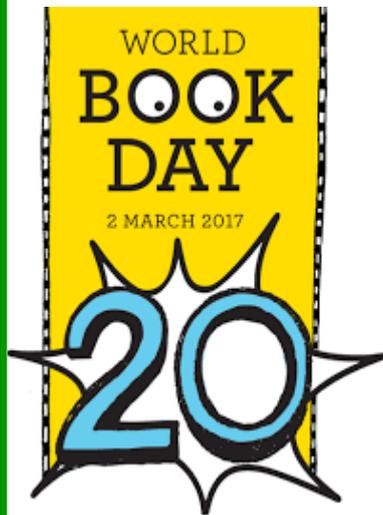




Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

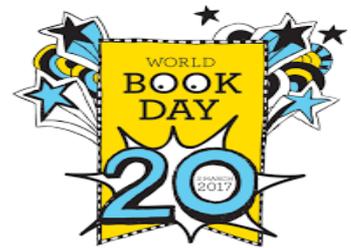
Newsletter No. 18 - 27th January 2017



World Book Day

Thursday 2 March is World Book Day, and each year we invite all the children (and staff!) to dress up as a book character. So get your thinking caps on and decide who you will be for the day! All the children will also receive a £1 book token, which can be spent at all participating shops.

2017'S £1 BOOKS



Dates for your Diary

Monday 30 January - RR Family Workshop

Tuesday 31 January - RM Family Workshop

Friday 3 February - 1P Parent Lunch 11.30

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 10 February - 1S Parent Lunch 11.30

PTA Valentine's disco 3.15-5.30

Thursday 16 February - Break up for half-term

Monday 27 February - Back to school

Tuesday 28 February - Pancake Race

Thursday 2 March - World book day

Friday 3 March - PTA Wine tasting

Friday 17 March - RR Parent Lunch 11.30

PTA Film night 3.15 - 5.30

Friday 24 March - Comic Relief day

Friday 31 March - RM Parent Lunch 11.30

Tuesday 27 June - Sports day

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- Little Apple's Competition
- T.R.I.S.P.T.A Valentines Disco
- Help Wanted—Reception only

Family Workshops

A reminder that Reception parents are invited to join their child in a lesson next week. We look forward to seeing you at 9.15 am.

Pancake Race

Fortunately, we have managed to plead our case to the organisers of the dance show and they have agreed to move our rehearsal slot to the afternoon of 28 February, enabling everyone in Year 2 to take part in the pancake races. We don't yet have exact times for the races, as it is organised independently of school, but as soon as we do, we will let you know.

Gotta Dance!

Some of the Year 2 children will be taking part in this show at the Lichfield Garrick on Tuesday 28 February. This is the third year we've been involved in this event, which is organised by the Stafford Sports and Performance Academy. All children taking part should have received all the information they need about timings, costumes etc. It's a lovely evening and we know the children will do themselves proud!

Head lice

We have had a couple of cases of head lice in Reception and Year 2, so please be vigilant and check your child's hair regularly. A comb through with a nit comb is often required as many are too small to be spotted with the naked eye. If you do find evidence of lice, please treat promptly and thoroughly to minimise the chances of passing them on. Children can continue to attend school, as long as treatment has started. Can we ask that long hair be kept in plaits, pony tails or bunches, to help stop the problem spreading. Thank you!

Stars of the week

Elsie Woodings
Rosie Evans Connor Bowring
Amelia Hudson Lauren Heath
Jonathan Cunningham
Beatrice Haysman
Holly Thompson Billy Groves
Alice Rice Pearl Knight-Dutton
Isaac Heathcote

Well done to you all!

NSPCC Number Day

This is another event that we've taken part in over recent years, and this year is no exception! The day is to celebrate maths and raise money for the NSPCC, and is always enjoyed by the children. This year, we're asking the children to make a model or picture of their house number at home and bring it in next Friday for classroom activities. If your house doesn't have a number, just pick another one! It's also a non-uniform day with a numbers theme - anything with a number on - in return for a donation to the NSPCC. Thank you!

Active Kids 2017 - Sainsbury's

Active Kids launched on the 25th of January and we would like to collect as many vouchers in school as possible. Every time you shop in store you should be given one voucher for every £10 spent at the till. There will shortly be a collection box in the front entrance but if you could put any vouchers you have in the meantime in book bags we would be very grateful. Collecting the vouchers enables the school to receive new cooking and sports equipment.



Spotlight on...An External School Review

Two consultants spent the day in school on Monday working alongside the Headteachers and other leaders. We invited them in to monitor the teaching and learning, look closely at the children's books and analyse our school improvement plan, the self-evaluation document and our data on pupil achievement. Being two fully trained Ofsted inspectors, they shared their experiences and knowledge to support us in this constructive process. There were many strengths which they noted while being in our school, which included:

- ◆ The positive relationships between all children and staff
- ◆ The positive learning behaviours and engagement of the children during lessons
- ◆ Relevant and engaging lessons
- ◆ Good use of questioning from teachers and teaching assistants to ascertain understanding

Some of the recommendations included:

- ◆ To continue to review the strategies we use to meet the needs of our more able pupils (this was already identified as a priority on our school improvement plan this year, ensuring a larger proportion of children achieve greater depth)
- ◆ To further develop the use of assessment for learning strategies to ensure work is carefully matched to all groups
- ◆ To further develop the use of modelling to support learners (this is where a skill or activity is demonstrated by the teacher, ensuring the children are clear about their work)
- ◆ To further develop leaders in scrutinising children's work to provide information about the progress children are making

After a day spent with a Maths Hub* advisor working with Mrs Walker (maths lead) and teachers today, we already feel as though we have made really good progress in maths towards some of these recommendations. With a whole-school training day also planned for the last day of half-term and some of these as the focus, we are confident that we will move rapidly in these areas.

* Maths Hubs have been established to help schools and colleges lead improvement in mathematics education in England. They seek to harness all the maths leadership and expertise within an area, to develop and spread excellent practice, for the benefit of all pupils and students. They are part of the wider development of school-led system leadership in England.

Governors in Action

I visited school last week as part of my role on the Governing Body. During my visit it was really pleasing to see how the school are embracing British Values and embedding it as part of their curriculum. I am confident that the school are actively promoting the idea that children are aware of their own rights, responsibilities and the importance of showing respect to everyone.



I also spoke in depth with Mrs Farmer about SEN (special educational needs) provision across the school and looked at the provision-mapping the school provides for these children. Many strategies and interventions are in place to ensure all children with an identified special need are able to make progress at their own level.

We then discussed Health and Safety across the school and I was shown evidence that the school were meeting all their legal requirements.

Once again, I was very impressed with the behaviour of the children when I walked through the school; their manners and cheerfulness shone through.

Alison Cotterill, parent governor

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton