

# Thomas Russell Infants' School

*'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'*

Newsletter No. 15 - 8th January 2016

**Happy New Year to you all - we hope your Christmas was filled with festive cheer and that 2016 is healthy and happy for everyone.**

As we start the New Year, it is always a good time to remind ourselves what we aim to achieve within our school. It is with pride we have seen the children return to school this week, full of intrigue and wonder about their new topics and the learning that lies ahead. They have come back ready to learn, full of questions and showing us their wonderful manners around school. All the staff have worked hard to produce some fascinating areas of learning for the Spring term, which we know the children are going to enjoy. Please see book bags tonight for the topic webs.

## Dates for your Diary

Family workshops starting 9.15am:

- RR Monday 18th January
- RL Tuesday 19th January
- 2M Monday 25th January
- 2W Tuesday 26th January
- 1S Wednesday 27th January
- 1K Thursday 28th January

### **Attendance at school**

The Autumn term saw the highest attendance percentages ever seen for this particular term, which is often full of colds and bugs. The whole school attendance was 98.30%, which is excellent. 2M were the best attenders with a staggering 99.2%, RR - 98.6%, RL 98.4%, 2W 98.2%, 1S 97.8% and 1K with 97.7%

Well done children, the more you are at school the more you learn!

While being complimented on our very high attendance rate by the Education Welfare Worker who inspected our registers this week, we have been advised to make some changes and amendments to our Attendance Policy, to ensure all parents and carers are clear about what is expected by school and the local authority. This will be done by the beginning of next week, when a letter will go out in book bags explaining the changes and the amended Attendance policy will also be on the website.

### **After school clubs**

Drama club and country dancing will be operating as usual next week on Monday and Tuesday respectively.



### **Fundraising**

Start that post-Christmas clear-out by putting aside old/unwanted clothes for our collection in a couple of weeks' time! The collection from school will be on 26th January and bags will go out the week before.

### Parking

Can we please ask that parents avoid parking opposite the school gates. A number of parents have raised their concerns about the safety of children crossing the road with so many parked cars and reversing cars. Please consider the safety of all of our children. We have given a couple of families permission to park on the school drive for specific reasons but this is purely for their use and that of the minibus. Many thanks.

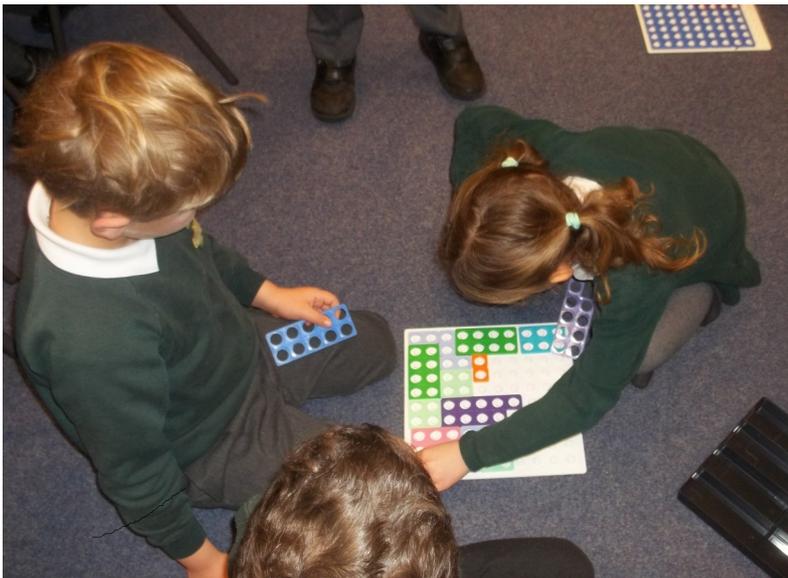
### WORKERS OF THE WEEK

**1K—Alfie Groves** for super effort in all his work  
Well done!

### La Jolie Ronde French classes

Would you like your child to learn to speak French confidently, through participating in lots of fun activities in a small group and following a structured course? Classes are due to run on Thursday lunchtimes in school. If you would like more information, please return the reply slip at the bottom of the letter in your child's book bag (Reception's will go out Monday) by Friday 15th January or contact Sharon Kingston (e-mail: [sharonkingston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sharonkingston@hotmail.co.uk), phone/text: 07780 635926 or visit [www.lajolieronde.co.uk](http://www.lajolieronde.co.uk)).

Subject to numbers, sessions will start on Thursday 21st January.



### Numicon Resources

The children have started to use the school's new maths resource Numicon, which is a method of teaching maths that uses physical resources to give children a picture of number ideas.

Staff are also very enthusiastic about the package and it is going down very well with the children as well. We plan to use it during the family workshops over the next couple of weeks, so parents can also see it in action.

Many thanks to the PTA which made a very generous contribution to the cost of this equipment.

### A hello and a goodbye

We gave a warm welcome to Mrs Capper this week, who has started as a one-to-one TA in 2W and will be with us until the end of the summer term. She is replacing Miss Cottrill, who will be going on maternity leave at the end of next week.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

*Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*