

Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 1 - 9th September 2016

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back!

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and extend a very happy welcome back to everyone at our school, to staff, parents, governors and especially the children. They have had a lovely week, getting to know their new teachers and classrooms and have had a great time learning all about Roald Dahl in our 'back to school' whole-school topic week.

The new Reception children are doing brilliantly and have settled very well indeed - well done to everyone!

New staff

You may remember we told you last term about our two new teachers; Miss Pearson, class teacher for 1P, and Mrs Mears, class teacher in RM. We welcome them warmly to our school community and we know you will introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome too. We welcome back teaching assistant Miss Cottrill, who will be working in 2M. Please have a look at the staff photos on the school website to remind yourself of who is who, especially if you are a new parent to the school.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 15 September - Parent's social in Middle Bell - 8.00pm - everyone invited!

Friday 16 September - Reception in school all day

Wednesday 21 September - Parent volunteer meeting - 9.15am

Monday 26 September - Reception curriculum evening for parents - 7pm

Tuesday 11 October - Reception coffee afternoon 2.30pm

Wednesday 12 October - 1S trip to Packington Farm

Thursday 13 October - 1P trip to Packington Farm

Friday 21 October - Harvest assembly 9.15am & break up for half-term

Curriculum Information Evening for Reception

We welcome you to join us for the evening, where we will introduce to you the Early Years Curriculum, methods and strategies we use to support children in school for reading, writing and mathematics and information about the resources we use. We hope you can join us from 7.30pm in the school hall. Please note that the workshop is for adults only.

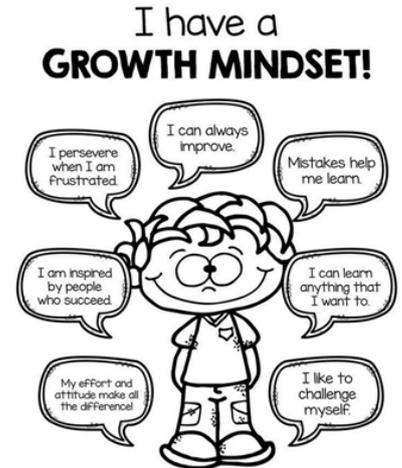
IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....

- PTA newsletter & calendar picture competition
- Primary Times
- Year 1 - football letter
- Years 1 & 2 - French tuition letter
- NB - Reception will receive some of these items next Friday when book bags are issued.

Our new passports of success

This is our new-term initiative to ensure all our children have the very best experiences whilst in school. All staff have worked hard to create a fun and exciting menu of activities all children will experience during their time with us. Some of these will be part of our everyday teaching, some may be new experiences; all will help develop key skills of independence, team work and confidence and help the children become confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens. Please see the school website for the full skills passport the children will work through.

We have also been talking about the Growth Mindset in assembly and the importance of a positive 'can-do attitude in everything we try.



Friday Achievement Assemblies

Our Friday assemblies will be changing slightly to ensure that a greater number of children are chosen each week for a special achievement. Previously one child per class was chosen to receive a 'worker of the week' certificate. This will be replaced with more children being chosen for a 'Star of the Week' certificate. Parents of these children will be invited to join us in assembly so please keep an eye out for invitations in book bags. This will inevitably take longer so from next week we are inviting children to show their achievements from home in class rather than Friday's assembly. These can be brought in on a Friday morning and will return home with the children Friday afternoon. If the teacher feels that it is an exceptional achievement then this will be shown in assembly. We look forward to you joining us for these special assemblies.

News from the PTA

Welcome back to school and to all our new children and parents in Reception. We are busy planning some exciting things for the children and adults in the autumn term and will be letting you know very shortly.

Dates for your Diaries -

Thursday 15th September - Drinks at the Middle Bell at 8.00pm. Time to catch up with each other and hear what our families got up to in the summer, so if you would like to meet the PTA team please come along. We promise you will not be ambushed or pushed into doing anything and not to talk PTA all night!!!

Wednesday 28th September - PTA meeting at school 7.30pm.

Can you help us??? DVD's - we record all the productions and events you can attend to see your children in action. We have a DVD burner and then sell copies to parents as a fund raising activity for the PTA. We need someone to help us produce the DVD copies, so are you good with that sort of thing? If so, please e-mail us on thomasrussellpta@gmail.com or contact Rebecca directly on 07912 479636.

Please do join the PTA mailing list—just email the above address or visit our Facebook page and you'll get to hear about all the latest news and activities!



Reminders & Safety Issues

Uniform - Please make sure all items of uniform, including coats and shoes, are clearly labelled with your child's name. This saves lots of tears and time if they become lost!

Water bottles - Named water bottles must be sent in with your child every day. Children have free access to the bottles and we encourage them to drink regularly and fill them up from the tap if emptied. Thank you.

Safety—For safety's sake, please do not allow your children - of whatever age - to run/play in the car park or go on to the field at the start or end of the school day. This includes round the back of the mobiles and climbing on the metal railings at the front of school and at the entrance to Year 2. We work very hard to try to keep all children on school premises safe and to follow the rules which we expect in school and we rely on all parents and carers to support us with this. Please pass this message on to anyone else who may bring or collect your child/ren. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parking—Please be thoughtful and courteous when parking for drop off and pick up at school, being mindful of the local residents. We ask that you please do not park opposite the school gates or obstruct the view of families crossing the road to the pedestrian gate. We also ask that you park safely so therefore do not park on the bend on Holland Park or Station Road. We appreciate your cooperation.

Parent Volunteer meeting



**PARENT
VOLUNTEERS**

With so much to fit into the modern school day, we always welcome any additional help from parents to either hear children read, support with display work, work with groups of children, practical help around the grounds etc. If you feel you could offer an hour or more a week then please attend a short meeting on **Wednesday 21st September at**

9.15am. If you are interested in volunteering but cannot attend the meeting, then please email or call in to the school office and the information will be forwarded to you.

Pupil Premium Funding- is your child missing out?

Now that all infant-aged children receive free school meals automatically, many parents may be unaware that their child may still be eligible for extra funding - the 'Pupil Premium' - that will benefit both their child and the school. This funding is available to children whose parents receive certain State benefits, such as Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Child Tax Credit. It is spent directly on the eligible child, either on resources or teaching time. The application process is very quick, easy and discreet - just go online to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals and complete the form.

If you don't have access to the internet, please ask at the school office for a paper copy. You should have an answer very quickly.

The extra funding allows school to provide resources and allocate teaching time specifically for your child that we otherwise couldn't afford. Please, even if you're not sure you're eligible, take a couple of minutes to fill in and submit the form - a successful application will directly benefit your child individually. Thank you!

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton