



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 12- 29 November 2019

Panto time!

For the second year, the panto came to school to put on a fantastic show for the children. This year, it was 'Robin Hood' and the children had great fun cheering the heroes and booing the baddies! Huge thanks to the PTA for funding this treat—it's really put us all in the Christmas mood!



Dates for your Diary

Wed 4 Dec	Reception Nativity 2pm
Fri 6 Dec	Non-uniform day—bring a bottle for PTA Christmas Fayre!
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—restricted to 1 person per family please
Mon 6 Jan	Back to school
Thu 13 Feb	Break up for half term
Mon 24 Feb	Back to school

Notes & Reminders

Head Lice

We have had some cases of head lice in school. Please can you check your child's hair carefully with a comb and use an appropriate treatment if you find any little 'visitors'. Children can continue to attend school as normal when treatment is being given. As a precaution, please tie up or braid long hair.

Running Club

Thursday the 5th of December will be the last running club.

IN BOOK BAGS:

- Primary Times
- Christmas production DVD order form
- TRISPTA Raffle tickets
- Reception Nativity Tickets

Christmas is coming!

Our lovely Christmas tree went up in school yesterday, and every child and member of staff will be adding a decoration to it next week. It really is the beginning of a magical Christmas in school.



If the children want to write Christmas cards to their friends in school, then the school post box will be out from Monday 9th December until the end of term. Please write the child's name on, along with the class name i.e. RR, RM, 1P, 1F, 1M, 2W. Bear in mind we have quite a few children who share the same first name (even in the same class) so please label as clearly and fully as possible to avoid confusion! Our Year 2 post boys and girls will sort and distribute the cards every day.

The Reception Nativity, Year1 and Year 2 plays Please keep your eye on bookbags for tickets. There will be 2 tickets per family. Please note admission will only be allowed with a ticket as we have to limit numbers to accommodate everyone in the hall safely. If you are not going to use any tickets please return them to the office to be re-distributed on a first come first served basis.

Advent Each class will have an advent calendar to open, kindly given to us from 'The Churches in Barton' and the children all had an assembly this week about the meaning of advent. We have decided we are going to be having a Reverse Advent Collection in school. This means we have a large basket in the front of school and every day from now until the day we break up, families and staff are invited to make a food or toiletry donation. The collection will be taken to the YMCA on December 20th where the food will be distributed to families in need over the Christmas period. If you would like to donate please send non-perishable food stuffs or toiletries into school with your child. Thank you.



Stars of the week

Millie Harbidge

Bertie Fern

Teddy Collier

George House

Annabelle Oakes Poppy Chan

Isabel Simons Max Challoner

Sophia Hughes

Hettie Pearce Anna Drage

Jodh Singh Lawy Muhamad



Wellbeing

As part of our ongoing reviewing of the school playtimes (see 25th October newsletter), we have talked to a sample of children from all classes to hear their thoughts on the staggered playtimes. From the children's point of view the majority love the extra space to be able to play games and to spend time with friends. A few children did say that they missed having Reception out at the same time but they look forward to seeing them at lunchtime. Staff have also seen an improvement in the wellbeing of the children and accidents are far fewer. It is really good to hear that overall the new playtime routines are going well as it is extremely important for children's mental health to have positive play. We would also like to remind you that we have an open door policy if you feel you would like to discuss this or anything else in school.

The Book Nook

You might have noticed that we have got a new shed which has appeared at the front of school. We are going to be using this as our family book exchange and will be naming it The Book Nook. We hope to have it filled with books for everyone to borrow and either keep or exchange for something else. Our librarians will be busy working with Mrs Garratt next week to fill it, and we hope that people will then enjoy choosing books to take home. Please can we thank everyone who has generously donated books for The Book Nook - we don't need any further donations at the moment. Thanks must also go to the PTA for buying it and to Massey's DIY store in Swadlincote who provided the paint and brushes to make it ready for the months ahead outside. We will be having an official grand opening before Christmas.



Governor vacancy

We are looking to recruit two new governors to our local governing board, one being a parent governor and one being a co-opted governor. Please await further information for the parent governor position early next week.

A co-opted governor can be from any walk of life and not necessarily have any links to the school but would need the time and skills to support our governing body. The role of a governor is entirely voluntary and does require a degree commitment. Time to devote to the role to enable visits to school and attendance at evening meetings each half term is essential but in return it can be a very rewarding and interesting position.

If you know of anybody who has experience of the following and may be interested then we would be keen to chat to them. Their experience may come from a current role or from previous employment (for example it could be a person who has now retired).

Areas of interest to us:

- Health and safety
- Human resources or personnel (HR)
- Strategic planning / direction

Please do forward on to anyone you consider to have experience of one or more of the above.

PTA News

The PTA would like to wish all the children the best of luck with their Christmas preparations over the coming weeks. You will all do a brilliant job of that we are sure. We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to Gareth Newstead who will be recording the Christmas production. DVD's will be on sale and letters will be in book bags this week to place your order(s).



Raffle Tickets - There are lots of fantastic prizes to be won at the Christmas Fayre, including vouchers, St George's Park tour tickets, champagne, some lovely items from the Christmas Shopping Evening stall holders, champagne tea for 2, photography sessions, a chair and many more. You must be in it to win it! See book bags for more information.

Things to remember:

On **Thursday 5th and Friday 6th** the PTA will be collecting any kind donations of books, DVDS, games and cuddly toys for the Christmas fayre.

(If you can) Volunteer 20 minutes of your time on **13th December** to help us pull off an amazing and magical Christmas fayre.

Friday 6th December is a non-school uniform day in exchange for a bottle of anything for our Bottle Tombola stall.

Please return your Santa Grotto slips if you would like to book a slot to see Father Christmas at the Christmas fayre.

They need to be back by **Monday 2nd December**.

This year at our Christmas fayre we will be holding the popular cake stall again. We would be really grateful of any cake donations which can be brought in to school on Friday 13th December. Members of the PTA team and helpers will be collecting them in the morning. Thank you.

Christingle Service

The Christingle Service at St James is on Sunday 1st December at 6.00 pm.

There are collecting boxes at the back of St James' Church to fill with loose change.

Come to a lovely service which supports the Children's Society.

This charity works with children who have run away from home because things were too bad to stay.

Safety

Please can everyone take care when crossing the roads and walking on the pavements near school. The roads are very busy and we often receive reports from other parents about lack of supervision of children near the roads with children running ahead or children behind parents. Please keep children close to you to avoid any potential accidents occurring.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer