



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 31 - 19 May 2017

Year 1 fun!

This week has been one of fun and learning for children and staff in Year 1. Miss Pearson gave all the children a real treat when she brought in her two baby ducklings for them to see; a few were even brave enough to give them a stroke! The children loved seeing them and asked lots of very good questions.



Year 1 have also been learning about road safety, with Lisa Wright from Staffordshire County Council Highways Department. They had a walk around the village and were all commended on their sensible attitude to safety near the roads. Well done children.

Country dancing news

All country dancers should have received a letter telling them that the last session is next Tuesday 23 May. Parents are invited to come and watch from 3.30pm.

Dance Club

There will be no dance club next Friday (26th May) the next session will be Friday the 9th of June.

IN YOUR BOOK BAGS....

- ◆ Let's all do the Conga leaflet
- ◆ Bridge Physiotherapy leaflet

Dates for your Diary

Monday 22 May - Year 1 visit to Rosliston

Monday 29 May to 2 June - School closed

Wednesday 7 June - Parent and child Forest School activity 1S 1pm-2pm 1P 2pm-3pm

Thursday 8 June - Parent and child Forest School activity RR 1pm- 2pm RM 2pm-3pm

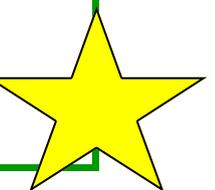
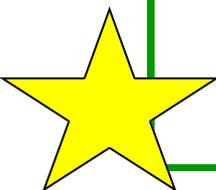
Tuesday 27 June - Sports day (reserve day Thursday 6th July)

Wednesday 19th July - Leavers' assembly (pm)



Stars of the week

Lorelai Maxwell Darcy Walker
Robert Brittle Billy Groves Isaac Pick
Jack Thomas Evie Stokes Connor Jones
Luca Roberts Owen Prestidge
Annabelle Dierker-Duncanson
Tristan Summers



Staff training

Every week all staff have various individual and group professional development opportunities and training, which we think is very important. This week has seen Miss Rowley update her paediatric first aid training (a necessary requirement for staff working in Early Years) and Mrs Wilson learn more about Forest Schools by visiting another local school.

Lightening their load...

We have noticed that an increasing number of children are bringing ruck-sacks and bigger bags into school in addition to/instead of their book bags. This is fine if they have an after-school club or need to bring games kit in, but please can you bring just book bags otherwise - space is limited in school and the children shouldn't need to bring anything to school that can't fit into a standard book bag.

Also, can we ask that children limit themselves to one key-ring per book bag? The bags have to fit in the children's classroom drawers, which also have to accommodate books, papers, jumpers and other various items, and more than one key-ring or similar can make things very awkward! Thank you.

PTA Annual General Meeting

Thank you to the current committee members and to the two new parents who attended on Wednesday evening. Unfortunately it doesn't appear that we have any parents willing to take on the committee roles, so after lots of discussion on Wednesday the PTA would like to discuss ideas for a new format moving forward.

As our current committee step down, we are struggling for a full committee, so we are proposing that the Head-teachers Chair the PTA and possibly only the smaller, more manageable events take place. We are hoping that an individual or a small group of parents would take on an individual event such as a disco or a film night and organise this, with the usual team of parent helpers assisting at the actual event. WE are also open to any other suggestions for how the PTA can function work in the future.

We are holding a meeting on the 7th of June at 8.00 pm to plan out events for the rest of the Summer term and the Autumn term and would love to see as many people attending as possible. We promise that you will not be coaxed into Chairing the PTA, just offered the chance to help on whichever activities you have the time and or skills for or your ideas listened to.

Please, please come along and support us so that we can continue to offer our children the extra things that the PTA funds, supplementing our ever decreasing school budget.

Sponsored Conga!

Each year the PTA organise a sponsored event to help raise money for the school. This year the school council canvassed the ideas of all of the children in their classes and reported back. The favourite suggestion was a whole school Conga - a great suggestion from Ted Leason of RR!

On Thursday 25th May at 2.15 pm the whole school will congregate on the field to attempt to form a human chain with the Reception children leading the way (weather permitting). We will then aim to Conga around the field in one long line. If you haven't anything better to do on Thursday afternoon and would like to come along then you are very welcome. We do ask that younger siblings don't try to join the Conga line, although they might decide to make one of their own! Sponsorship details are in book-bags today.

Early Years Access Into School

Thank you for bearing with us this week as the children have entered school. Our scaffolding is nearly complete so we will soon know whether the Reception children are able to access their classrooms by their usual route or not.

Please keep an eye on your children—both those at school and younger siblings— at drop-off and pick-up times while the building works are in progress. Whilst robust health and safety measures are in place, it does mean that there are changes to school layout and routine. The staff are currently having to park inside the inner gates, so please ensure children stay away from the cars, as you would if they were in the normal car park.

A number of parents have commented on this week's system and said how nice it is to see the children developing their independence by entering school unaccompanied. Other parents have also suggested that they believe their children are now ready for a little more independence now that they are heading towards their transition to Year 1. With this in mind we are requesting that once we are able to use the usual entrance, parents now say goodbye to their children on the Early Years play area and no longer accompany them into the cloakroom or classroom in readiness for their move up to Year 1.

Library craft events-

Barton Library are holding two events tomorrow morning at 11.00am.

Star Wars Lego building—Free of charge

Silk Painting—Make silk painted bookmarks! For ages 5+

The following Thursdays 4pm-5pm

25th May—Decorating Biscuits—Free

8th June—Father's Day Crafts

Schools Gotta Sing 2017 -

Lichfield Garrick 13th June

Tickets are still available for the Choir Event, please see the Garrick Website for details.

Annual parents questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire over the past two weeks. We are delighted with the results which are being emailed out to all parents with this newsletter (and are available on the website). Whilst the overwhelming response was positive, we would like to pick up on one particular concern. Several parents commented that they didn't want the school to lose its lovely village feel and 'small community' ethos if we are to expand in size with additional classrooms. Our main priority as we expand is to protect exactly this about the school. We will continue to strive for the best education and care for your children and those joining us in the future. We are blessed with an excellent staff of professionals who will always put the children at the centre of all they do. Together, we will continue to protect the special events and opportunities the children experience during their time with us to ensure Thomas Russell Infants' School remains the nurturing and caring school you say it is.

Another annually raised issue is that of homework - some think there's too much, some not enough, some consider it too hard, others not challenging enough. Sadly, this is a subject that everyone has a different view on and one in which we do our best to strike a 'happy medium'. We will be carrying out a homework review in school next half-term, however, we acknowledge that we will never please everyone!

Open Farm Sunday 11th June 2017

Packington Fields Farm 10am to 3pm

Free admission . A range of activities are planned.

(leaflets available in the school front office)

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend .
Regards

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer