



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 30 - 13th May 2016

An update on the space seeds!

Our space seeds have now been growing for 21 days after each child in school had the opportunity to plant a seed. 2M have been in charge of measuring and counting the seeds to collect the data which we have to return to the UK and European Space Agency. So far we haven't noticed a big difference between the seeds that came in the red packet and the seeds which came in the blue packet but we are a bit concerned that none of the plants seem to look like the photographs in the books!

*Harry Drayton,
Bill Sherratt and
Olivia Seagrave -
Space Biologists*



Dates for your Diary

- Monday 16 May—Bags2Schools collection
- Monday 16 May—NO DRAMA CLUB
- Wednesday 18 May—PTA AGM
- Friday 20 May—Year 1 trip to Rosliston
- Friday 20 May - RR Parents lunch 11.30
- Wednesday 25 May—meeting for new Reception parents 7pm
- Friday 27 May—RL Parents lunch 11.30
- Friday 27 May—Break up for half-term
- Tuesday 7 June—Back to school
- Wednesday 29 June—Sports Day & summer fayre
- Monday 18 July—Leavers' party after school
- Tuesday 19 July—Leavers' assembly 2pm
- Friday 22 July—Last day of term

School Census

Three times a year, we have to complete and submit a census to the local authority on a range of information—attendance, special educational needs, class size etc—and we will be completing the Spring census next Thursday. One of the pieces of data that will be collected this time is how many school lunches we serve. As part of our funding depends on the number of lunches taken, it is really important that we have as many children as possible having a school meal next Thursday. A special 'Italian' menu is being served, so please can we encourage all the children to have a school lunch that day. Thank you!

Don't forget...

- Bags2School collection on Monday—bring your donations to school in the morning please!
- Year 1 Trip to Rosliston—permission slips and payment due by Wednesday—thank you.
- RR Parents' lunch—please reply by Wednesday at the latest!

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- RR parents' lunch letter
- Italy menu for 19 May
- Dance class flyer

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

RL— Connor Jones for fantastic reading.

1S— Zaiba Khan for super maths work.

1K—Kyon Chapman for trying hard with writing sentences.

2W— Jamie Marshall for accurate reading of thermometers in maths.

2M— Harry Drayton for finding differences in temperatures in maths.

2M— Archie Robinson for excellent calculation work in maths.

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

Visitors in Assembly

We were very pleased to welcome some special visitors in assembly today. Mr Donoghue (Principal of John Taylor High School and CEO of the John Taylor Multi Academy Trust) and Gareth Moss (Chair of the Multi Academy Trust Governing Body) were introduced to the children today and enjoyed taking part in our weekly achievement assembly. It gave them an insight into the fantastic talents and achievements of the youngest members of the Multi Academy Trust.

Open Gardens

Barton will host its annual Open Gardens weekend on the 18th and 19th of June. Many private gardens are open as well as several public places, all promising a fun and exciting weekend for all the family. We are opening our school grounds on the Saturday only, where refreshments will be served and recycled planters will be on show. Following last year's success, our Year 2 Country Dancers will perform at 2.30pm on 18th June. A consent letter to the dancers will be sent home soon so we know how many of you are able to join us.

TRIS and JTMAT

Six weeks have passed since our conversion to Academy status under the John Taylor Multi Academy Trust. The graceful swan that is our school has been open as usual and our children will have seen no difference to the 'Outstanding' education they receive, and this will continue to be the case. As the new financial year has begun we have already begun to see the positives of being an Academy both financially and in opportunities to develop our staff team. The extra money will of course be used to further resource and develop your children's education.

Internally, the Co-Headteachers, Deputy Head and office team have been working flat out to ensure that new financial systems, five year plans and staffing arrangements are securely in place. On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to extend thanks and congratulations to all the staff at school for their tireless work, not only over the last six weeks but during the years of preparation and research our conversion has taken.

As the first primary school joining the Multi Academy Trust we were offered a place on the MAT board. With the backing of my fellow governors, I have been appointed to represent the school and JTMAT. I will continue to act as the Chair of the Governing Board and Early Years link governor and I hope to see you around school and at the after-school events that we provide.

If you have any questions about our conversion or any matters that may arise then please feel free to contact me through the school.

Thank you for your continued support in all TRIS does!

Tim Hopkins

Chair of the Governing Board

Year 1 maths fun

Year 1 children have all been getting messy this week in their practical capacity lessons which took place outside when the weather allowed and under-cover when not! Our lovely covered quad came into its own, allowing the children to experiment and test theories despite the dreadful wet weather we have had!



Fantastic News!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the 'Silver Quality Mark for PE and Sport in Schools' this week from the Association of Physical Education. Mrs Walker works very hard ensuring that our PE curriculum and our extra curricular activities are as varied as possible, offering our children lots of different sporting opportunities, developing their confidence and skills and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Well done to Mrs Walker, all of the staff and to all of the children for their enthusiasm for everything in which they take part.

PTA appeal—can you help?

As we all know, the funds raised for the school by the PTA do not appear without hard work and planning. We have an amazing PTA who work tirelessly to dream up ideas, plan and support events and collect money. This money all goes back to your children, to ensure they get experiences and resources to support their learning which we couldn't do without this extra support. Our school budget gets slimmer each year and with rising costs in so many areas, we rely on the generosity of parents at these events and we thank you for that.

On Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm in school, the AGM will be held and all current committee members would like to stand down from their roles. This will allow other parents to take these on and become more involved in school life. We would love to see as many parents as possible at this meeting. We will be looking for a **Chair**, who pulls all the events together, sets the agenda for meetings and takes on a lead role (however this does not mean the Chair has to be at every event!). We have also been known to have co- chairs as well with two people sharing the role. The role of **Vice Chair** supports that of the Chair. The **Treasurer** holds the cheque book and signs off all expenditure and creates a simple report for each meeting showing monies raised and monies spent. Support and help can be given to whoever takes on this role. The **Secretary** writes the minutes of meetings, sends them out to the PTA members and sends out reminder emails when needed.

Sadly, if these roles are not filled next week our PTA will fold, meaning your children may no longer get pantomime trips, subsidised coaches for visits (adding to the cost for every parent), and many other resources which support and enhance their time in school. It would be such a shame after many years. Many thanks in advance for your support with this matter.



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs Farmer and Mrs Burton