



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 345- 19 June 2020

Our week has been busy yet again with more and more children attending school and Seesaw keeping everybody busy at home, with a real sense of positivity from the teachers that this is really helping to move learning on and enables them to offer a greater degree of support to those families engaging with the online learning. After some parental feedback last week hopefully we have learned how to make the order of the activities a little easier to navigate so please do keep feeding back.



There is certainly a buzz around school now with singing and laughter filtering in to our office at all times of the day and the enthusiasm from the children is delightful to see. We have had some very soggy weather this week which has been a shame for those in school and at home, but hopefully some have managed to get out and have adventures in the rain and made the most of some storm watching over the last week.

In other respects, it also feels quite a melancholy week as we begin to think about how we say our goodbyes over the next month to our year 2 children and planning the transition for early years and year 1 into their new year groups. Never before have we been in a position where we cannot have our new children visiting before they start school and our current pupils visiting their new teachers, but our new motto at the moment is 'we will do the very best with what we have' and we are feeling positive that we can apply this to transition too. We are now finding our way with Zoom and hope to utilise this to help support transition, ensuring that the children meet their new staff and see their new classrooms. Further information will be sent out very soon to all of our Reception and year 1 families with our plans for this. Year 2 parents will be also be hearing from Mrs Sharpe with her plans for welcoming the year 2 children for their transition to the junior school.

Reminder

It is vitally important that families with children attending observe the recommended social distancing and hygiene routines outside of school. This is to protect children and staff. We are sure you will understand our concerns if this is not observed and we will contact parents if we witness potentially unsafe behaviour. We want life to return to normal as much as anyone, but at present we all have to remain vigilant and reduce risks as much as possible. Thank you.

Weekly challenge

Thank you to everyone who responded to the competition this week. Please see the children's newsletter for pictures and the attachment today for more information on next week's challenge.



Stars of the Week



RR—Leo Wilkins for making so much progress with writing and producing some amazing work this week. Leo has been concentrating really hard.

1P—Millie Chetwynd for working really hard with all her home learning and making good progress with her reading.

1F— Alfie Johnson for making great progress with his handwriting.

2M—Elijah Russell for fantastic engagement with our space topic both at school and at home!

2W—Nancy Bennett for enthusiasm and positivity with learning.



Extra funding for pupils - are you eligible? Have your circumstances changed?

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
- Child Tax Credit Only (with income up to £16,190) with no element of Working Tax Credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

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 email the office. Thank you.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer