



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 28 - 28 April 2017

Shoe Aid success!

A huge thank you to everyone who turned out their cupboards and wardrobes to donate shoes this week! We had a fantastic response to our request for old shoes and boots, as the picture shows. Both Central News and the Burton Mail attended, bringing great publicity for this worthwhile charity. If you come across any stray pairs of unwanted shoes in the future, we will be keeping a donation bin in school.



Barton Rovers Junior Football Club

For details of how to join the club please see the separate attachment going out with the Newsletter email.

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- ◆ Barton Cricket Club
- ◆ Mama Life Magazine

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 May - School closed

Tuesday 2 May - Maypole Dancing 2.30 pm

Thursday 4 May - Parent consultations

Friday 5 May - Year 1 Change for life Festival
Trip am to Burton Albion

Monday 8 May - Parent consultations

Monday 22 May - Year 1 visit to Rosliston

Monday 29 May to 2 June - School closed

Tuesday 27 June - Sports day (reserve day
Thursday 6th July)

Wednesday 19th July—Leavers' assembly (pm)

Medical appointments

Please can we remind you that if your child has a medical appointment during school hours, we do need to see an appointment card or letter from the doctor/hospital/dentist confirming the time and date of the appointment. This is something we are required to do, so please bring the card or letter into the school office when you pick up your child for the visit. Thank you.

Maypole Dancing show

On Tuesday 2nd May at 2.30pm, the Year 2 country dancing club will be performing their dances for May Day. The event will take place on the playground if dry and all parent/carers are invited to watch. If it rains, however, and we are forced to hold it inside, we ask that only parents of dancers come along as it is physically impossible to get everyone in the hall as the children need a lot of space to perform. Many thanks for your understanding - here's hoping for blue skies!

PLEASE NOTE: there will be NO country dancing club on Tuesday 2nd May due to the earlier performance.

Special Education Needs Link Governor visit—Ali Cotterill

Just before the Easter Holiday I visited the school as part of my role as SEN Governor. As a Governing Board, we have a responsibility to check that the school supports every individual child, regardless of their ability, and that they can provide evidence and data to show they are doing so. I spent time talking to Mrs Farmer and analysing data, as well as observing children, looking at work and talking to members of staff. It was reassuring to see that the school quickly identifies children who require specific support in their learning, and ensures they all receive the support needed to make the progress of which they are capable.

Thank you to all staff and children who made my visit such a positive experience.



Admissions Policy - please read...

A letter was left in our post box recently, raising concerns about our admissions policy. Unfortunately, the writer of the letter didn't give their name, so regrettably we have to address the issues raised in this very public way.

Places at all schools in Barton are allocated strictly according to the individual school's admissions policy. In the case of Thomas Russell Infants, places are allocated for when children start in Reception in the following order:

- 1 - Children in care/adopted children
- 2 - Children with a sibling already in school
- 3 - Geographical proximity to school, with priority to those within the official catchment area.

We have never filled all our Reception places purely from siblings and children living within catchment. If a parent from outside catchment applies for a place and there is still room after all those who meet the higher priorities are allocated spaces, that child will get a place. This is completely standard practice and is an important aspect of parental choice. This means that a number of our children live outside of our formal catchment area.

If we receive an application for a mid-year admission - ie at any other time other than when children start school at the beginning of the academic year they turn five - these requests are looked at individually. If we have a space in the year group requested, we are obliged to offer the place, regardless of where they live, unless there are specific reasons why we feel the school would not be suitable for them.

The new housing developments both in the village and nearby mean there will be increasing demand for places at all village schools. We will continue to abide by our Admissions Policy when considering applications for places and only allocate spaces where the conditions are met.

The letter also contained a specific allegation, which we cannot address in detail here for reasons of confidentiality, but can say is unfounded. If the author of the letter would like to contact us, we can explain further.

We like to think that all staff in school are very approachable and it has saddened us to receive an anonymous letter. We would ask you to please remember that we cannot address individual concerns if a name is not given. Thank you.

Funding news!

We are delighted to inform you that we have been successful in a recent bid to have our school roof replaced in its entirety. Due to its age our roof is in quite poor condition, with a number of leaks around school, so this is fantastic news. The funding stream is a pot of government money we can bid for now that we are an academy. We also submitted a second bid for our drains to be replaced and our playground to be resurfaced but unfortunately we were unsuccessful on this occasion. However, we plan to resubmit this for a second attempt as soon as possible.

The roof works are due to start on Monday 15th May with a schedule of approximately sixteen weeks. School will be perfectly safe and secure for the children at all times with health and safety being paramount and we will attempt to keep any disruption to a minimum. As work begins during term time, classes will vacate their classrooms one at a time in order for the contractors to work on the roof above. We can't wait to see the results!

Parent Consultations

Staff are looking forward to meeting parents over the next couple of weeks for the last consultations of the year. Please look out in book bags for a copy of your child's assessment sheet coming home prior to the meeting. Please take some time to look at the sheet in readiness for the meeting as this shows the areas in which your child is achieving and what they still need to work on. This will be discussed in more detail during the meeting.

Stranger Danger

Please remember to regularly talk to your children about how to stay safe. Talk to them about potential scenarios and what they should do to stay safe, for example if someone stopped their car and offered them a sweet or told them that 'Mummy or Daddy has asked that I pick you up'. Scenarios such as asking a child to fuss their puppy and then asking if they want to play with the other puppies, etc. Children need to be reminded of these important messages from time to time.

Early Years Working Party

Thank you so much to all of the individuals who have offered to come and help Mrs Mears on Friday 5th May. We are excited to see the outcome of a hard day's work and a transformation of the outdoor area. If you have any of the following you would available to donate we would be most grateful:

- Pots and pans, colander, large metal or wooden spoons, baking trays, funnels, ladles, jugs (or other items you think would be suitable for our musical area)
- Drain pipes or guttering
- Wind chimes

Wishing you all an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and see you all on Tuesday.

Regards

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer