



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

*'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'*

Newsletter No. 18 - 29th January 2016



## Year 1 & Year 2 Workshops

Thank you to all family members who were able to come along this week to the challenging maths workshops! We hope you enjoyed the tricky problems we asked you to solve and seeing Numicon being used by the children. Lots of parents have asked about the app used on the iPads—it was Mr Thorne's Times Tables Terra. Thank you for the positive feedback you gave on the evaluation forms - your support is appreciated.

## School safety

Please can parents and carers not enter school through doors off the playground before the children have been dismissed in the afternoon. If you need to use the toilet facilities, then please ask at the school office so we know who is in the building at all times. As we are sure you appreciate, this is essential for fire safety. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Dates for your Diary

- Friday 5 February—NSPCC Numbers Day
- Friday 5 February—1S parent lunch 11.30
- Tuesday 9 February—Pancake races 11.00
- Friday 12 February—Around The World day
- Friday 12 February—PTA cinema night
- Monday 15-Friday 19 February—SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF-TERM
- Wednesday 2 March—RR assembly
- Thursday 3 March—RL assembly
- Thursday 3 March—1K parent lunch 11.30
- Thursday 3 March—parent consultations
- Monday 7 March—parent consultations

## *Fund-raising News*

### Bags2School

Thank you to everyone who brought in a bag this week for the Bags2School collection. Between us and the junior school (who had a collection on the same day) we raised over £150. Many thanks to Mrs Trinh, who organised the collection!

### Active Kids vouchers

We are once again collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, which will be issued between 27 January and 3 May. There will soon be a collection box in the front entrance or you can just pop the vouchers in book bags. We have had some fantastic equipment from this scheme over recent years, so it would be great to add more to our collection!

## WORKERS OF THE WEEK

2W— Finley Oakes—for a superb understanding of time

1K- Lois White—for super story writing

1S— George Johnson—for super story writing

RL— Amillie Timbrell—for a super independent try with her news writing

RR— Beatrice Haysman - for working really hard at letter formation

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

### Please Note!

- Don't forget to return your parent consultation appointment slips by Monday 1 February. Thank you!
- There will be **no** country dancing next Tuesday (2 February).
- Year 2 football will be on Friday next week, **not** Wednesday.

### Year 1 visit Australia



All of Year 1 had an exciting day on Tuesday, when they visited Australia for the day! They wore red, white and blue, were greeted by check-in airport staff and used their passports to board the plane! They enjoyed making a speciality bread (see above), hunting for wild Australian animals around the school and learning lots about the country. Thank you to everyone who brought in props to make the day so much fun.

### Spotlight on....DfE Early Years Project

For a year, we have been working on a project funded by the Department for Education to bring schools and nurseries together. The DfE asked settings to work together to develop 'school readiness'. This is a huge area and one often debated in the press - 'what should a child starting school be able to do?' type questions are often seen in magazines and papers. Our group, made up of several local primary schools and even more nurseries and playgroups, decided to focus on the areas of speech, language and communication and physical development as key areas which we all felt needed as much support as possible. The project has allowed us to train Miss Wain as a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner; Mrs Toon and Mrs Atkinson to take part in intense Speech and language training; resources be bought for Reception and time dedicated to planning the transition of the children who started school in 2015 and subsequently 2016. Meetings and visits have been arranged for September's transition. We have been delighted with the quality of the training received and are privileged to have been part of such a wide and varied study into school readiness led by the Government.

### Around the World Day

On Friday 12 February the children will be taking part in an Around the World day. They will visit each class where they will learn about a different country through a range of activities. The children will be visiting; France, China, Mexico, India, Egypt and Iceland. Children should wear school uniform as usual and are not required to bring anything on the day.

### Parent Lunches

Each year, we invite parents in to school to have lunch with their children. It's the turn of 1S next Friday, when each child can have one 'guest' for lunch! This can be mum, dad, a grandparent or another relative—but we are limited to one per child for practical reasons. A letter giving more detail goes out in book bags the week before the lunch. Other dates set so far are as follows:

1K—Thursday 3 March

2M—Friday 11 March

2W—Friday 18 March

Lunches for Reception will be after Easter.

### Congratulations to Mrs Moore

Mrs Moore has recently undergone a rigorous interview process to gain the position of Specialist Leader in Education, otherwise known as an SLE which is a nationally accredited position in schools. This does not mean she is leaving us, but instead sharing her expert knowledge of English in the curriculum with other schools in Staffordshire, should they require support.

### Pancake Races

As mentioned on last weeks' newsletter, we will be taking part in the Shrove Tuesday pancake races in the village on 9 February. Races will start promptly at 11.00am—Year 2 children will be taking part and Year 1 and Reception will be cheering them on! Please come and give your support—it's always a great occasion for everyone.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

*Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*