The staff and Governors recently reviewed our school motto and vision, ensuring that we continue to emulate these through our practise. Our school motto remains the same and is at the heart of everything we plan and do in school:

*'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'*

Our vision has changed slightly and is now focused more on our school rather than the wider community:

*'To inspire children to love learning, believe in themselves and feel a sense of belonging in our school community'*

These or elements of these will be a regular focus in assemblies and circle time themes in class.

### Summer holiday building work

Due to all infant aged children having an entitlement to a free school lunch every day, the local authority needed to make some changes to our kitchen. We are pleased to say these were in



the main completed over the holidays and Mrs Cullen and her team have enjoyed working in their new surroundings. There were some unplanned changes to the menu the first couple of days back at school due to the new oven not being installed, but hopefully any teething problems have now all been ironed out.

We have also refurbished the library area with new ceiling, flooring, decoration, storage and a cosy reading area which the children are looking forward to using. This has been thanks, in part, to a very kind donation by the Clarke Charitable Trust. Finally our year 1 and 2 boy's and girl's toilets have been completely transformed; urinals have been swapped for cubicles complete with full decoration and new sanitary ware, making them the best toilets in Barton!!

### Holiday Homework

Thank you to all current year 1 and 2 children who have completed their holiday diary and brought it into school to share with the class; we have enjoyed looking at them all. Well done for keeping up with your learning in the holidays; it really will help you all settle back to work quickly.

### Reading Records and Home School Logs

Very soon your child will be bringing home their first reading book of the year. In Reception this will be accompanied by a home school learning log. This is a double book with the home school learning part one side and a reading record the other. Year 1 and 2 children will just receive a reading record book. Both will have an explanation inside of how we anticipate their use.

### Parking Meeting for Parents

If you drive to drop your children off or pick them up from school then please consider attending a meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.00am - 9.15 am. The meeting will be chaired by PCSO Steve Smith and will outline the difficulties we have with parking and traffic in general around school and the village. This is part of a new initiative which the team are trialling in Barton and if successful will role out to other villages and communities. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

A polite reminder that parking opposite school, in the boxed area in front of the school gates and on the bend adjacent to school on Station Road is not permitted at dropping off and home time. The build up of traffic can cause unnecessary dangers to those travelling to school on foot. We thank you in advance for your courtesy to others.

### Medicines in school

New authority guidance states schools can only give antibiotics in school if they are prescribed 4 times a day, this making it impossible not to be taken in the school day. If they are prescribed 3 times a day it is assumed these will all be at home. If your child does need antibiotics during the school day please bring it in the original named bottle. The ladies in the office will ask you to complete and sign a form which gives both Headteachers permission to administer the antibiotics. We record this in school and give you a small slip to say it has been given.



If your child has an asthma inhaler please also see the office staff, where a form will need completing before we can have the medication on site. Many thanks

### PTA

The first meeting of the year will be held in school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. Please come along even if you have not been to a meeting before, everyone is welcome.

Please find below dates for the coming school year; we do try and adhere to dates but there may be occasions when a date has to change. We endeavour to give as much notice as possible if a date does need changing.

Reception parents please note that the dates list will be emailed through as will future newsletters. If you wish to receive a paper copy these will be available from the school office for collection from Friday afternoons onwards.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend

Kind regards

Mrs Farmer & Mrs. Burton

