



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 7 - 21 October 2016

## Harvest Assembly

Thank you to everyone for joining us at our Harvest Assembly today, we really hope you enjoyed it. Well done to all the children for their lovely singing and for sharing with us the important message of Harvest time. Thank you for your kind donations for the food bank which will be passed on to the YMCA.



## IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....

- Primary Times

## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 31st October** - Back to school

**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

**Wednesday 9 November**—Open day for September 2017 entrants

**Friday 11 November** - PTA Gin Tasting Event

**Friday 18 November** - Y2 to Meadowside Centre for Change for Life activity , Children in Need day

**Friday 25 November** - Non uniform day

**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

### Children in Need 2016

The school council met this week to discuss Children in Need Day which is on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. They have decided to support this worthy cause and would like all children to come dressed in spots or colourful clothes and offer a donation of £1.



They would also like to hold a cake sale. This will take place from 8.30am till 9am and from 3pm till 3.30pm on the playground (or inside if wet). They ask that children and parents contribute cakes or other yummy treats which can be brought in from the Thursday before.

The school council will receive a separate letter asking permission to come in early to help sell the cakes. Thank you.

Panto Please remember that payment for the panto trip needs to be in school for Friday 4 November.

### Parent/teacher consultations

Another 'thank you', this time to everyone who has booked their appointments online. We have had a very good response already and look forward to seeing you in school after half-term. If you haven't yet booked, please follow the link from the text you were sent and choose a slot!

### Attendance

*Mrs Hickey is the new Attendance Intervention Manager for the John Taylor MAT and will be supporting TRIS with any attendance matters. If you have any questions about attendance, please let us know and we can put you in touch with her.*

*by Mrs S Hickey, Attendance Intervention Manager*

#### **"Do we still get fined for taking our children on holiday in term time?"**

This is the question which keeps being asked when parents request leave of absence during term time for their child. So what's the answer???. The answer is **YES!**

Parents and carers continue to be prosecuted, usually with a penalty notice, from the Local Authority, for unauthorised leave of absences. Staffordshire County Council have updated their Code of Conduct following the "Isle of Wight" ruling in May 2016, which **still** includes prosecuting parents / carers for taking their children out of school for unauthorised leave of absences during term time. Please note that the fixed penalty notice is per parent, per child. If there are two children in a family with two parents then a total of four penalty notices are issued. Each penalty notice is £60 if paid within 21 days (rising to £120 if paid between 21-28 days). In this given scenario, that would total £240 if paid within 21 days or £480 if paid between 21-28 days.

Further to the "Isle of Wight" ruling, the DfE continue to progress the case for a Local Authority to prosecute parents for unauthorised leave of absences. The specific case reported is now being taken before the Supreme Court (as it was previously held at the High Court).

There has been no change of guidance for Headteachers to authorise, or not, leave of absence in term time. Each request is considered individually as to whether it is exceptional (unable to happen at a different time, a one-off event etc) and only exceptional requests for leave, as agreed by the Headteacher, are recorded as authorised. Unauthorised leave of absences are all reported to the Local Authority who then take the decision whether their Code of Conduct has been met and whether they will be prosecuting parents / carers for this unauthorised absence.

### All change in the kitchen!

From Monday 31 October, our catering services will be provided by Mellors. We are hoping to have menus ready to go out in book bags on that Monday, but please bear with us for a few days during the change-over if that is delayed. Mrs Cullen and her team in the kitchen are really happy with the new menus and are confident the children will enjoy them. For your information, the menu for Monday 31 October will be:

- . Home-made pepperoni pizza with herby diced potatoes
- . Quorn bolognaise with herby diced potatoes
- . Vegetables - baked beans and sweetcorn AND salad bar
- . Jacket potatoes with various fillings
- . Sandwiches
- . Fruit flan and vanilla sauce
- . Yoghurt and fresh fruit



### Charges for School Trips

We are aware that there are some parents who are unhappy at the cost of the Y2 trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. The sum that we are asking parents to contribute reflects the cost to the school of the educational activities that the children will be taking part in on the day, as provided by the NMA's education department. The NMA, which we're sure you agree is a fantastic organisation, relies on contributions from visitors and revenue from providing services such as these educational days for its running costs.

We try to provide the children with as many learning and enrichment opportunities as possible, some of which carry a cost, such as experiences like last term's in-school Meccano session and the Change4Life event at the Meadowside, which Year 2 will be attending next month. Both of these events have been paid for by school and no cost has been passed on to parents. We also make no charge for most of the clubs run during and after school. However, we are unfortunately not in a position financially to bear costs for all events, so some have to be passed on to you, such as this trip.

As many of you are probably aware, the cost of trips at TRIS is considerably lower per head than a lot of other schools, due to the generous contributions of the PTA towards coach travel.

We do understand that not every parent may be in a position to easily afford the contribution to trips - if this is the case, please have a chat with one of the Co-Heads.

We very much appreciate your co-operation, support and understanding in our efforts to provide your children with the 'extras' that make their time at our school as rewarding and productive as possible.

### Defibrillator

In the event of an emergency the school defibrillator is now available during school opening hours for anyone in the local area to use.

We are very grateful to the Cartwright family for donating the funds which enabled the school to purchase the defibrillator.

### Photos

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November the photographer will be in school to take photos of each child. If you have more than one child in school, they will also have one taken together. These will all happen in school time and will be available for you to buy immediately afterwards.



If you wish your child to have a photo taken with another sibling/s, who do not attend our school the photographer will be here from 8.20am. Please arrive at the front of school where a queuing system will operate. This will end at 9.00am when all children are expected to be in class. If you are bringing an older sibling, please let their school know as they may be late arriving. Thank you.

### Curriculum evening

Thank you to the parents who attended Thursday's Year 1 and Year 2 curriculum evening. We hope you found it useful. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the papers provided then please ask in the school office.

### PTA News

**25th November** - Non uniform day - In exchange for wearing non uniform we kindly ask for a donation of a bottle or chocolates for the Christmas Fayre. Thank you.

Just a quick reminder this week that the flyer for the *Ice and a Slice Artisan Gin Tasting evening* on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November can be downloaded from the PTA section of the school website at the following link <http://www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk/PTA> We look forward to the Gin Tasting evening and lots more fundraising after half term, but in the meantime we hope everyone has a lovely week off!



## **HALF TERM TENNIS CAMPS**

AT BARTON & SHENSTONE TENNIS CLUB

Monday – Shenstone Tennis Club

Tuesday & Wednesday – Barton Tennis Club

24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Age – 4 to Teens

Price: 1 Day £14 2 Days £22 3 Days £30 Less than £3.40 an hour!!

**NOW AVAILABLE TO BOOK ON - CONTACT ZOE 07971898645 OR [ZEDWARDS837@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ZEDWARDS837@GMAIL.COM) LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**

Wishing you an enjoyable half term holiday.

Regards

*Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*