



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

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Newsletter No.2 12th September 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians

Some wonderful work has taken place across school over the last 2 weeks with the children in years 1 and 2 enjoying work themed around a particular book. In year 1 this was 'The Magic Bed' by John Burningham and in year 2 it was 'The Egg' by M.P.Robertson. It has been a lovely way to start the year with the children enthused and inspired by the books and the related activities. Year 1 children even came to school in their pyjamas today and found time for a drink and a crumpet while they had a rest from their story writing and model making.

Parking meeting Monday 15 September at 9.00am - IMPORTANT

As you know, parking near school is an on-going and problematic issue. We have always asked parents and carers to park responsibly and well away from our gates. This is for obvious safety reasons and to be 'good neighbours' to nearby houses. Unfortunately, a small number of drivers persist in parking illegally or inconsiderately.

The local PCSO, Steve Smith, along with the Local Authority and parking enforcement officers, have been monitoring the situation for some time and important changes are being proposed to assist them in ensuring safe parking, including new yellow lines and more rigorous enforcement of parking rules. These changes will be discussed at the meeting, along with a clarification of existing rules. We urge anyone who drives to school to attend this meeting.

Our greatest concern is that all our children can get safely into and out of school, whether they walk or arrive by car. Rule 243 of the Highway Code states:

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- on a bend

Thank you for your co-operation.

P.T.O



Pupil Premium Funding- is your child missing out?

Now that all infant-aged children receive free school meals automatically, many parents may be unaware that their child may still be eligible for extra funding - the 'Pupil Premium' - that will benefit both their child and the school. This funding, which currently stands at £1,300 a year per pupil, is available to children whose parents receive certain State benefits, such as Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Child Tax Credit. It is spent directly on the eligible child, either on resources or teaching time. The application process is very quick, easy and discreet - just go online to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and complete the form.

If you don't have access to the internet, please ask at the school office for a paper copy. You should have an answer very quickly.

The extra funding allows school to provide resources and allocate teaching time that otherwise we couldn't afford. Please, even if you're not sure you're eligible, take a couple of minutes to fill in and submit the form - a successful application will directly benefit your child individually.

Thank you!

Well done to our Reception Children!

Well done to all the children in reception who have now completed their first full day in school. They enjoyed their first school meal or sandwich experience altogether, played beautifully and behaved wonderfully; they should be very proud of themselves.

Curriculum Meeting for all Year 1 and year 2 parents

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

— [Benjamin Franklin](#)

On Wednesday 17th September between 2.15 and 3pm a session will be held in the school hall to support you when helping your child at home. Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Moore and Mrs Farmer will run three workshop style sessions on reading and writing, maths and handwriting. We will be explaining the best types of activities to do at home in order for your child to practice the skills taught at school. There will be opportunity to ask specific questions about your child and for you to practice some of the activities and games we are suggesting. Please come along and become involved.

End of day procedures

A polite reminder that school finishes at 3.15pm. This is when all classes will be dismissed, please can all parents and guardians ensure they are at school for 3.15 to collect children as being late can cause great distress to the child. Thank you. Can we also ask again that younger brothers and sisters are not permitted to run down the very steep bank onto the field. The school children and staff know they are not to use the bank and must always use the steps provided because of the steepness and potentially wet, slippery grass which can cause injuries. We are not being mean when we ask your child to come off this area, purely looking out for



their safety and keeping the rules consistent in school time and for home time. We must also insist all children are not allowed to stand on the playground benches, flower seats and caterpillar. They are very welcome to sit on them but please lead by example and show respect to the equipment on the playground. Thank you.

Just Read Campaign - Take 10 minutes

You may have seen information on television about Good Morning Britain's Just Read Campaign. This campaign wants to encourage you to remember the importance of literacy to achieve the best for your child's future.

One in four children at age 11 is leaving primary school not able to read well. It has been predicted that if we don't act now, there will be a reading crisis by 2025, and a generation will be left behind.

Research has revealed that more than two thirds of children would actually like to read more, and of those, almost three quarters would like to spend more time reading with their mum or dad. The aim of the campaign is to inspire you to read for at least ten minutes a day with your children.

If you would like ideas, tips and resources to support your child's literacy, we recommend that you visit the National Literacy Trust's Words for Life campaign at www.wordsforlife.org.uk

PTA

We're starting as we mean to go on this year, so our first PTA meeting will be a friendly, informal catch-up with wine and cake aplenty.

Come along to school on Monday 15th at 7.30pm, to meet new and existing members and find out more about what we do. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow parents, especially if you're new to school. We all remember how daunting the first few weeks can be (as much for the parents as the children!), but come along, say hello and you'll find we're an approachable, easy-going bunch. Bring a friend if that makes it easier.

The more people who get involved, the more events we can run, and the more money we can raise for school - and that means your child benefits!

We're planning events for parents and children alike this year and hoping to make it the most sociable (and profitable) yet!

Mums, Dads, Grandparents...everyone's welcome.

*****Important*****

Please could all those who wish to receive updates on PTA news, events and meetings please email: thomasrussellpta@gmail.com. (Please note this also applies to any parents who were subscribed to previous years' lists.)

P.T.O



Workers of the Week

We have had many children visit us this week with good work or good news. For all of our new parents, when children are sent to the Headteachers for 'Good work' their name is entered into the Golden Book, they receive a Headteacher sticker and a star on their class record which is held in our office. Each Friday we hold an achievement assembly where all of the children who are in the Golden Book stand up to be congratulated. After 5 stars they receive a certificate in assembly. Children are also welcome to bring along certificates, trophies or other achievements from home to share with the rest of school. In addition to this each teacher awards a 'Worker of the Week' whose names go on the weekly newsletter. The following Friday, their parents are invited to the Assembly to share their success. The invitation will be sent via bookbags so do make sure that they are checked on a regular basis. Reception parents please note that this will only start for Reception children once they are ready to join the rest of the school in Friday's assembly.

This week's workers of the week are:

2M - Jessica Ashaa for super, confident reading

2K - first one next week

1W - Riley Ryder for being such an enthusiastic learner

1S - Ethan Jones for helping his friends when making a paper aeroplane

Well done to all our children for their hard work this week.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Kind regards

Mrs. Farmer & Mrs. Burton

