



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture & challenge'

Newsletter No.18 25 January 2019



Healthy eating fun

On Monday we had Helen Thorne from Phunky Foods visit us to take our school assembly. Mrs Warner has been working with her to create exciting activities for the children to learn more about healthy eating and lifestyles.

Helen shared her knowledge with the children about having a healthy and balanced diet, along with some food facts.

As part of our healthy school work, we wanted the children to understand what a healthy plate of food should look like - with the occasional treat. If you would like further information, please visit www.phunkyfoods.co.uk where there is some great information which we will be using in school. There are also some fantastic recipes to make with the children. Have fun!



Family Workshops

Don't forget the last two family workshops next week. Each one starts at 9.15am in the school hall and will last about an hour.

Monday 28 Jan - RR

Tuesday 29 Jan - RM

Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who has booked their parent consultation—we had over 80% of the appointments booked within 24 hours! If you need to change your appointment, please go back into the system and change it online, rather than swapping informally between yourselves—this ensures the teachers have the correct information available for your child at the appointment. Thank you.

Country Dancing - After school club

Please note Country Dancing on Monday (28th) is cancelled. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

Tue 29 Jan - PTA meeting

Fri 1 Feb - NSPCC Number day (non-uniform)

Thu 7 Feb - Parent Consultations 1.30-5.30pm

Mon 11 Feb Parent Consultations 2.45-6.45pm

**Fri 15 Feb -Break up for half-term
& PTA disco**

Tue 26 Feb - Back to school

Fri 15 Mar -PTA Film night

Thu 11 Apr -2pm Easter church service

**Fri 12 April -Easter Bonnet parade & activities
& break up for Easter**

Mon 29 April - Back to school

Mon 6 May - School closed

Tue 18 June - Sports Day



Book corner

Tonight your child is bringing home a book recommendation sheet because we would like to use their ideas to suggest books that we could share in our Book Corner section. When your child has filled in their recommendation sheet (for our younger children we're quite happy for a parent to fill it in with them!) they need to bring it back to school and they will then have their name put into a draw where they could win a £10 book token at the end of the half-term. Children can recommend as many books as they would like - each one will give them a new entry into the draw!

'Spy Toys' by Mark Powers

This book is for more confident readers who like a longer story or for parents who enjoy reading a longer story with their child. It is about two toys who are thrown onto the rejects pile - but before they can be destroyed they are recruited to become secret agents...!



Crossing patrol update

As you will be aware, school crossing patrols in Staffordshire have been under threat. However, the County Council has had a change of heart after negative public feedback, which is great news for the village as a whole. Unfortunately, the zebra crossing outside infants remains unstaffed after eighteen months, due to recruitment problems. We are very aware of the potential hazards of having an unmonitored crossing, so would ask if anyone knows someone who might be interested in the position, please could they contact Caroline Pegg, School Crossing Patrol Area Organiser on 07773 791 502.

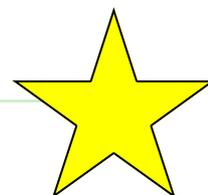
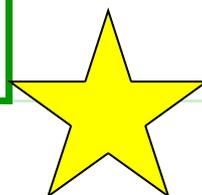
Staffing news

We are delighted to inform you we have appointed Miss Kaylor this week to teach class 1S when Mrs Smith leaves to have her baby. After a rigorous recruitment process in which Miss Kaylor met the school council, taught a wonderful English lesson in 1S and answered a series of questions from the Governing Body, she was offered the position and will start on Monday 25th February where she will work alongside Mrs Smith for the week. Miss Kaylor will also be spending a few days in school before then to meet with Mrs Smith to learn all about the children, observe in class and work with the Year 1 team to ensure everything is in place for a seamless transition. Miss Kaylor will also attend parent and teacher meetings in February and will be available for you to introduce yourself in 1S classroom on 6th February immediately after school at 3.15pm. I am sure you will make her feel welcome in our school.



Stars of the week

Isabel Simons
Freddie Britt
Arthur Meadows
Ruby Coton
Mallory Ovenden
Ruby Dolman
William Lloyd-Jones
Ted Leason
Tia-Mae Birtles
Jacob Clamp



Design a Mascot for Staffordshire FA

Staffordshire FA is asking all young people to help design a brand-new mascot to represent youth football across the county.

Do you think you could design a character that represents football in Staffordshire?

The new mascot could be literally whatever you want it to be - but must hold a special meaning to you and represent your take on youth football in our county. If you would like to enter the competition - get drawing today.

All entries can be emailed to jan.scott@staffordshirefa.com or posted to -

Youth Football Mascot Competition, FAO : Jan Scott, Staffordshire FA, Dyson Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford. ST18 0LQ .

The winning design will then be developed further and potentially used across branding covering youth football and safeguarding across all Staffordshire FA initiatives.

Family workshops



Years 1 and 2 had their family workshops this week. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who attended and joined in. We hope you found it a useful and enjoyable way of seeing in a bit more detail how lessons are structured and presented, and that you went away full of ideas on how to further support your child's learning at home!



Reception will be having their workshops next Monday and Tuesday—we look forward to welcoming you into school.

Year 2 Playground Leaders

Three children from each Year 2 class have this week started Playground Leader training with Becky Furniss from East Staffordshire Sports Partnership. The children will have four weeks training in total focusing on learning games that they could use at lunchtimes to encourage other children in the school to participate in and help keep them active at lunchtimes. The children will also be able to help deliver competitions between the school teams at lunchtimes such as how many times a child can skip in one minute. Watch this space for photographs of the activities and the Playground Leaders when it is up and running.

Maths focus



This week in maths:

Reception have been looking at measuring weight this week in maths. They have used maths vocabulary such as heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter and lightest. They have been learning how to compare two or three objects using the balance scales. The children have been ordering objects from lightest to heaviest by first estimating which order the objects should be put in and then weighing them using cubes and the object. They have been encouraged to think about whether an object will be lighter or heavier than another object and explain their thinking.

Year 1 have been working on place value this week looking at numbers up to 50. They have been using Big Base equipment to make different numbers showing how many tens and how many ones a number has. They have also been shown how to represent this as a picture drawing a vertical line to show the tens and a horizontal line to show the ones. They have also been showing how many tens and how many ones different numbers have using part-whole models and place value grids.

Year 2 have been learning to recognise the inverse relationship between multiplication and division and how they can use this to answer missing number questions eg to find the answer to $___ \times 5 = 45$ the children can calculate $45 \div 5 =$. The children have also moved on to looking at shape this week and have been naming different 2D and 3D shapes such as squares, triangles, circles, rectangles, spheres, cuboids, cones, square-based pyramids, cubes. They have been counting the number of sides on 2D shapes and answering questions such as 'My shape has one curved side and one straight side. What could it be?'

Sickness policy

With all of the nasty bugs and viruses around at this time of the year we thought it timely to remind you of our attendance policy and general procedures. Please refer to our school website for the full policy . Section 6 states -

'If your child is absent for **more than 1 day**: telephone the school again indicating how long your child is likely to be absent. Should the absence reach 5 or more consecutive days we will require medical evidence to authorise such a prolonged period of absence. '

This evidence can be in the form of a doctor's appointment or a prescription but if in doubt or you have concerns during an absence then please speak to the school office for clarification.

Fingers crossed for a healthy February for everyone!

Reminder February 1st NSPCC Numbers Day

The day is to celebrate maths and raise money for the NSPCC, and is always enjoyed by the children. Following on from last year's success, we're asking the children to make a model or picture of their house number at home and bring it in on the day for class-room activities. If your house doesn't have a number, just pick one! It's also a non-uniform day with a numbers theme - anything with a number on - in return for a donation to the NSPCC. Thank you!

In your book bags

- ◆ PTA Valentine's Disco

Friday Dance Club

Please note Dance club after school on Friday 15th of February is cancelled due to the PTA Valentines Disco..

Children's Mental Health Week

As already mentioned, we are engaging in National Children's Mental Health Week (4th-8th February). The theme this year is 'Inside Out' and here is a snippet from the website



**Children's
Mental Health
Week 2019**

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk from which we have been planning. Please have a look at the website; it has some useful tips and activities you can do at home with your children.

*"When we think about healthy living, we tend to focus on looking after our bodies - our physical wellbeing - through food, being active and getting enough sleep. However, in order to be healthy overall, it's important that we look after our minds - our mental wellbeing - too. Our bodies and minds are actually very closely linked, so things that we do to improve our physical wellbeing can help our mental wellbeing as well. When we take steps to be **Healthy: Inside and Out**, it helps us to feel better in ourselves, focus on what we want to do and deal with difficult times."*

During the week, our children will enjoy an assembly to get us in the mood to talk about how we feel, a quiet meditation/yoga session led by Mrs Warner and talking about how they can help themselves be calm, relaxed and happy. In addition, some children will have a mindfulness session led by Dr Vanessa Willis, the school Education Psychologist. Unfortunately due to numbers, Dr Willis cannot get round to all the children. In addition to these activities, we will be taking as much of our learning as we can outside, as research shows being outside has huge benefits for the health of our minds as well as our bodies.



Resilient Rabbit

The children have already been introduced to this half term's learning behaviour character and we have been thinking about what it means in our assemblies and class to be resilient and how we can show resilience. We are looking forward to hearing about lots of examples where children have been resilient over the coming weeks.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes - Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer