



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 36- 30th June 2017

## Sports Day successes!

We managed to sneak sports day into a gap in the rain on Tuesday and it fortunately stayed dry for the fair afterwards as well. A big "well done" to all the children for their efforts - it was a closely fought contest, but in the end Swans were the winning team. We only realised when we looked at the winners' trophy that the last time the Swans team won was over twenty years ago in 1996!!

Thank you also to all the parents who staffed the various stalls, raising much-appreciated funds for school, and to everyone who donated cakes and/or came and cheered the children on and spent money on the stalls - we really value all your support.



Those results in full:	1 <sup>st</sup> Swans	1448 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Robins	1439 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Owls	1407 points
	4 <sup>th</sup> Penguins	1399 points

## New Classes and Staffing - September

Reception and Year 1 - Please see book bags for a letter about new classes and staffing for the new school year in September.

### **IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...**

- ◆ Central Stage leaflet
- ◆ New class details letter
- ◆ Raring2go! booklet
- ◆ Y2 leavers party letter

## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 13th July**—Y2 leavers party 3.15pm-5.00

**Wednesday 19th July** — Leavers' assembly 2pm

**Friday 21st July**—Break up for summer

**Tuesday 5th September** - Back to school- new school year starts!



## Stars of the week

Thomas Barker Lily Morley Seren Pope

Sam McCarthy Beatrix Brooke

Sophie Marshall Lucas Ward

Kaybie Powell-Johnson Ella Carvell

Alice Rice Anna Thorp Noah Griffin

Olivia Boulter Seth Berriman

Jack Garrett Liberty Pearce

William Duncan



### PTA News

The next PTA meeting is 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th July at the Waterfront. All welcome! Please come along and get involved in whatever way you feel you can, any input, no matter how small or large is appreciated! If you can't make it for 7.30pm please come along when you can. There will be nibbles provided! See you there!

### Lost Property

We have two identical purses left behind after the Summer Fayre. Please call into the office if they belong to your children.



### Drama & Recorder concert

Parents were treated to a fantastic performance on Wednesday morning by the talented members of our recorder and drama clubs. Mr Donoghue, CEO of John Taylor MAT, came along to watch as well and was very impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the children. Many thanks to Mrs Smith and Mrs Wilson for all their work with the children during the school year.

### A sad goodbye...

We are going to be losing two of our longest-serving members of staff at the end of this term. Both Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Byers are leaving us to enjoy a well-earned rest (although Mrs Atkinson will be kept busy with her new grandson!) after being with us for twenty and fourteen years respectively.

We are going to miss them hugely and we know that the children and parents will join us in wishing them well as they begin a hopefully more laid-back, relaxed part of their lives!

### Notes & Reminders

- Bags2School - collection is on Monday 3 July. Please bring bags to the front of school.
- New Reception visited again this week and had great fun in the classroom, this time without mummy or daddy - well done!
- Year 2 made a splash at the juniors on Monday when they went for a swim - the experience got a big thumbs-up from everyone!
- Sickness - please remember that we need to hear from you by 9.30am if your child is off sick. Phone the office on 01283 247930 - you can leave a message if it's before 8.30am.
- Mrs Woodward (lunchtime supervisor & crossing patrol) - please don't forget to pop into the school office and add your message to Mrs Woodward's leaving book.
- Facebook—please can we ask that school pictures are **not** added as other children are featuring in them, i.e achievement assembly, sports day.
- **Inset days** - a reminder that the school will be closed to pupils for staff training on - **4th September 2017, 20th October 2017, 3rd January 2018, 29th March 2018, 4th June 2018.**

### School Funding—A message from the Chair of Governors

Hello to all parents and carers of Thomas Russell Infants' School from your Governing Board. I write to you in conjunction with the school's staffing arrangements you will have received today in your child's book bag. You will notice that we have found ourselves in the invidious position of having to reduce our overall levels of teacher support for the next academic year. The reason for this reduction is the Government's National Funding Formula that has seen a national decrease in funding to schools and educational establishments across the country. We find this an appalling state of affairs, especially as we are an oversubscribed school being encouraged to increase our pupil numbers (albeit as a temporary measure). Over the years, we have always been proud to have high levels of teacher support and we hope that the funding equilibrium will be returned as time goes on. The Governing Board, alongside the Co-Headteachers, Deputy Headteacher and Office Manager, deliberated tirelessly and have postponed other school refurbishment projects to allocate as much of the funding as is possible to teachers, teaching support and resources for your children. With the staff team we have at Thomas Russell Infants' School, I am sure you will agree that - even faced with obstacles - they will ensure that only the highest levels of teaching and learning experiences will continue as they have always done.

As always, if you have any questions our door is always open and I am always available via e-mail in the first instance [t.hopkins@thomasrussell-infants.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:t.hopkins@thomasrussell-infants.staffs.sch.uk)

Tim Hopkins

Chair of the Governing Board

### Lateness

We have an increasing number of children arriving late to school on a regular basis. The school bell rings at 9.00am and we expect all children to be in their classrooms, ready to start the day, by this time. Lateness, even by a couple of minutes, causes disruption to the classes and children. Please allow sufficient time in the morning to enable you to arrive at school on time. Thank you.

### Sports Day Summer Fayre

The final sum raised by the fayre was just over £1,200.!!! Thank you to everyone who supported the event by helping with setting up and running the stalls or attending the fayre.



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

*Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer*