



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No.24 16th March 2018



Dance Club

The year 2 dancers certainly had an eventful week last week which was finished off with a visit from Burton Albion's Mascot - "Bettie Brewer" last Friday, who came with the dance coach to award the dance club with certificates after the whole school were treated to a viewing of the dance on the big screen.

Sports Relief-

Friday 23 March—Non uniform day . Children can come to school dressed up as their favourite sports person or wear their favourite sports clothes in return for a donation to sports relief. Wristbands will be on sale £1 each from Monday on a first come first served basis, from the school council.

IN BOOK BAGS

- ◆ Badgers Easter Holiday Club
- ◆ Raring2go! Booklet
- ◆ 1S Parent Lunch Letter

Dates for your Diary

Friday 23 March - Sport Relief - non-uniform day

Monday 26 March—Class Photographs

Tuesday 27 March — 2.00pm Easter church service

Wednesday 28 March— Last day of term - PTA Easter Bonnet Parade (morning)

Thursday 12 April - Back to school

Friday 20 April - 1S Parent Lunch

Friday 27 April - 1P Parent Lunch

Gotta Dance some more!

There are now some fantastic pictures of our brilliant dancers online. Parents of participating children can use their allocated password to view over 40 photos on www.epicactionimagery.com



Extra funding for pupils - are you eligible?

Although every child of infant school age is entitled to free school meals, there is additional funding available for many individual pupils. Over £1300 per year can potentially be allocated to children whose parent(s) claim any of the following benefits:

Income Support

Income based Job Seekers Allowance

Income based Employment and Support Allowance

Child tax credit and no working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190

Universal Credit

The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are eligible for any of the above, please go to the Staffordshire County Council - www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication and complete the quick and easy online form. Your information will be checked and an immediate answer given. If the application is approved, the extra funding is allocated to school and used to directly benefit your child, either in extra teaching time or resources. As school budgets are squeezed, this extra source of funding can make a huge difference to what schools can offer their students.

Please spare a few moments to look at the online information if you think you may be eligible. The process is entirely confidential. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Co-Heads or ask at the office. Thank you.



Stars of the week



Walter Hanstock

Rafe Mc Hale Hannah Greensmith



Notes and Reminders

- ◆ Please remember there is no country dancing on Monday 19 March.
- ◆ Next week will be the last week of clubs for this term.
- ◆ Class photos were taken this week, but due to a technical hiccup, the photographer has got to come back to re-do all the photographs. This will be on Monday 26 March, so proofs are unlikely to be available before the Easter break.

Our Easter church service will be at 2pm on Tuesday 27 March in St James' Church. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. Offers of help to walk the children to church would be greatly appreciated—please speak to class teachers.

The Easter bonnet parade is on Wednesday 28 March. All children are invited to decorate a hat with an Easter theme and bring it along to take part in the parade, which will be at 10.20. The PTA will be organising an activity for all the children in year order: Reception at 9.10am, Year 1 at 9.30am and Year 2 at 9.50am. Parents are welcome to come and join in at the appropriate times.

We have found over the years that it is easier if you come along for the time your child is doing the Easter activity and then again for the Bonnet Parade at 10.20am, instead of staying all morning - the hall gets very full! Thank you.

An itchy problem

Please can you be vigilant and check your child's hair for nits. We have had a case reported in Year2 and ask that parents in all years have a look and check for unwanted visitors. 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.

Bikeability Scooter Training Year2

A text message has been sent out to Year2 parents today to inform them which day their child needs to bring their scooter and helmet into school for the training next week.

Maths focus



This week in maths:

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Reception have continued to sequence numbers up to 20 in order and say what is one more or one less than a particular number. They have been looking at doubles of numbers and have written addition number sentences to represent these thinking about any patterns that they can spot. The children have also shown doubles of numbers using unifix cubes and their fingers. Reception have also looked at halves of numbers ensuring that they have two equal parts.

Year 1 have been learning about weight using vocabulary such as heavy/light, heavier than, lighter than. The children have been weighing different objects using balance scales estimating which will be heaviest/lightest first. They have been thinking about statements such as "Hassan says, 'A bigger object is always heavier than a smaller object.' Do you agree? Convince me." They have used both non-standard measures such as cubes and standard measures (grams/kilograms) to weigh different objects.

Year 2 have been working out how to find $\frac{3}{4}$ of an object/shape/quantity by first finding a quarter of the whole and then adding three of those quarters together. They have been counting in fractions and recognising any patterns that they can see eg $0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 1\frac{1}{2}, 2, 2\frac{1}{2}, 3, 3\frac{1}{2}$ or $0, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, 1, 1\frac{1}{4}, 1\frac{1}{2}, 1\frac{3}{4}, 2$. The children have been solving word problems such as "There were 24 children in the class. $\frac{3}{4}$ of them played football at lunchtime. How many played football?" and "18 gingerbread are on a plate. $\frac{1}{3}$ are eaten by Year 1 and the rest are eaten by Year 2. How many gingerbread are eaten by Year 1? How many gingerbread are eaten by Year 2?"

PTA News

Pop-up Shop - we spent a lovely morning with the children last Friday helping them in the pop-up shop. They were all very excited to be able to choose a gift and write their labels, and hopefully most of them managed to keep it a secret until the weekend! Thank you for your support once again and all the kind messages we have received since 😊 In addition we raised just over £140 for school too, which is great!

PTA spending - the children enjoyed a visit from children's author and illustrator, Steve Smallman on World Book Day. He read stories and held workshops with all the classes and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his visit and the children produced some excellent writing in response. This visit was possible because of monies raised through PTA events and the generous support of our parents. Your support really does make a difference and helps enrich the curriculum and the experiences the children have whilst in school. Thank you!

After a long wait, school have now taken delivery of the new ipad storage and charging box and the new ipads for year 2 are being set up as we type! Again, these have all been purchased by funds raised at PTA events.

Photography competition - we will be launching a photography competition entitled 'Spring is Sprung' in the next couple of weeks. More details to follow but get some practise in snapping away, the first signs of Spring are definitely out there!



Governor News

Our school governors all have specific areas of responsibility and regularly visit us to meet with staff and observe school life. Here are two reports on recent visits:

On Monday 12th March, I completed a learning visit within school. This enabled me to visit the Reception classes and see how they participated in English lessons. Both classes demonstrated excellent learning behaviours, showing independence, resilience, enjoyment and positivity. They responded well to all that was asked of them, and it was clear they had an excellent relationship with all the staff. The writing they completed was superb, with each child accessing a range of different activities to promote early writing. Thank you to all the children and staff in Early Years for allowing me to share the morning with them!

Ali Cottrill

I am the Link Governor responsible for Human Resources at Thomas Russell Infants' School. During 2017, two Employee Well-being Surveys were conducted seeking the staff's views on such things as the demands of the job, working relationships, change, leadership, communication etc. The results were positive. I analysed the data and met with Mrs Farmer to discuss the trends, themes and next steps. Since then, the Co-Heads have organised some training for the school team and we are now about to request further feedback from them to assess their current views and also how effective our training has been. We expect another external survey later this year and I will keep you informed of our progress.

Rebecca Sumners

FA Skills Session—Easter Break

Brent Freeman is running Football sessions for boys and girls at St.George's Park.

5-11 year olds:

Monday 9th April - 10.00-12.00pm & 1.00-3.00pm (Mixed Sessions) £5 per session

Tuesday 10th April - 10.00-12.00pm & 1.00-3.00pm (Mixed Sessions) £5 per session

Wednesday 11th April - 10.00-12.00pm & 1.00-3.00pm (Girls Only Sessions) FREE - Wildcats Promotion

Please see the website for more details - www.thefa.com/skills

For questions or any more information please contact Brent Freeman. brent.freeman@thefa.com

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Regards

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer