



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No.12 1st December 2017

## Christmas is coming!

Unbelievably, it's only two and a half weeks until we break up for Christmas, but there are lots of exciting events to pack in before then:

**Reception nativity** is next Friday (8 December) at 2.15pm. Reception parents will find two tickets in their book bag today. Each ticket admits one adult - please remember to bring those along on Friday.



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> is also **Christmas non-uniform day**. Please donate a bottle for the PTA Christmas Fayre tombola.

Years 1 and 2 will be performing their **Christmas plays** on Tuesday 12 December (2M & 1P) and Wednesday 13 December (2W & 1S), both at 9.30am. Two tickets per family will go out in book bags next week.

On Friday 15 December we're all off on our **pantomime trip** (oh yes we are...) to Derby Arena. Please remember, all children need to be in the classrooms by 8.50am at the latest for a prompt 9.00am departure. The children will have a packed lunch on their return.

Also on Friday 15 December, we will be holding our **Christmas Fayre** from 3.30pm - come along for lots of festive fun, food and drink, plus a visit to Father Christmas!



Tuesday 19 December - 2.30 Sing-a-long . 1 Parent/Carer per family please.

### IN YOUR BOOK BAGS-

- ◆ Reception Nativity Tickets

### Year 2 Lunchtime Clubs

Please note that next week is the last week of Year 2 clubs before Christmas.

### Year 2 Dance Club

Please note that next Friday the 8th is also the last Dance lesson before Christmas.

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 8 December - 2.15pm Reception Nativity and Christmas Non - Uniform Day

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

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

Thursday 14 December - Christmas Lunch & Parties

Friday 15 December - Pantomime Trip to Derby Arena followed by Christmas Fayre (3.30 pm)

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



### Stars of the week

Lucas Ward Tilly Bloor

Arthur Gale Ruby Dolman

Olive Harvey Jamie Rawlins

Thomas Barker Lily Morley

Jessica Golder Sam Griffiths



### Parent Governor Election

Please don't forget to cast your vote in the parent governor election - deadline for votes is the end of the school day on Wednesday 6 December.



### Poppy collection

Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £258.16 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal - that's over £100 more than last year! In total, over £7,200 was raised in this district for this cause.



### Maths focus

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78910

This week in maths:

Reception have been learning about the number 8. Using Numicon, the 10 frame and the part whole model the children have been finding different ways to make 8 recording this with pictures and also as a number sentence eg  $7+1=8$ .

Year 1 have been comparing and ordering groups of objects and numbers this week in maths. They have been using vocabulary such as more than, less than and equal to. They have placed groups of objects and numbers into order from the smallest to the greatest and from the greatest to the smallest.

Year 2 have continued to learn about money this week. They have been counting money in notes and coins and have been trying to make the same amount using different coins. For example 'How many ways can you make 63p using only 20p, 10p and 1p coins?' The children have also been working out how to find the total amount of money using and applying the skills they have previously learnt when adding two numbers together.

### Sickness in school

We are having a lot of sickness in school at the moment, both coughs and colds, and sickness and diarrhoea. To try and avoid the spread of sickness bugs, please support our rule of keeping children away from school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Please can we also remind you to phone school **before 9.30am** if your child is off sick. If you don't get an answer in the office, or the line is engaged, please leave a message. We do need to hear from you on the first day of absence, and on subsequent days unless it's clear how long your child will be off school.

## PTA News

Thank you!! A big thank you for all your donations of books and teddies this week. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity once again.

Raffle tickets! Raffle tickets have been going out in book bags this week. Please check your child's book bag if you haven't had any yet. Could you please return them in a clearly marked envelope by the 8th December. Further tickets are available from the office if required. There are some fantastic prizes on offer this year so don't miss your chance to win one!



Non uniform day! **Friday 8th December** will be a non uniform day at school. Children can wear Christmas jumpers if they would like to or any other non uniform in exchange for a bottle donation for the bottle tombola stall at the Christmas fayre. We will be collecting at drop off on the gate as usual! Thank you!



## Crossing Patrol - urgent appeal

We have been told that because of a lack of available staff and poor response to job adverts, our crossing patrol on Station Road at the zebra crossing will end at Christmas. This is obviously of great concern to us, as that section of road is very busy at school drop-off and pick-up time and, even with the zebra crossing, the potential hazards are great. We will be raising this with the School Crossing Patrol Service, but things do not look very optimistic at the moment - the problem doesn't seem to be funding, but rather recruitment.

If you know anyone who would be interested in the position - maybe a grandparent or someone looking for a part-time post - please go to the Staffordshire County Council website and search 'Crossing patrols' and there's a link to the vacancy page.

## 50/50 Club

The winner of the November draw is number 71—  
Paul Westwood and Juliane Bartylla. Congratulations!!

## Multi-Skills Festival at the Meadowside

Year 2 had a fantastic morning at the Meadowside Leisure Centre today taking part in a range of sport related activities including movement football, dance and throwing to a target. Thank you to the volunteers who helped.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.  
Regards

*Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer*