

Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 2 - 16th September 2016



Meet the School Council!

We are delighted to have our first six members of our School Council nominated. The Council helps us regularly with ideas for school activities and getting opinions from fellow pupils. The children in Year 1 and Year 2 classes voted this week for their representative and the children trusted with this job are:

1S- Summer Trinh

1P- Isaac Pick

2W-Pearl Knight-Dutton & Alfie Lissemore

2M-Chloe Watling & Joshua Round

The first meeting was held on Tuesday and the children certainly have lots of great ideas which we hope to organise throughout the year. Both Reception classes will vote for their representatives next week.

Sweets in school

We love to celebrate children's birthdays in school by talking, and sharing a present and singing 'Happy Birthday'. As a healthy school, we prefer parents **not** to bring sweets into school for the children for birthdays please. We have very many allergies in school which we take very seriously and not all parents agree with their children having sweets. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 21 September - Parent volunteer meeting - 9.15am

Friday 23 September—Jeans for Genes Day

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

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 23rd September we are asking children to come to school wearing jeans or casual trousers for the day in exchange for a donation towards this worthy charity day. Many of you will know the Ward family - some years ago, Tilly Ward came to our school and money raised will go directly to support charities she currently uses. Please read her story in the Burton Mail - <http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/jeans-for-genes-plea-as-tilly-11-battles-genetic-condition/story-29698311-detail/story.html>

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....

- Print my Ride—Personalise your bike or scooter
- Year 2—Extra Curricular Clubs
- Reception - Primary Times & lunch menus

2017 Calendar photos

On Thursday 22nd September the children will be photographed in groups according to their month of birth for our annual school calendar. These make wonderful gifts for family and friends (details on how to purchase will follow). For the photos we ask you send your child in with a themed 'prop' as listed below. Thank you for your support!

January- woolly hats and scarves

February- Valentines hearts and flowers

March- cuddly toy rabbits

April- umbrellas and rain coats

May- no props needed, as we use our maypole

June- summer play equipment/toys

July- tennis rackets and balls

August- summer buckets and spades

September- no props needed as we use school items

October- Halloween

November- items representing colourful fireworks

December- Christmas decorations like tinsel

All props will be returned the same day—thank you!

PTA News

Thank you to everyone who came along to the social last night; it was great to see so many of you there and get to know some new parents as well as catch up with familiar faces.

Can you help? It's that time of year again when we need to start thinking ahead and planning the festive season. The children will be busy making their Christmas Card designs over the coming weeks. We have a fabulous design that the children will no doubt love working on. We need to collect some **Christmas wrapping paper** for the design, so if you have any left-over paper from last Christmas that is not needed, please could you hand this into the office **by 23rd September**. Any scraps of any festive design - any colour, any pattern, sparkly, glittery or shiny (we're not fussy!) - will be much appreciated and put to very good use! Thank you.



News in brief and reminders...

Year 2 clubs

Please find in book bags tonight a letter regarding the Year 2 extra-curricular clubs on offer. Please complete the form and return to school by the date requested.

Reception home/school diaries

These will be sent home on Friday 23rd September.

Volunteer meeting

Anyone interested in being a classroom volunteer is very welcome in school on Weds 21 September at 9.15am for a chat about opportunities. Even if you only have an hour a week to offer your help would be much appreciated.

Reception curriculum meeting

Reception parents are invited into school at 7.00pm on Monday 26 September to hear about 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. Please remember that the workshop is for adults only.

Stars of the Week!

Oliver Cooper

Dylan Norris

Leo Harvey

Elsie Hood

Charlotte Carvell

Megan Lancaster

Owen Lawson

Florence Comelio

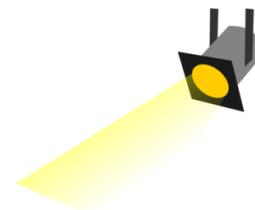
Sebastian Hall

Goodbye Workers of the Week, hello Stars of the Week!

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we will now have Stars of the Week, who will be picked by class teachers and awarded certificates in achievement assembly on a Friday. Parents of 'Stars' will be invited to come and watch via a letter in your child's book-bag, so keep an eye out!

Spotlight on... Teaching Assistants!

Every so often, we like to share with you an area of school life you perhaps know less about to inform you and share our good practice. This week we would like to tell you a little more about the role of our teaching assistants, who all do a wonderful job in school. You may remember teaching assistants from your own school days but over the years the role has evolved and teaching assistants have much greater responsibility, with the large part of their role being about helping the children to move on in their learning. Long gone are the days of the teachers having a 'classroom helper'.



Here at Thomas Russell our teaching assistants use the teaching assistant standards (a document produced by a number of the unions) which offers guidance and outlines the expectations within their role. Follow the link <http://www.naht.org.uk/resources/assets/attachment/full/0/60839.pdf> or view it on our website to see the high standards ALL our teaching assistants work towards.

Just as with the teachers in our school, teaching assistants are involved in an annual cycle of performance management where their strengths and developments are discussed using the standards and the school improvement plan to help guide targets for the year. Performance is monitored through lesson observations by senior leaders and feedback is given. A training programme is then planned which supports teaching assistants on their individual and whole-school requirements. Through this approach we now have individuals with expertise in the following areas:

Forest school activities; speech and language development; Better Reading intervention; phonics intervention; and nurture and inclusion provision. This is all in addition to the support and encouragement they provide in daily lessons.

Our teachers and teaching assistants really do work as a close-knit team to ensure that they are providing the best support that they can for your children.

Staff news

A huge welcome to you all from myself and my colleagues on the TRIS governing board. Today marks the first day of this academic year when all children from Reception to Year 2 have been in school for a full day. Well done to all of our new Reception children on settling in so well and thank you to all of the children in Years 1 and 2 for helping out and being such good role models over the last two weeks.

I write to you all today to share with you some fantastic news of our ever-blossoming relationships with fellow JTMAT academies. Fellow MAT primary school St Peters, Yoxall are having to say a temporary farewell to their Headteacher Mrs Jones as she leaves for maternity leave on 31 October. This leaves a gap in their leadership team and our co-headteachers have been approached by the MAT to see if they were in a position to offer their expertise and time. Mrs Farmer has accepted a temporary, part-time position and will be the Co-Headteacher of St Peters from after half-term on Thursdays and Fridays—days she doesn't work at TRIS. Please be assured that this will in no way affect the effective, efficient and outstanding education that your children will continue to receive here. Mrs Farmer and Mrs Burton will continue to share the running of the school and you will see no less of either of our fantastic Headteachers. This is an amazing opportunity for our school and for Mrs Farmer and I am sure you will all join us in wishing her the best. It really does show the commitment, passion, knowledge and outstanding standards our school and its Headteachers exude to fellow professionals and organisations.

Thank you all for your continued support in all that we do at TRIS and I look forward to seeing your children and hopefully some of you throughout the school year.

Kind regards

Tim Hopkins

Chair of the Governing Board

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton

Missing Uniform

Second week into the school year and unfortunately we already have reports of missing school jumpers. Please can parents check they have the correctly named jumpers (particularly parents of children in 2W) and return any you may find which don't belong to your child. Many thanks.