



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 22 - 27th February 2015



## Dates for your Diary

- 5th March - World Book Day
- 12th March - 2K Class Lunch
- 12th March - Year 1 Mothers Day Assembly
- 13th March - Red Nose Day
- 17th March - Class Photo's
- 19th March - Parent Consultations
- 24th March - Parent Consultations
- 26th March - 2M Parent Lunch
- 30th March - Easter Service in church, parents invited
- 31st March - Easter Bonnet Parade

## Building developments

We are delighted to announce that over the half term holiday the area known as the 'quad' between the heads office and Reception classrooms has had a makeover. Thanks to the generosity of The Drapers' Company, we have been able to lay a new child-friendly floor surface and erect a canopy, which means it can be used by classes all year round as an extra teaching space. We will be completing the area with raised planters, a story-telling chair and benches and - at the request of the children - a water feature and music! If you are in school, please come along and have a look.

## Year 1 Mothers' Day Assembly

We are inviting all year 1 Mums and Grandmas (Dads and Grandads welcome too) at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th March. Can we please stress that we only have room for 2 adults per child. Please do not attempt to bring extra adults and respect our request as it makes it very unfair on other families.

## World Book Day

We are looking forward to seeing all your wonderful outfits of your favourite book characters on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
5 MARCH 2015

## WORKERS OF THE WEEK

- 2K - Joseph Leason for fantastic creative writing
- 2M - Isabella Reynolds for super work on halves and quarters in maths
- 1W - Lucas Joubert for putting lots of effort into his reading
- 1S - Evie Woods for working hard all week
- RR - Oliver Keasley for using his newly learnt phonic digraph in his writing
- RL - Pawel Pisarski for a good try with his writing

Well done to you all!

### Pancake Fun!

Shrove Tuesday being in half-term and a slightly wet start to this Tuesday, did not stop us enjoying our annual pancake race. Year 2 children ran, flipped and smiled their way to the finish line! Well done to all race winners. We were all so impressed with the sportsman-like way the children conducted themselves that they will all be receiving a small prize. We were also very pleased that 22 children from Little Stars preschool were able to join us and race themselves; they were super, as were the parents who didn't take too much persuading to join in the race! Thank you to everyone for taking part and cheering on the racers.

**Please can we remind parents NOT to post photos taken of the event on social networking sites to protect the privacy of those not wanting photos shared in this way. Thank you for your understanding.**



## **COMIC RELIEF** Friday 13th March - Silly Faces!

Our school councillors have been busy planning for Comic Relief, making decisions to share with the whole school. The year 2 councillors have also written the details below to share with you:

Please come with wacky hair and wear face paint or silly makeup. You could also come with lots of clips or bobbles in your hair or use gel to make funny styles. (Hannah Moore 2K)

You can wear red or your favourite character costume all for a small donation. (George Morris 2M)

Please donate some cakes (shop bought or homemade) so we can sell them for 50p to the children at playtime. (Sam Young 2K)

Any cakes left over from the cake sale at playtime will be on sale to parents at the end of the school day. Cakes will cost 50p each and we ask for donations of your choice for dressing up.

Many thanks in anticipation and to the school councillors for their input.

Red Noses are available from Sainsbury's and Oxfam and T shirts from TK Maxx.

### Our work with National Forest Teaching School (NFTS)

Did you know we are part of the National Forest Teaching School? Based at John Taylor High School, the alliance strives to share outstanding practice with other schools and offers a wealth of training in all areas of education. Part of their offer is the opportunity to train as a teacher. If you have a degree and are interested in teaching as a career, please have a look at their website for further information. Recruitment for next year is currently underway. [www.nationalforestteachingschool](http://www.nationalforestteachingschool).

As part of NFTS we were asked to apply to the Department of Education for a bid for Early Years. The bid is to support children before they join school and involves working closely with feeder nurseries. The bid we put together was in partnership with All Saints Alrewas, All Saints Rangemore, Needwood Primary and Shobnall Primary. We have recently found out we have been successful, which is fantastic news, and the actions planned will begin in earnest in the summer term. We will keep you up to date with developments.

### Speech and Language Expertise

We already have three members of staff who have recently undergone some highly regarded training in supporting children with speech and language training through a company called ELKLAN. We are pleased that two additional members of staff will be completing the same training in the next few weeks.

### Class Photos

These will take place on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** and will be available to buy shortly afterwards.



### FA Coaching

FA coaching with Brent for classes 2M and 1W is cancelled on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March due to Brent's other commitments. However, he will lead a session on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March for classes 2M and 2K. Can both classes please ensure they have outdoor kit in school on that day, including a warm jumper/sweatshirt. Thank you.



### BBC 10 Pieces

We told you a while ago about the BBC's '10 Pieces' project, aimed at getting children interested in classical music. We watched the short film produced to accompany this project at The Red Carpet Cinema and were inspired to get creative! All classes chose their favourite piece of music and responded; some danced, some made parachute shapes, some drew and painted and all had fun doing so. A display of the children's work can be found in the school hall and on the website very shortly.

Please note holiday dates for school year 2015/2016 are in book bags tonight.

*Wishing you a lovely weekend  
Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*