

Thomas Russell Infants' School

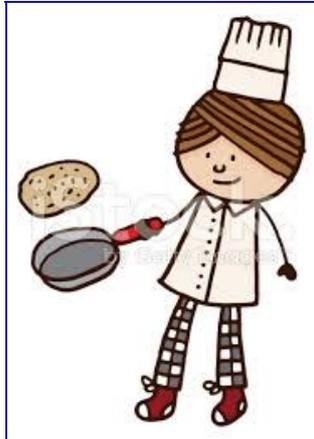
'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 20 - 12th February 2016

Flip-tastic Tuesday!

Despite the dreadful rain on Monday, the sun shone on Tuesday for our annual start of Lent tradition - the pancake race in the village. Our Reception and Year 1 children cheered on the Year 2 children, who ran, flipped and laughed all the way to the finish line. Several parents enjoyed the adult race (well done, Mrs Campbell!) and the toddlers from Little Stars playgroup had a lovely time in their race.

Well done to all the children for joining in with such a sportsman-like attitude, congratulating the winners and having fun. Well done to our winners too. All the children will receive a little prize after half term.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 15-Friday 19 February—SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF-TERM

Monday 22 February—NO DRAMA CLUB

Friday 26 February—Reception Bedtime Story

Wednesday 2 March—RR assembly 9.15

Thursday 3 March—RL assembly 9.15

Thursday 3 March—1K parent lunch 11.30

Thursday 3 March—parent consultations

Friday 4 March—Dress as a book character

Friday 4 March—Year 1 Bedtime Story

Monday 7 March—parent consultations

Friday 11 March—2M parent lunch 11.30

Friday 11 March—Year 2 Bedtime Story

Bedtime Story sessions

Please check book bags tonight for a letter and booking slip inviting you to the bedtime story sessions after half term.

Parent-Teacher Consultations

If you haven't booked to see your child's class teacher, please do so as soon as possible. Please note that this is the final time we will be using paper to make the bookings. In the future we plan to use an online booking system, which will save everyone time.

Reception visit to church

Both Reception classes visited St James Church this week as part of their current topic work. They were treated to a fantastic experience, where several members of the church led workshop-style activities around the church. They thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all the activities and learnt lots. We would like to thank Rev Andrew Ridley and all his helpers for organising such a wonderful visit.

Around the World Day

We all enjoyed the 'Around the World Day' today, without leaving the comfort of the school! Each class hosted activities from a country and the classes rotated around the school to experience food, arts and tradition from six different countries. Thank you to the staff for making it an enjoyable experience and one which enabled the children to learn a lot about different cultures and traditions.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

1K- Jessica Garrett—for trying really hard with her reading.

1S— Elisa Madill—for a super fact sheet about Australian animals.

RR— Poppy Vydelingum—for super work with 'doubles'.

RL— Sam McCarthy—for working so hard all week!

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

Community News

Barton under Needwood library is running a half-term craft session next Thursday 18 February from 2-4pm. To celebrate National Bird Nest Box Week, they will be making indoor nests and boxes. All ages are welcome - children must be accompanied by an adult.

The library is also looking for volunteers to help in its day-to-day running - please call 01785 278311 or visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/volunteerinyourlibrary for details.

Headlice Alert

Please can you check your child's hair for headlice - there have been cases reported to school this week. There is no need to keep children off school if they do have headlice, but we do ask that they are treated promptly to avoid them spreading any further!



Playground Buddies

Following on from the introduction of our Young Leaders last week, we would like to introduce our Year 2 playground buddies. These twenty children will work in groups of four and have one day a week where they man our friendship stop, look out for children on their own and encourage games and friendship. They have been chosen for their kindness and sensible manner on the playground. They were introduced to the rest of the school in Monday's assembly and have started their good work this week, wearing coloured tabards so they can be easily spotted by the other children.

We are the Champions!!

On Tuesday we took four teams of Year 2 children to the Meadowside Leisure Centre for an inter-school's Infant gymnastic competition. The children had practiced a floor routine and a vault, and were up against another fourteen teams from Burton schools. The children were all fantastic, proudly representing our school, most for the first time. We talked to the children about the importance of having fun and enjoying the experience (they had a large audience and overcame their nerves and wobbles). So imagine our surprise and happiness when one of our teams

won - 1st place was awarded to Bella Richards, Connie Ward, Harrison Reeves, Orla Leyland and Harley Butler. We were celebrating again when another of our teams were awarded 3rd place - Ruby Morrison, Georgia Hanstock, Thea Heaps, Holly Budge and Dylan Campbell - so medals all round! The other two teams were fantastic and deserve a big 'well done' too - Ebony Morrison, Isla Brittle, Chloe Pick, Harry Drayton, Lucas Joubert, Ashton Crutchley, Oliver Taberner, Isobel Harmon, Ellisia



Reeves and Grace Garratt. We were then cheering again when Bella Richards was awarded overall 1st place for the highest score in her floor routine, an amazing achievement and the podium to herself! Well done, children—we are all very proud of you!



Thinking Day and Founders Day

On Monday 22 February it is International Thinking day, where Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from around the world wear their uniforms to school to celebrate being part of this huge organisation. Thinking Day centres around the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and is a day on international friendship, speaking out on issues that affect girls and young women, and fund-raising for ten million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world.

It is also Founders Day for Scouts, Cubs and Beavers all over the world to remember Lord Baden Powell's birthday (the founder of the Scout movement). This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of Beaver Scouts.

We invite all Rainbows, Beavers and Brownies to wear their uniforms for school on Monday 22 February.

WIN A FULL YEAR PROGRAMME OF WHOLE CLASS INSTRUMENTAL TEACHING AND INSTRUMENTAL HIRE FOR YOUR SCHOOL.

For your chance to win this amazing prize for your school all you have to do is visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/entrustMPAS and watch our **BRAND NEW** video, like it and comment on it, telling us what inspires you about **MUSIC** and the name of your school.

Only one entry per person is allowed, but if everyone associated with your school enters, from parents to teachers, governors to grandparents, you could be in with a chance of winning this absolutely amazing prize.

And when you have entered, please feel free to share this post on your school's Facebook or Twitter pages, parent newsletters or website to give your school the best possible chance.

If your school already has an amazing programme of MPAS music making then we will review a discount to the equal value for the winning school.

Full terms and conditions for this competition are available at www.ssmeh.co.uk. Competition closes on 11 March 2016.

PTA News

Don't forget to pay for your seat at the curry night - make it your date night, couples catch-up, girls or blokes night out! £15 for an amazing meal! Wednesday 16th March from 8pm. Spare letters available from the school office.

Sports Relief 2016

East Staffordshire Borough Council will be hosting Sports Relief Mile Sunday 20th March 2016 at Shobnall Leisure Complex, Burton upon Trent.

Take a sponsored stroll with family or race with friends. More of a walker than a runner? Choose to complete 1, 3 or 6 miles and at any pace you want.

To book your place please use the link below.

<http://www.sportrelief.com/events/mile>

Casual Lunchtime Supervisor Required

We have a very dedicated team of lunchtime supervisors but require an extra person who would be available to cover for absences or holidays. This usually then leads to more regular hours over time. If you are the sort of person who has some time to spare in the middle of the day and would like to work to help and support our pupils at lunchtime then please contact the school office after half-term to register your interest.

Wishing you an enjoyable week!

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton