



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No. 8 3rd November 2017

## Pumpkin parade!

There were some amazing - and terrifying! - sights to be seen on Tuesday, when our playground was taken over by spooky Halloween pumpkins! Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the PTA-organised competition. A big thank you as well to the PTA for providing prizes for the winners and runners-up. Our winners were:

Year 2: Elsie Hood, Harry Boucher

Year 1: Olivia Bednall Brodie Horler

Reception: Daniel Bird, Evie Rollins



## Remembrance Day Poppies & Commemoration

From Monday, Royal British Legion poppies will be available in school for the children to buy. Each day, children from Year 2 will take the poppies and collection tin around the classrooms for the children to make their donation. There are a limited number of poppy wristbands available, for which we ask a minimum £1 donation. Thank you for your support. As Armistice Day (11 November) falls on a weekend this year, we are joining the main act of remembrance at the village war memorial on Sunday 12 November when Mrs Moore and two Year 2 children will lay a wreath on behalf of TRIS.

## IN YOUR BOOK BAGS...

- PTA school Calendar order form
- Writes School photographs

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 6th November - Parent and Teacher Consultations

Tuesday 14th November - World Diabetes Day

Friday 17th November- Children in Need Day

Friday 17th November - PTA Quiz Night

Friday 8th December - 2pm Reception Nativity

Tuesday 12th December - 9.30 2M & 1P Christmas Play

Wednesday 13th December - 9.30 2W & 1S Christmas Play

Friday 15th December - Pantomime Trip to Derby Arena followed by Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 19th December - 2.30 Sing a long, last day of term!

## 2018

Thursday 4th January - Back to school-New term starts!

### Unauthorised absence in term time

You will hopefully remember the letter from Staffordshire County Council that we emailed out with Newsletter 4 at the end of September detailing changes to Penalty Notices. We thought it would be useful to summarise the main points again:

From 1 January 2018, **any** period of unauthorised leave may result in a penalty notice fine. Authorised leave can only be granted in **exceptional** circumstances.

If a pupil accumulates **10** unauthorised lateness marks (ie not arriving in school by the time the registers close without prior reasonable explanation) a penalty notice can be issued.

These are significant changes to the current system. Our stance on the matter is as it has always been - absence of any description in term time should be avoided whenever possible because of the impact it has on the children's learning and social development. We cannot authorise time requested for holidays unless the circumstances are **exceptional** - and that is something that is dictated to us by county and national legislation. We do understand the difficulties posed by only having certain times in which to take holidays - all the staff here are in the same boat! - but know you all understand and appreciate the importance of regular school attendance.

### Calendar competition winners

Thank you to all the children who entered the drawing competition - well done to everyone; picking winners was a real challenge! These are the children whose pictures will appear on the front cover of this year's PTA calendar:

Daisy Crowden - RR  
Olivia Bednall - 1P  
Elsie Woodings - 1S  
William Crowden - 2M  
Cara Mayes- 2W  
Bohemia Howes - 2W

### 50/50 club

The winner of the October 50/50 draw is number 3 - Sian Lockwood. Congratulations!!

### World Diabetes Day - Tuesday 14th November 2017

**DiABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

Come to school in your onesies in return for a donation to support a charity close to our hearts.

### Maths focus

This week in maths:

Reception have been focusing on the number 4. The children have enjoyed finding 4 twigs/leaves and sorting them into two hoops. They've been creating number sentences to show these different ways eg 3 twigs and 1 twig makes 4 twigs altogether. The children have been introduced to a 5-frame and have been positioning four counters in different ways on it. They have been using 1p and 2p coins to see how many ways they can make 4p. The children have also been introduced to the part-whole model and have shown ways to make 4 on this.

Year 1 have been subtracting this week, focusing on the vocabulary used such as take away, subtract, less. They have been completing number problems based on subtraction and have been challenged to answer questions such as 'True or false. If I take away 0 from a number the number gets smaller.' The children have been continuing to find different number sentences using 3 numbers using addition and subtraction.

Year 2 have been adding and subtracting multiples of 10 from a number ensuring that they understand that the tens number changes whilst the ones number stays the same eg  $46 + 30 = 76$ . They have been creating their own number line to add a 1-digit number to a 2-digit number and have begun to add by partitioning numbers and exchanging 10 ones for 1 ten.

### PTA news

Reminder!! Get your team entered into our quiz night on Friday 17th November. Teams should be 4-6 people, a copy of the form is on the Facebook page if you need another. Cost is £8 per person to include a fish and chip supper. It's going to be a fantastic evening, get your team entries in as soon as possible!



Halloween! We enjoyed a spectacular turnout for our pumpkin carving competition on Tuesday. The playground looked amazing and all the children really enjoyed seeing each others' creations. Together with the tombola we managed to raise over £100 too! Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Help! We know it's only just November but we have been starting to think about Christmas and in particular the raffle. Do you have anything you could offer as a prize for the raffle, or know anyone that does? We'll be sending out a form next week so please get your thinking caps on!

### Children in Need - Friday 17th November 2017

We will be supporting Children in Need Day again this year and we would like all children to come dressed in spots or colourful clothes and offer a donation of £1. Children can bring in their favourite Teddy Bear to join in the fun.

The school council will be holding a cake sale at playtime, and ask if children and parents can donate cakes, to be bought into school on the Friday morning please. Remaining cakes will be sold after school. Thank you.



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer