



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 5 - 7 October 2016



School Council completed!

We now have two Reception council representatives joining the team - they are Rosie Evans (RR) and Dylan Collett (RL). Their photos have joined those of their fellow representatives on the wall near the entrance to school!

Year 2 clubs

What a busy week, with all the new Year 2 lunch time and after-school clubs starting! Many, many children have enjoyed singing, sewing, dancing and recorders as well as gymnastics and French. All the school staff running the clubs have had a fabulous time and look forward to next week's fun!

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- Harvest Festival Assembly Ticket—one per family
- Reception—letter from School Nurse Team

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 11 October - Reception coffee afternoon 2.30pm

Weds 12 October - 1S trip to Packington Farm

Thursday 13 October - 1P trip to Packington Farm

Thursday 20 October - Curriculum evening all year 1 and 2 parents 7.00 pm

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

PTA Halloween party 5.00-6.30pm

Thursday 3 November - Parent and Teacher Consultations 1.30 to 5.30

Friday 4 November - Y2 trip to the National Memorial Arboretum

Monday 7 November - Parent and Teacher Consultations 1.30 to 5.30

Weds 9 November—Open day for September 2017 entrants

Friday 18 November - Y2 to Meadowside Centre for Change for Life activity

Thursday 1 December - Reception Nativity pm

Tuesday 6 December - 2M & 1S Christmas play

Wednesday 7 December - Whole school trip to Christmas pantomime in Derby

Thursday 8 December - 2W & 1P Christmas play

Friday 9 December - Christmas Fayre 3.30pm

School expansion consultation

Thank you to those who came along to the meeting on Thursday. It was also attended by representatives from the Schools Organisation Team, John Taylor High School and Staffordshire County Council. It gave parents, neighbours and parish councillors the chance to ask questions about the implications and practicalities of the proposed expansion and more detailed notes of the meeting will be available next week. A similar meeting was held at the junior school on the same day to discuss their expansion.



Mollie Edwards	Isla Poyner
Emma Newton	Seb Jones
Ruby Dolman	Zachai Khan
Jacob Harmon	Zoe Banks
Sonnie Wallington-Gardner	
Silver Taylor-Jones	
Ziggy Scrannage	Joshua Drayton
Evie Stokes	Chloe Hughes

Well done, everyone!

Holidays in term time

As you may be aware, the subject of parents taking children out of school for holidays during term time has been in the news recently. Our position on the subject is unchanged—parents are expected to ensure that their child attends school during term time, unless they are ill or there are other exceptional circumstances. Absence under any other circumstances will be recorded as 'unauthorised' and, where appropriate, reported as such. For more detail, please see our attendance policy on the school website. We understand the dilemmas parents and carers face, but have to have as our first priority your child's education, which can be affected by any absence from school. We hope you understand our position and continue to support us in our efforts to give all your children the best possible start to their school careers.

Open Day for new starters in September 2017

We will be having our annual Open Day on Wednesday 9 November, so if you or anyone you know has a child due to start school next September, please drop in to one of our sessions—9.30am-10.30am or 1.30pm-2.30pm.

Thomas Russell Junior School will also be holding an open day for prospective pupils on Monday 14 November (Y2 will have a letter about this). If you would like to visit, please give them a ring on 01283 239360 to arrange a time.

Twitter

Last term we surveyed parents about how you like us to communicate with you. We had many responses and you were fully in agreement that the weekly newsletter and the parent's texting service were valued. As you can see, we are continuing with these services.

In order for you to see more of what we are doing in school on a daily basis, we will be tweeting! There are many schools locally who use Twitter regularly to showcase snippets of great things and as parents you will get a regular 'fly-on-the-wall' view of the school.

We will not be putting children's names on our tweets or photographs where you can easily recognise children, but will assume the photo consent you gave when your child started school is still relevant.

Please follow us on @trisschool, but please be patient as we all get used to the technology! We hope you enjoy learning more about what goes on each day.

Reception visit Packington Farm

The Reception classes enjoyed a day on the farm this week where they learnt about the animals and explored the grounds with interest. We have never taken Reception children on a trip quite so early in the term! The children were fantastic: they behaved beautifully and we were very proud of them all - well done, children.



It's nearly panto time - oh yes it is!

All children should have received a letter about the whole-school trip to see Cinderella in Derby this December. If you haven't seen the letter, please drop in to the school office and ask for a copy.



Save the Date!! We are busy organising an Artisan Gin Tasting evening for Friday 11th November from 7.30 pm. So if gin is your drink or if you want to taste some exciting gin combinations, get the babysitter booked now so as not to miss out! Further details about the venue, food, booking your place and general fun of the evening will be going out in book bags at the end of next week.

Halloween Party Please note we will not be issuing tickets for the Halloween party. We will tick off children's names from a list at the door and parents/ carers will receive a confirmation text message ahead of the party. We can't wait for the party and to see all of the children's costumes!!



TRISPTA
Thomas Russell Infants' School
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Curriculum Meeting for all Y1 and 2 Parents

On Thursday 20 October, a session will be held in the school hall to support you when helping your child at home. Mrs Walker, Mrs Moore and Mrs Burton will run two workshop-style sessions on English and Maths, as well as explaining the changes in the National Curriculum. We will be explaining the best types of activities to do at home in order for your child to practice the skills taught at school. There will be opportunity to ask specific questions about your child and for you to practice some of the activities and games we are suggesting. Please come along if you can.

Harvest Festival

Don't forget our Harvest Festival celebration will be on Friday 21 October at 9.15am. A ticket has gone out to all families today in the book bags. If your child is absent today, the ticket will go in the bags on Monday.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton