



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

*'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'*

Newsletter No. 9 - 13th November 2015



## Remembrance Day

We were very proud to take part in the village Remembrance service on Wednesday alongside Thomas Russell Juniors and John Taylor High. Our school representatives; Dylan Campbell, Holly Budge, Bill Sherratt and Grace Craine did a fantastic job, proudly laying the wreath and taking part in 2 minutes silence. Well done children.

## Homework

Thank you to all of the parents who provided feedback about our new homework procedures, at the recent parent consultations. Feedback on the whole was extremely positive with many of you commenting how much the children and parents like the year 1 and 2 homework books. We are really pleased to hear this. There were also a few constructive comments which we hope to address in the near future. If you would like to read all of the comments then the document can soon be found on the school website.

## Dates for your Diary

**November 27th** - School closed for staff training

**December 4th** - Whole school to Panto at Lichfield Garrick

**December 8th** - 2.00pm Reception Nativity play

**December 11th** - Christmas lunch and party

**December 16th** - 2.00pm - 2M and 1K Christmas play

**December 17th** - 2.00pm - 2W and 1S Christmas play

**December 18th** - Last day of school

**January 4th** - School opens for new term

## WORKERS OF THE WEEK

**2W** - Isla Brittle for fabulous understanding of line symmetry

**1K** - Ziggy Scrannage for great teamwork in his football

**1S** - Anna Thorp for trying her best in everything she does

**RR** - Arthur Mitchell for learning all about Guy Fawkes and fabulous Union Jack colouring

**RL** - Two next week

Well done everyone!



Thank you to everyone who supported today's charity event by dressing up, buying cakes and donating to this great cause. There were some fantastic outfits and an amazing £185.00 has been raised, and still counting! Well done everyone and thank you.



### Spotlight on ..... The Governing Body

We feel it is important parents understand the role the Governing Body plays in the strategic development of the school and today's spotlight falls on them.

The school have an annual monitoring plan, which means the Co-Heads and senior members of staff alongside Governors look at various aspects of school life. Monitoring is in the main linked to the school improvement plan and so areas such as maths and British values have already been scrutinised by Governors this term. These areas were assessed by Governors working with subject leaders to visit classrooms, look at children's work and meet with external trainers to ensure we are doing everything we planned to do at the start of September.

There is also an emphasis on the health and safety of our children and this week one of our Governors scrutinised the accident book we keep in school assessing if there are any trends and carried out a building inspection. We are pleased to say there have been very few bumps and falls this term with no trends emerging. An action plan has been devised from the buildings inspection with actions being followed up as soon as possible.

In the next few weeks Governors will be talking with the headteachers about safeguarding and special education needs and will report their findings back to the Full Governing Body in December. If you would like to know more about the work of the Governing Body please ask.

## School Lunches

Mrs Cullen and her team in the kitchen do a fantastic job, daily providing meals for nearly one hundred and eighty children. Each day, they offer a choice of hot meal, vegetarian alternative, sandwiches or jacket potatoes, along with a pudding, fruit or yoghurt from a menu which is dictated by Entrust, who provide our catering service. As mentioned in a recent newsletter, Mrs Cullen keeps a note of what is popular and what isn't and, where permitted by Entrust, alters options to better fit in with what the children like best.

We appreciate that not every child is going to like the main course option every single day, but there is always an alternative to ensure they get a lunch. Whilst we welcome parents' comments about lunches, we do ask you to recognise and appreciate the many practical restrictions under which the kitchen works and the hard work and care that all the kitchen staff put into ensuring that, as far as possible, all children get a meal that they like.

We believe that the vast majority of children are very happy with their school lunches, and are provided with a reasonable choice of options under the Free School Meal initiative. However, please remember that you do have the option of providing a packed lunch if you prefer..

We will be listening to children and surveying their views on school dinners next week and look forward to sharing their comments with you and our catering company.

## PTA News

### Christmas Fayre

We have lots of jobs that we desperately need help with for the Christmas fayre, if you are able to help please contact us via the Facebook page (thomasrussellinfantspta) or via email to [thomasrussellpta@gmail.com](mailto:thomasrussellpta@gmail.com).

Please can we ask for donations of any raffle prizes you are able to offer & also any donations to make up some lovely Christmas hampers such as yummy biscuits, posh coffee, mince pies etc. Thank you.

Look out for the PTA newsletter next week with lots of information for the upcoming events & how you can help.

*Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.*

*Regards*

*Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*