



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 17 - 22nd January 2016



Dates for your Diary

Family workshops starting 9.15am:

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

Tuesday 26 January— Bag2School collection

Friday 5th February—NSPCC numbers day

Friday 12th February— Around The World day

Reception Parent Workshops

Lots of fun was had this week as Reception parents joined us in class for maths workshops. This was an opportunity for parents to watch us use the new Numicon apparatus and join in an exciting range of practical maths activities with their children. The evaluations from parents were fantastic - thank you for your positive comments. Several parents asked about the material we used on the Interactive Whiteboards, which unfortunately is not available as an app. Some parents asked if they could buy the equipment - unfortunately, this was bought from an educational provider. There are resources available from Amazon which could be used at home. If you are interested, simply search on 'Numicon' and several sites will direct you to the materials.

The Reception App which was used at the workshops is called Number Lines (with a picture of a frog on a lily pad!).

Thank you to everyone who attended and showed their support. We look forward to Years 1 and 2 workshops next week!

Attendance

Please see in book bags (also posted on the website) our amended attendance policy and letter informing parents about changes to the policy and some school routines. These changes have now been approved by Governors and can now be shared with you. As mentioned in the newsletter on 8th January, we have been given very firm guidance by County on various aspects of attendance. Please read the letter and policy carefully and keep for future reference. Thank you.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

2W—Riley Ryder— for showing a good understanding of gravity

2M—Benedict Talbot — for starting the new year with a positive, hard-working attitude

1S—William Palin—for trying hard with all his work

1K- Todd Beatty—for using super description in his writing

RL— Thomas Rhead— for beautiful reading

*Well done, children—
keep up the good work!*

Pancake Race

On Tuesday 9th February we will be holding our annual Pancake Race in the village to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and begin our Lent story. Year 2 children are asked to please bring to school a light-weight frying pan with a real pancake in it. Weather permitting, the whole school will walk to the crossing outside The Middle Bell to begin the races. Year 1 and Reception classes will cheer the Year 2 children on from the pavements (they will be standing on the right-hand side of the street as we walk from school, alongside the florist). The Year 2s will take part in a short race which we hope they will all enjoy. Please come along to support the children and take part in this tradition which has been part of our school for many, many years! Exact times will be confirmed nearer the date.

Staff news

Mrs Kelly

Unfortunately Mrs Kelly's absence will be on-going for the time being. We are very fortunate that Mrs Lewis and Mrs Raw have agreed to continue teaching the class for as long as needed and are doing a sterling job. Mrs Raw is looking forward to welcoming you to the parent workshop on Thursday.

Office Staffing

Please be aware that from Wednesday 27 January, the school office will only have one member of staff for a few weeks. Mrs Shorten asks that you please bear with her - messages left on the answer-phone will be picked up as soon as possible! The office may be unavoidably unattended occasionally as well, particularly at lunchtimes, although we will always have someone around if you have made prior arrangements to pick up/drop off your child during the school day. If you need to drop off a forgotten item, such as a book bag, water bottle, PE kit etc and no-one is in the office, please leave the item, clearly labelled, on the shelf under the glass hatch and it will find its way to its owner! Thank you.

MAT update

The process for our conversion to Academy status and consequent joining of the John Taylor MAT is on-going, although the final conversion date has been delayed from 1 January until 1 April due to various issues. As we have stressed before, parents and pupils will not notice any changes in school routine before or after this date, but as a school, we look forward to the benefits of MAT membership and will keep you updated on progress.

NSPCC Number day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in their Number Day on **Friday 5 February 2016**. Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, "can-do" attitude towards it. On the day we will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits* and the children will be invited to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, or even a onesie!). To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £1.

PTA News

Cinema Night—keep an eye out in book bags for a letter about Cinema Night on Friday 12 February. We'll be showing 'The Peanuts Movie' straight after school, with a drink and a snack!

PTA newsletter—this will be coming out next week and will go in book bags.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton