



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 23 - 6th March 2015



Dates for your Diary

- 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

World Book Day

We all enjoyed World Book day on Thursday and enjoyed lots of great stories. Thank you to all the children (and staff) for dressing up in such fantastic costumes; we had a great collection of characters which made for a fun day! Please remember the aim of World Book Day is to celebrate books of all types, so we urge everyone to enjoy a good book this weekend! We have posted lots of lovely photo's on the home page of our website, so please enjoy a few minutes to browse through them.

Design an Easter Egg Competition

We need your Easter egg designs! Over the Easter weekend there will be a PTA Easter Egg hunt. There is a template in book bags today and we'd love your child to design an Easter egg. All entries need to be put in the PTA letter box by **Monday 16th March**. The winning entries will be pulled out of a hat and displayed around the village. Thank you from



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.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

- 2K - **Holly Hearn** for making tremendous progress with her writing
- 2K - **Mica Chambers** for writing a 'magical' poem
- 2M - **Euan Hallows** for showing such enthusiasm during our Iron Giant work
- 1W - **Ruqaiyah Hussain** for trying hard with her handwriting
- 1S - **Ellie Norris** for an excellent wanted poster for The Big Bad Wolf.
- RR - **Alice Rice** for super number ordering
- RL - **Jessica Garrett** for super half term news writing

Well done to you all!

Parent/teacher consultations

Appointments are in book bags tonight. At last term's meetings governors were present and asked you how you felt about the information teachers shared with you about your child's progress. The results of these questionnaires have been evaluated and the overall feeling was very positive. Parents were pleased with the longer appointments and the opportunity to discuss in more detail their child's progress and areas for development.

Likewise, feedback was also very positive about the format of annual reports to parents last year, with a greater emphasis on the core subjects of literacy, maths, science and ICT.

Governors will once again be present at the forthcoming consultations, so we ask that you take the opportunity to chat with them as we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Class Photos

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



IMPORTANT

Attendance

Please see separate letter in books bags tonight with changes to the attendance policy and the penalties which will now apply.

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. You are welcome to include all of or just some of the suggestions above for your outfit.

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

Allergen information

By law we now need to share allergen information of all foods served at lunch time to the children. While we realise some of our children are perhaps too young to read and understand the information we are still required to display it.

We have also attached it to the final page of the newsletter for parents to view. If your child has any allergies the school are unaware of please advise us as soon as possible. Thank you.

PTA

Our PTA Annual General Meeting is just around the corner (Monday 18th May). As always the PTA committee and it's helpers have worked tirelessly throughout the year to raise additional funds for school. With school budgets squeezed tighter and tighter, we really do appreciate these extra funds. In the last month alone we have received generous donations towards the cost of the trim trail and the new sound system, projector and screen in the hall. These are fabulous additions to our school which we hope all children will benefit from during their time here. The next project on the list is the furnishing of our internal Quad area where we have just had our canopy and new flooring installed. These are all projects which our day to day budget will just not stretch to.

With a number of committee members due to step down at the AGM, we are asking for volunteers to come forward. This does not mean that you have to step straight into a lead role on the committee (though we are sure you would be welcomed with open arms if that was your wish) but a little support is better than none. There are lots of stand alone jobs such as the Christmas cards, the school calendars, Bags to Schools, selling raffle tickets, etc, etc which require a little bit of somebody's time. What ever you can give would be of great benefit.

If you are interested in putting your name forward then come along to the next meeting on Monday 16th March at 7.30pm in school or to the AGM or speak to a current member of the PTA.

Cleaner Required from Approximately 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

Due to the retirement of Mrs Nash, who has cleaned for our school for the last 14 years, we now have a vacancy to join Mrs Reeves.

From £6.50 per hour (pro-rata for 43 weeks and a permanent contract offered to the successful candidate)

Join the friendly, award-winning cleaning team at Entrust and you will be providing a valuable service, cleaning at Thomas Russell Infants School. As a Cleaner you will be responsible for supporting Entrust's service delivery, ensuring that the building is left to the required standard in a safe, effective and efficient manner dealt with in accordance with work schedules and the training provided.

To express an interest in this position please call our 24 hour answerphone on 0800 083 5131 (mobile charges may apply) or call Andrew Meikle on 07773 792216.

Please note: On leaving a message, you will be contacted directly by Cleaning Services for an informal discussion - Please ensure that you leave your name, contact number and the name of the school and village.

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

14 Allergens

Coming to a food label near you



The way allergens are labelled on prepacked foods is changing because of new regulations. The Food Information Regulation, which comes into force in December 2014, introduces a requirement that food businesses must provide information about the allergenic ingredients used in any food they sell or provide.

There are 14 major allergens which need to be mentioned (either on a label or through provided information such as menus) when they are used as ingredients in a food. Here are the allergens, and some examples of where they can be found:

1 Celery
This includes celery stalks, leaves, seeds and the root called celeriac. You can find celery in celery salt, salads, some meat products, soups and stock cubes.



2 Cereals containing gluten
Wheat (such as spelt and Khosrau wheat/Kamut), rye, barley and oats is often found in foods containing flour, such as some types of baking powder, batter, breadcrumbs, bread, cakes, couscous, meat products, pasta, pastry, sauces, soups and fried foods which are dusted with flour.



3 Crustaceans
Crabs, lobster, prawns and scampi are crustaceans. Shrimp paste, often used in Thai and south-east Asian curries or salads, is an ingredient to look out for.



4 Eggs
Eggs are often found in cakes, some meat products, mayonnaise, mousses, pasta, quiche, sauces and pastries or foods brushed or glazed with egg.



5 Fish
You will find this in some fish sauces, pizzas, relishes, salad dressings, stock cubes and Worcestershire sauce.



6 Lupin
Yes, lupin is a flower, but it's also found in flour! Lupin flour and seeds can be used in some types of bread, pastries and even in pasta.



7 Milk
Milk is a common ingredient in butter, cheese, cream, milk powders and yoghurt. It can also be found in foods brushed or glazed with milk, and in powdered soups and sauces.



8 Molluscs
These include mussels, land snails, squid and whelks, but can also be commonly found in oyster sauce or as an ingredient in fish stews.



9 Mustard
Liquid mustard, mustard powder and mustard seeds fall into this category. This ingredient can also be found in breads, curries, marinades, meat products, salad dressings, sauces and soups.



10 Nuts
Not to be mistaken with peanuts (which are actually a legume and grow underground), this ingredient refers to nuts which grow on trees, like cashew nuts, almonds and hazelnuts. You can find nuts in breads, biscuits, crackers, desserts, nut powders (often used in Asian curries), stir-fried dishes, ice cream, marzipan (almond paste), nut oils and sauces.



11 Peanuts
Peanuts are actually a legume and grow underground, which is why it's sometimes called a groundnut. Peanuts are often used as an ingredient in biscuits, cakes, curries, desserts, sauces (such as satay sauce), as well as in groundnut oil and peanut flour.



12 Sesame seeds
These seeds can often be found in bread (sprinkled on hamburger buns for example), breadsticks, houmous, sesame oil and tahini. They are sometimes toasted and used in salads.



13 Soya
Often found in bean curd, edamame beans, miso paste, textured soya protein, soya flour or tofu, soya is a staple ingredient in oriental food. It can also be found in desserts, ice cream, meat products, sauces and vegetarian products.



14 Sulphur dioxide (sometimes known as sulphites)
This is an ingredient often used in dried fruit such as raisins, dried apricots and prunes. You might also find it in meat products, soft drinks, vegetables as well as in wine and beer. If you have asthma, you have a higher risk of developing a reaction to sulphur dioxide.



For more information, visit: food.gov.uk/allergy or nhs.uk/conditions/allergies

Sign up to our allergy alerts on food.gov.uk/email, or follow @AllergyAlert on Twitter and Facebook

Let's keep connected at food.gov.uk/facebook

Join our conversation @food.gov.uk/twitter

Watch us on food.gov.uk/youtube