



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 23 - 10 March 2017

Outdoor learning

Reception children enjoyed some great outdoor learning this week. The children have been learning how to measure objects around the reception play area.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 17 March - RR Parent Lunch 11.40

PTA Film night 3.15 - 5.30

Friday 24 March - Comic Relief day

Friday 31 March - RM Parent Lunch 11.40

Monday 3 April - Easter Assembly in Church 2.00

Tuesday 4 April - Easter Bonnet Parade

Thursday 4 May - Parent Consultations

Monday 8 May - Parent Consultations

Tuesday 27 June - Sports day

(reserve day Thursday 6th July)

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- ◆ Premier Education - Easter Sport Activities

Bicycles & Scooters

Please can you ensure that bikes and scooters are only left in or immediately next to the shelter - please do not leave against or locked to railings as this can cause access problems for us. Can we also remind parents and carers that all items are left at the owners' own risk.

In-term absence - please think again...

As you are aware, the school does not allow pupil absence during term time for anything other than exceptional reasons. We are, however, seeing a steady stream of requests for absence, mostly for family holidays. Can we ask that parents and carers think very carefully about the implications of taking children out of school - they will almost inevitably miss important curriculum work that could have a negative effect on their progress. Some parents will say "Oh, it's only a week", but missing a week of school can mean missing the teaching of an entire concept, such as a particular writing skill or telling the time. This is a problem regardless of which year a child is in, but is particularly so in Year 2, where the teachers have to gather evidence throughout the school year to establish levels and track progress.

All staff here in school with school-age children know how frustrating it is to look at the cost of travel in school holidays, but unfortunately it is a situation we cannot change. All we can do is try to make parents and carers fully aware of the problems created by absence from school.

Safety first

A successful fire drill took place in school this week, where all children and staff followed school procedures to safely exit the building on the sounding of the fire bell. We carry out a drill every half term, always at different times of the day to ensure we are always prepared in the event of a real fire. All the children were very sensible and calm - well done, everyone.

Stars of the week

Maisie Cattell Rosie Gadsby
William Rhead Henry Martlew
Daniel England Seren Pope
Zaiba Khan Ella O'Brien
Annabelle Dierker-Duncanson
Lois White Poppy-Eve Nicholls
Noah Elton Emelia Brewer
Hannah Greensmith

Playground Games and Equipment - can you help?

Our school councillors have certainly been busy this week as they have been tasked, amongst other things, to find out what toys and games our children would like for lunchtimes. One class thought of the brilliant idea of having a dressing up box and some role play props. If you have any dressing up clothes which you no longer need or any good quality role play equipment you could donate the children would be extremely grateful.

Home School Agreement

Can we remind parents of the Home/School Agreement which all parents sign when your child starts school? It has been 'tweaked' over the past couple of years, so we thought it would be useful to send out the latest version to everyone.

Reminder

Vision Screening— Reception Children Only

Letters were sent out in February regarding an NHS visit. If you do not wish your child to have an eye test and you have not already returned the slip, please return it as soon as possible. We will assume that anyone who has not returned a slip is happy for their child to have a routine eye test.

Class Photos

These take place in school time on Tuesday 14th March. They will be available to buy and details will be sent home. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you about correct school uniform, especially school shoes and hair accessories. Shoes should be black and not trainers and long hair should be tied back at all times, using green, white or black accessories. Thank you for your support.

Comic Relief - Friday 24th March

Our school councillors are requesting that children wear red for Comic relief. The theme this year is 'Make Your Laugh Matter' so the children are also invited to bring in their best joke to share with their class. The children in each class will then choose their favourite, funniest joke to take to assembly on Friday afternoon. Any donations towards Comic Relief will be collected in classes in the morning and the total announced on the newsletter. Thank you school councillors.



PTA News

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Wine Tasting Evening last week. A great time was had by all and we would like to again thank Mike and Carly James and Kerstin Dierker for hosting a super night. We are delighted to share with you all that the evening raised over £1200 for the PTA, which will be put to very good use in the coming months and year. More information on what the money raised so far this year has been spent on will be in next week's newsletter.

Just a quick reminder that it's the Film Night on 17th March, please could slips and food choices be returned asap if you would like your child to attend. Many thanks!

Kids Fun Easter Tennis Camps

Barton Tennis Club 11th, 12th, 18th & 19th April

Shenstone Tennis Club 20th & 21st April

1 Day - £12

2 Day - £20

4 Days - £35

Sign up online!

<http://ClubSpark.lta.org.uk/zoeedwardscoaching>

or please get in touch

Email: zedwards837@gmail.com

Tel: 07971898645

years

9.30am – 12.00pm

Equipment is provided free of charge

Please bring with you a water bottle and snack and suitable attire for all weathers

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs L Farmer and Mrs S Burton