



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 16 - 15th January 2016



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

Friday 5th February—NSPCC numbers day

Friday 12th February— Around The World day, details to follow!

Reception trip to the Sea Life centre

Our Reception children enjoyed a wonderful visit last week to Birmingham's Sealife Centre, where all sorts of sea creatures were seen. The best treat was watching a baby shark getting used to its surroundings— it had been born that morning and was a tiny mirror-image of its mummy. Apparently, this was the first born in captivity in Britain for several years! Thank you to all the parents who came along to help and to the children for behaving so well all day long.

Do you like a Bedtime Story?

Here at Thomas Russell Infants we all love books and there is nothing more relaxing at the end of a long day than to curl up with a good book and lose yourself in the story. After some really successful and popular sessions a couple of years ago, we are going to hold some more bedtime story sessions in school in February and March. Although we don't want you to fall to sleep in school, we thought it would be lovely for the children and parents to come into school dressed in their pyjamas and dressing gowns, bring a favourite teddy and enjoy some lovely books. So, arrive at 6.30pm and in the hall will be lots of comfy cushions, bean-bags and lots of great books to read together. Children must be accompanied by an adult - parent, grand-parent, aunt, uncle or any special adult they would like to invite. After some time browsing, reading and sharing we will have hot chocolate and a small snack before all settling down to enjoy a big book altogether. The session will finish at 7.30pm. Dates are as follows:

Reception - Friday 26th February; Year 1- Friday 4th March; Year 2- Friday 11th March. Letters will be sent home nearer the time.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

2W—Chloe Pick—for writing fantastic speech and thought bubbles

2M—William Yates—for excellent creative writing

2M—Max Champion—for working hard on his handwriting

1S—Sebastian Hall—for super maths

1K- Charlotte Carvell—for fabulous effort in everything she does

RL—Dylan Norris—for amazing phonics work

RR—Hannah Greensmith—for working really hard in all areas

Are you a qualified teacher? Would you like to return to teaching?

As Thomas Russell Infants is a strategic partner of National Forest Teaching School, we are part of a pilot project to assist qualified teachers to return to the profession.

Maybe you've had a break for family reasons, or sought a career change and now miss the classroom environment?

We can help! We have secured funding to enable us to refresh you in your subject knowledge, offer you classroom experience to rebuild your confidence and support you with job applications and interviews.

There is funding available in the following subjects:

English; Maths; Science; MFL; History and Geography.

If you're interested, please contact Leah Axten by emailing nfts@jths.co.uk

Staff news

Miss Cottrill

We wish Miss Cottrill good luck as she leaves today to await her baby's birth - we are sure we will be reporting the happy news to you all shortly!

Mrs Osborne

We are sad to announce that Teaching Assistant Mrs Osborne will not be continuing in her role at school due to ill-health. Mrs Osborne, who worked at our school for more than 10 years, was a very valuable member of staff. She was well-loved by staff, parents and children alike and will be sadly missed. We are sure you will join us in wishing her a speedy and full recovery.

Co-Headteachers

For those of you who were observant this week, you will have noticed a change of Headteacher on the gate on Wednesday. Just to confuse everybody as to which day of the week it is, we will now be alternating our work days every Wednesday, so will alternate working three days one week and two the next week.

Bag2School Collection 26 January

We have been asked to let you know what can and can't be included in your bags:

"We accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE:

Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing; paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around them); handbags; hats; bags; scarves and ties; jewellery; lingerie; belts; soft toys.

We do not accept:

Duvets, bedding, blankets and household linen; pillows and cushions; carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats); curtains; towels; soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing; school uniforms; corporate clothing and workwear; textile off-cuts, yarns or threaded material."

Bags will go out in book-bags next week.

A plea for pants!

As you can imagine, we have to deal with quite a number of little 'accidents' in school, meaning that clean, dry underwear needs to be available to change into. Our stock of pants, knickers, tights and socks has dwindled to nearly nothing over recent months, so if you can donate any of these items of clothing to school, that would greatly help us deal with these situations! Donations can be given to class teachers or dropped into the office. Thank you!

'Best of British' Lunch

Thursday 21 January

Mrs Cullen and her team will be swapping 'roast day' to Thursday next week, when roast turkey, vegetarian toad in the hole and jam roly-poly will be on the menu! This is one of the themed lunches from Entrust and is on the same day as the Spring census. The more children who take a school lunch on Thursday, the better our funding, so please, even if your child normally brings sandwiches, encourage them to try the lunch that day! Thank you.

A Spotlight on... Numicon!

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, we have recently received training on the use of a whole school maths resource called Numicon. The PTA were kind enough to pay for this across school from recent fundraising events. Staff were extremely excited after receiving the initial training last term and couldn't wait to introduce it to the children. The children were very eager to use it for the first time last week and have already familiarised themselves with the shapes and colours of the number resources and have used these to help support their learning.

Lessons have continued to include Numicon resources this week and staff have been pleased to see the response from the children and how helpful it has been as a visual aid to support the mathematical concepts. One Year 1 child actually said, "This is the best maths lesson ever!" The aim of the resource is to provide visual support to the learner by using apparatus and imagery, ensuring they have a deep understanding of the concepts taught. This will be used to support the mastery approach in maths which was explained in a previous Spotlight section on a newsletter.

We are looking forward to introducing some Numicon resources to parents at the parent workshops over the next couple of weeks.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton