



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 2- 15th September 2017

## School photographs

The school photographer will be coming in on Monday 25 September (please note change of date) to take individual and family photos. If you would like a group photo with older or younger siblings, the photographer will be available from 8.30am. Please ensure you inform older siblings' schools that they may be late arriving.

## A big thank you!

We just wanted to say thank you to all parents for the fantastic punctuality of all the children so far this term. Getting to school on time in the morning can be a challenge, especially when first starting school and considering the various road works in the area at present, but we have not yet had a single child late into school! Let's hope we can keep that going further into the term.

## JTHS comedy night

The PTA at John Taylor High School are organising a stand-up comedy night on Friday 6 October. Bar opens at 7.30pm, show starts at 8.00pm. Tickets are £10 - contact Jane on 07722 891696 or at [reilly-jane@sky.com](mailto:reilly-jane@sky.com) to book.

## **Attachments with newsletter:**

- ◇ PTA calendar competition form

## **In book bag:**

- ◇ Panto letter with consent form
- ◇ Primary Times
- ◇ 2M- Parent Lunch letter
- ◇ 2W - Parent Lunch letter

## Books and uniform...

Many thanks for all the generous donations of school uniform and books that have been handed in over the past few months. We are now in the lucky position of having plenty of both, so please can we ask that you now donate your unwanted items to charity shops or, in the case of uniform, pass directly on to parents of younger children. If we need any donations in the future, we will let you know! Thank you.

## Dates for your Diary

**Monday 25th September** - School Photographs  
7pm Early Years Curriculum Evening (all Reception parents welcome)

**Friday 22nd September** - RM Trip to Packington Farm

**Tuesday 26th September**- RR Trip to Packington Farm

**Wednesday 11th October** - 1S Trip to Packington Farm, 2M Parent Lunch, 7 pm e-safety workshop for parents

**Thursday 12th October** - 1P Trip to Packington Farm, 2W Parent Lunch

**Tuesday 17th October** - KS1 Curriculum Evening  
Y1 and Y2 parents

**Thursday 19th October** - 9.15 Harvest Festival assembly, Halloween disco 4.45 pm.

Break up for Autumn half-term

**Friday 20th October** - School closed to pupils

**Monday 30th October** - Back to school

### PTA news

Reminder!! PTA social next Thursday (21st September) in the Middle Bell. 8pm onwards. Come along and meet some new parents and catch up with some familiar faces! We'd love to see you there!

PTA meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm at school. Please come along to meet other parents and share ideas and plan for the term ahead. There will be CAKE!!! All welcome!

Change of time! The Halloween party on the last day of term (Thursday 19th October) will start at 4:45pm not 3:15pm as previously stated. More details to follow nearer the time.

### Curriculum Information Evening for Reception Parents - Monday 25th September

We welcome you to join us for the evening where we will introduce to you the Early Years Curriculum and the methods and strategies we use to support children in school for reading, writing and mathematics. We hope you can join us from 7.00 pm in the school hall. Please note that the workshop is for adults only.

### School Calendar

On Tuesday 19th September the children will be photographed in groups according to their month of birth for our school calendar. These make wonderful gifts for family and friends (details on how to purchase will follow). There is also a competition for the children to draw a picture for the front cover - please see attachment. For the photos we ask you send your child in on Tuesday with a themed 'prop' as listed below. Thank you for your support - all props will be returned the same day.

**January-** woolly hats and scarves

**July-** tennis rackets and balls

**February-** Valentine hearts and flowers

**August-** summer buckets and spades

**March-** cuddly rabbits

**September-** no props needed as we use school items

**April-** umbrellas and rain coats

**October-** Halloween

**May-** (no props needed as we use our Maypole!)

**November-** model fireworks (not the real thing!!)

**June-** Summer play equipment/toys

**December-** Christmas decorations eg tinsel

**Pupil Premium Funding- is your child missing out?** Now that all infant-aged children receive free school meals automatically, many parents may be unaware that their child may still be eligible for extra funding - the 'Pupil Premium' - that will benefit both their child and the school. This funding is available to children whose parents receive certain State benefits, such as Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Child Tax Credit. It is spent directly on the eligible child, either on resources or teaching time. The application process is very quick, easy and discreet - just go online to [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) and complete the form.

If you don't have access to the internet, please ask at the school office for a paper copy. You should have an answer very quickly.

The extra funding allows school to provide resources and allocate teaching time specifically for your child that we otherwise couldn't afford. Please, even if you're not sure you're eligible, take a couple of minutes to fill in and submit the form - a successful application will directly benefit your child individually. Thank you!

### Text messages

For parents new to the school -

We use a text messaging service to send out last minute information or reminders of events going on in school. Please note the text is usually short and to the point as we have a limited number of characters to use to type the message! If you find that you are not receiving messages at any time please let the office know. (2 text messages were sent out yesterday to reception parents only)

### Christmas is coming

We know it's only September, but we're already thinking about December! Every year, we have a whole-school trip to the panto and this year it is Beauty and the Beast at Derby Arena. For more information, please see the letter in your book bag today. Please complete the consent form and return to school with payment by Friday 13th October.



### An itchy problem

Please can you be vigilant and check your child's hair for nits. We have had a case reported in Reception and ask that parents in all years have a look and check for unwanted visitors. They are tricky to spot and can sometimes only be detected with the use of a nit comb. If you do find head lice, please treat promptly and thoroughly - children can still come to school, provided treatment is underway. We urge all parents to tie long hair back, in plaits if possible, to help prevent spreading the problem. Thank you.

### Reception Classes -

Calling all parents and carers - we are looking to compile a list of helpers who may be available to help go on school trips with the reception classes. If you may be available to help out anytime during the year please could you let the office know which days of the week are most convenient and a contact number, then we could have a list ready. Thank you; we are very grateful for any support.

### Notes and reminders

*There's a chill in the air...*

Please can all children now come to school with a coat? The weather is very changeable at present, and as the children spend a lot of time outdoors at school, they need a suitable coat to keep them warm and dry.

*Volunteers meeting*

Don't forget the meeting next Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am if you would like to be a parent volunteer - all welcome!! All year groups would be particularly grateful of regular parents to listen to individual readers.

*Bags in school*

Please can we ask that children bring their school-issued book bag **only** to school? We are noticing that much larger bags are creeping back in. Your child does not usually need to bring anything into school on a daily basis that can't fit into their book bag, unless they have a packed lunch. We understand that there is the occasional need for an additional or larger bag if a child needs a change of clothes for an after-school activity, but our cloak-rooms, particularly the Year 2 one, are not able to cope with large bags. We would also remind you of the limit of **one** key-ring on book bags please - they have to easily fit in the classroom drawers, along with other items. Thank you!

*Flu Vaccination - Reception Classes*

Please can forms be returned by Tuesday 19th September. Thank you.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.  
Regards

*Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer*