

# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 9 - 11th November 2016



## Armistice Day

Well done to the year 2 children, Elisa Madill, William Brennan, Ziggy Scrannage and Izzy Reid who represented the school and attended the remembrance service in the village today. It was a really lovely way to commemorate and even the drivers through the village were very respectful and stopped for the minute's silence.



## Parking near School

We have been asked by the local Police and Community Support Officer (PCSO) to remind anyone who brings their children to school by car to please park legally and considerately. Ideally, if you can walk to school - or park in the village hall car park, marina car park or Holland Sports Club car park and walk from there - then please do so, but if you do have to use a car and need to park closer to school, please pay particular attention to the following:

Do not park near bends in the road, either on Holland Park, or Station Road.

Do not park in front of dropped kerbs.

Do not obstruct driveways - please show courtesy to our neighbours and other road users.

Can we also ask that parents **do not** use the school car park when dropping off and/or picking up from Badgers - we only have enough parking spaces for school staff, who need to be able to use the car park

## Dates for your Diary

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

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

**Friday 18 November**- Children in Need 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

- **IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....**
- Christmas Fayre Information
- Y2 Change 4 Life Festival Permission slip

### Spotlight on.....writing moderation!

This week, our teachers spent a very useful and productive session with staff from three other local schools, talking with teachers working in the same year groups. The purpose of this exercise was to ensure that staff are in agreement when making judgements against age-related expectations. It was a fantastic opportunity to share examples of children's books from the different schools and look at not only how we make judgements but how we mark pupils' work and feed back to them; how we share the expected learning with the children and the learning opportunities we provide to develop our children's writing.



Ted Leason Arthur Mitchell  
Thomas Barker Connor Jones  
Bohemia Howes Laurence Hill  
Jack Garrett Harry Campion  
Darcy Walker

### Open Day

We had lots of visitors to our open day for September 2017 starters - including some familiar faces from school! Thank you to everyone who came to see us - the application process opened on 1 November and will close on 15 January 2017. Please go to Staffordshire County Council's website and search under school admissions for more details on how to make an application.

### Anti-Bullying Week 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week and we will be spending time talking with the children about this topic. All children will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts and discuss ways we can ensure that bullying does not take place in our school.

### Christmas plays

The times of the Christmas plays have now been set -

Reception will be on Thursday 1 December at 2.30pm

2M and 1S on Tuesday 6 December at 9.30am

2W and 1P on Thursday 8 December at 9.30am.

To avoid overcrowding, each child will be issued with two tickets for their performance.

These will go in book bags nearer the time.

### Children in Need

Don't forget next Friday is Children in Need day! Children are invited to wear spots and/or colourful clothes and bring a donation of £1 for this fantastic cause. Year 2 children will be going to the Meadowside Centre in the morning for the Change4Life event, so please could they wear sports clothes - as colourful and spotty as they like!



### Attendance update

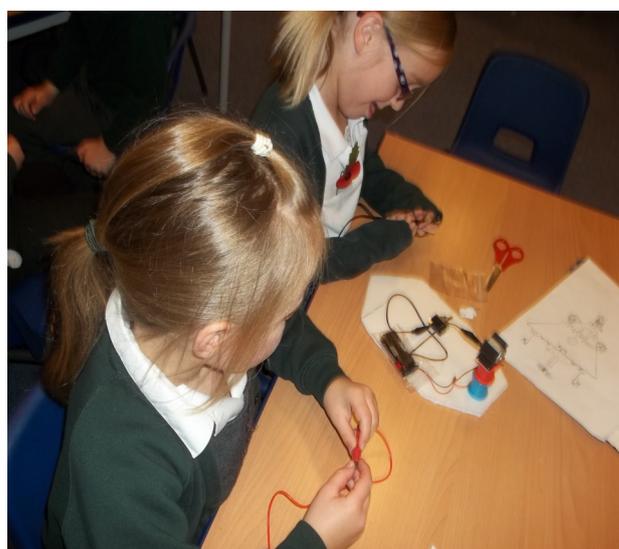
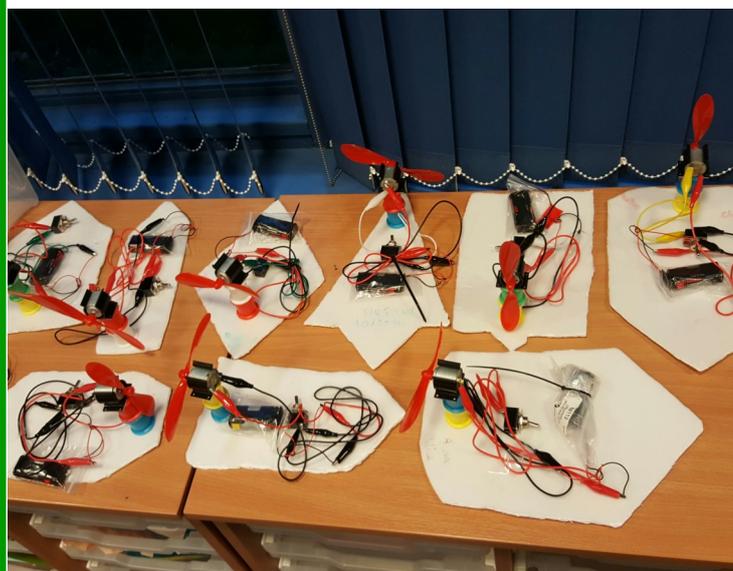
We are delighted that whole-school attendance currently stands at 97.8%, meaning that all our children are coming to school nearly every day. Up till October half term, the class with the highest attendance was Class 15 with 98.71% Well done, children!

Our Attendance Officer, Sian Hickey, paid us a visit at the start of the school day on Tuesday this week. Can we remind parents and carers how important it is to arrive in plenty of time for the beginning of the school day at 9.00am, at which time the children are expected to be in their classrooms, ready to start the day. Late arrivals can impact not only on the individual child but disrupt the class as a whole. Also, coming into school late not only potentially affects children's learning but also their social interaction with class-mates. We appreciate your support with this - thank you.

### Helping Inspire the Engineers of the Future

30 of our Year 2 had a treat this week when they were visited by Mr Golder, one of our Year 1 parents who works for Rolls Royce, to experience a science and engineering day. The children worked with a partner to design, make and then test a battery powered fan boat. The project was funded by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers who hope to inspire and engage children to become the engineers of the future.

The opportunity may arise for the rest of Year 2 to take part in the project later on in the year. We would like to thank Mr Golder for giving up his time to organise the day and for coming in to run the project with the children. More photos from the day are on the website in the recent activities section.



Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

*Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton*