



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 9 - 8 November 2019

Barton Music Makers

Yesterday we had a visit from the Barton Music Makers who have kindly donated 15 sets of chime bars to the school. If you would like to find out more their website is www.bartonmusicmakers.org.



Dates for your Diary

Mon 11 Nov	Parent consultations 1.30-5.15
Wed 13 Nov	Open day for Reception 2020
Wed 13 Nov	Y2 trip to Arboretum
Thu 14 Nov	PTA Christmas shopping evening 6-9 pm
Fri 15 Nov	Children in Need day
Fri 22 Nov	Flu vaccinations
Wed 4 Dec	Reception Nativity 2pm
Tue 10 Dec	Christmas Play 2pm 1P&2M
Thu 12 Dec	Christmas Play 2pm 1F&2W
Fri 13 Dec	Christmas Fayre
Wed 18 Dec	Y2 Recorders performance 2M 1.30pm 2W 2.00pm
Fri 20 Dec	2.30 Sing-along and break up for Christmas!
Mon 6 Jan	Back to school

IN BOOK BAGS

- Reception NCMP paperwork—see overleaf
- Reception school nurse questionnaire
- Christmas Card Order Forms

Open day

Don't forget our Open Day on Wednesday next week—if you or someone you know have a child due to start school next year (September 2020), come along at 9.30am or 1.30pm for a tour of school—no booking necessary. Children are welcome as well! The online application system is now live, so you can make your application any time from now until the deadline of 15 January 2020. Just go to www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online form. You will receive the outcome on the national offer date of 16 April 2020.



D-Day Remembrance at the NMA

How wonderful it was to see all the children's amazing boats at the National Memorial Arboretum this half-term. We had a fabulous time trying to spot our boat, amongst the thousands of others, and I know from speaking to other parents that they did the same.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to be part of an important event. Events and activities such as these really help encourage a sense of pride at being members of a community and helps the children to appreciate a sense of belonging. How wonderful it was.

Well done to all the children who decorated a boat, they were truly spectacular.

Ali Cotterill (Governor)

Clean and Green team

A big 'thank you' to Mrs Wildgoose, who worked with our Clean and Green team this week to tidy the school grounds and plan new flower beds. Thank you also to everyone for bringing all the empty toilet rolls and plastic milk cartons into school for us to reuse; we have enough for now, so if you can recycle them at home that would be great—thank you!

JTMAT Art Exhibition

We were delighted to take part in John Taylor MAT's first art exhibition, held at John Taylor Free School. All our Year 2 children made a clay sculpture of a Fire Child after reading the story 'The Fire Children' by Eric Maddern. These were displayed alongside art work and photos from children across all our MAT schools. Mrs Raw and Mrs Gwynn took some of the children to view the exhibition on Tuesday and take part in an art lesson, which they all really enjoyed. Thank you to all the families who took the opportunity to visit the exhibition last Wednesday—we hope you enjoyed it.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week sees us taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, organised by the national Anti-Bullying Alliance. The children will take part in various activities throughout the week, focusing on kindness, acceptance and belonging. They will learn more about how our actions as humans can affect others and how we should all stand up to unkind behaviour.

On Thursday for the second year in a row, we will welcome parishioners from St James' Church into school for tea, cake and a bit of singing. On Tuesday 12th we invite all the children to come to school in odd socks to celebrate individuality and difference. We ask for a £1 donation, which will go to the Anti-Bullying Alliance.



Reception—checks and questionnaires

Each year, the School Nurse team come in to schools in England to check the height and weight of children in Reception and Year 6 as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Reception children will have two envelopes in their book bags; one with more information about this check, along with an opt-out form if required; the other containing a general health questionnaire. Please can you complete and return the questionnaire to school by Friday 22 November and these will be collected by one of the School Nurse team. Thank you.

Notes & Reminders...

- The postponed flu vaccinations will now be taking place on Friday 22 November.
- It's not too late to fill a shoebox for the Christmas appeal—please ask at school office for a form and drop off your filled shoeboxes any day up to Thursday next week. Thank you.
- Four children from Year 2 will be laying a wreath on behalf of the school at the war memorial in the village at 11.00am on Monday 11 November, along with the other local schools.

Children in Need - Friday 15th November 2018

We will be supporting Children in Need Day again this year and we would like all children to come dressed in colourful clothes and offer a donation of £1.

The school council will be serving cakes 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.

Community Notice

The Methodist church in Crowberry Lane will be hosting Messy Church again this Sunday 10th November at 4pm to 5.30. This month's theme is MESSY PETS AND PEACE. A fun family event with art and crafts followed by praise and worship. Tea/ coffee, cake and sandwiches available afterward to share.

Christmas Cards

Christmas card order forms are in book bags. Orders need to be returned to school by Friday the 15th of November.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you for all your contributions to this years' Poppy Appeal. Children from Year 2 have been taking the poppies, wristbands and other items round the classes and collecting the contributions. Last year we raised £186—we will let you know what this years' total is when we have it. No doubt there will be many of our children taking part in parades and services on Sunday and we will observe the minutes' silence in school on Monday at 11.00am.



Wellbeing

The dark nights are setting in but it's still important for you and child to get outside and spend time together. Please find attached some great outside games in the dark. Have fun!

Sporting Selfies

What sports/physical activity does your child take part in out of school? It is recommended that children take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day with 30 minutes of that activity taking place out of school. To help celebrate how active our children are we'd love to be able see photographs of them taking part in their favourite physical activity to display on our PE Noticeboard. If you have a suitable photo could you send it into school (it doesn't have to be the original, a photocopy would be fine or we can photocopy the original for you!).



PTA News

We would like to start with a huge thank you to all those who helped with the Halloween Disco. We had over forty willing helpers who made the event one to remember, and of course not forgetting those who helped with the set up beforehand. The children all had a fantastic time and we raised some valuable monies to help all our children in school. Without support such things would not be possible.

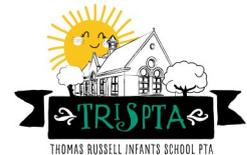
Christmas Card order forms will be in book bags this week. They need to be returned to the PTA postbox no later than the 15th November. Thank you to Amy Harvey who has organised the whole project.

The planning event for the Christmas Fayre went really well and thanks to those who could attend and to those who sent their valuable ideas.

Tickets for the Christmas Shopping Evening will also be found in book bags next week. Tickets will enable holders to have a complimentary mince pie to enjoy whilst browsing the stalls and all the amazing gifts they have on offer.

Thank you for your support,

Sam, Kate, Katie, Katy and Rhian the PTA team.



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer