



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 11 - 25th November 2016



The final total raised for Children in Need was £281.88

Thank you to everyone for contributing to this worthwhile charity.

Christingle Service

There will be a Christingle service at St James' Church, Barton, on Sunday 27th November 2016 at 6.00pm.

Every child attending will receive a Christingle. Donations to The Children's Society are welcomed - collection tubes are available from the school office.



We had a fantastic display of Christmas jumpers and sparkly tops in school today. Thank you for the very generous donations of chocolates and bottles for the PTA Tombola for the Christmas Fayre.

- **IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....**
- PTA Raffle tickets
- Raring 2 go! Booklet
- Pantomime trip lunch slip

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1 December - Reception Nativity 2.30pm

Tuesday 6 December - 2M & 1S Christmas play at 9.30am

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

Thursday 8 December - 2W & 1P Christmas play at 9.30am

Friday 9 December - Christmas Fayre 3.30pm

Wednesday 14 December - Christmas lunch and party

Friday 16 December - Christmas Sing a long (1 adult per family please) and last day of school.

Looking ahead to 2017 !!!!!

Wednesday 4 January - School opens for new term

Friday 13th January - 2W Parent Lunch


Friday 20th January - 2M Parent Lunch

Tuesday 27 June - Sports Day

(reserve day Thursday 6th July)

Good reading habits!

Can we please remind you of the importance of listening to your child read at home on a very regular basis? We encourage parents to listen to their child read for a few minutes as often as possible rather than ploughing through all of their reading books in one evening. You will be amazed at how much this helps your child's reading progress. If you listen to your child read, then please do sign the reading log so that we have that information. While it is important that they read their school reading books it is also lovely for them to attempt to read other books around the house or from the library and have stories read to them by parents or older siblings.



Stars of the Week!

Gracie Gadsby Lucia Thompson
Harry Boucher Lily Morley
Evie Allison Luca Roberts
William Duncan Lucas Ward
Rory James Oliver Hamon
Alfie Lissemore Chloe Butler

Gold Lunchtime Award

Thomas Rhead
Olivia Garratt
William Brennan

Social Media Request

While we appreciate that it is lovely to share your child's achievements and school events with friends and family, and an easy way of doing this is to use social media sites, can we please ask that you are mindful of sharing photographs which have other members of our school community in them. If you know you will be sharing the photographs, then please can you make sure that other children or staff members are not featured in them. When we share photographs on Twitter, we make sure that faces of children are not visible and children are not identifiable. We appreciate your support with this.

Miss Hits

Tennis for girls aged 5-8 starting 18th January 2017 at Alrewas Village Hall . Please see the poster on the notice board outside school for more information or contact Zoe Edwards on 07971898645. Email: zedwards837@gmail.com

Reminder

Monday 12th December Bags2school collection.

Bags will go out next week and more information will be on next weeks newsletter.

Please Help!!

Early Years are looking to develop their outdoor area in order to further enhance the children's learning experience. We are currently developing the construction area and creating a 'Mud Kitchen'. We would therefore be extremely grateful for donations of any of the following items:

Logs	blocks	crates	tyres	taraulins	mallets
Buckets	containers	tubs	large paintbrushes/rollers		tools for digging
Pots & pans	jugs	sieves	colanders	baking tins	washing up bowls
Wooden spoons	cooking utensils		funnels	plastic mugs/cups/plates/dishes	

If you are able to donate any of these items, have business links you think may be able to help or have other items you think could be useful, please see Mrs Mears in Reception. Thank you for your support.

Dates for the Spring term

A few dates in advance of the new term:

Family workshops will take place in January where we invite each child to have an adult work alongside them in school, this can be a parent, grandparent or older sibling. This is a great opportunity to see what happens in a typical lesson and how you can support your child's learning at home. All sessions run from 9.15 to 10.15am.

2M- 16th January

2W- 17th January

1S- 18th January

1P- 19th January

RR- 24th January

RM -25th January

It's time to put up the tree!

We are putting up the Christmas Tree on the 30th November in time for the Reception Nativity on the 1st December. Each class will take turns to decorate the tree and we ask that Reception children bring in a decoration they are happy to donate to school. We do this every year and it is lovely to see the children spot their decoration on the tree year after year. Reception children will hang their own decoration and Year 1 and Year 2 children will hang a decoration from our large stock. This is always a lovely event and one that symbolises the start of the Christmas festivities for us in school.

Working with TRJS

We met with Mrs Sharpe, headteacher at TRJS this week to analyse the transition questionnaire. This was a series of questions we asked the parents of the children who moved from Year 2 to Year 3 in July. We have carried out this survey for the past few years and are always encouraged by the largely positive comments. We use parents comments and views to inform the transition process for next year. Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

Parent Lunches

Each year, we invite parents in to school to have lunch with their children. Year 2 will start next year, when each child can have one 'guest' for lunch! This can be mum, dad, a grandparent or another relative—but we are limited to one per child for practical reasons. A letter giving more detail goes out in book bags the week before the lunch. Dates set so far are as follows:

2W—Friday 13th January 2017

2M—Friday 20th January 2017

Don't forget!

- Please return school photo orders by Wednesday 30 November - they make lovely Christmas presents, and the school gets commission on every order!

PDA Syndrome

FREE Parents workshops for understanding children with Pathological Demand Avoidance syndrome.

17th January 2017 Uttoxeter Race course

7th February 2017 The Barnes Cannock

To book email— skillshare@staffordshire.gov.uk

Or telephone **01785 356930** for more information.

PTA News

The PTA would like to say a huge thank you for all your amazing prizes for the Christmas Fayre raffle. A full list of prizes will be available next week and in books bags today are details on how to purchase your tickets to win.

Father Christmas will once again be making an appearance at this year's fayre. There will be set time slots for children to visit the grotto and tickets will be on sale ahead of the fayre at £3 per child. We will be selling tickets just inside the school gates at the following dates and times:

Thursday 1st December — 14:45 - 15:30

Friday 2nd December — 14:45 - 15:30

Tuesday 6th December — 8:45 - 9:30

Thursday 8th December — 8:45 - 9:30

If you are unable to make any of these times, please pop your child's name, preferred grotto visit time (rough), payment of £3 per child and your name and number (for confirmation) into the PTA box in a sealed enveloped labelled "Santa's Grotto".

To make the grotto experience extra-special for the children, we are asking for donations of any unwanted/unused Christmas decorations. So, if you are clearing out or updating your decorations and have some unused ones, there will be a collection box in the school office reception area from next Monday onwards where they can be dropped and you can be sure they will be put to very good use. If you would prefer to just lend some decorations for the grotto, please ensure they are labelled with your name and phone number so we can return them to you. Many thanks!

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton