



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 16 19.01.2024

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Next weekend it is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and in preparation this week during forest school sessions the children have been making bird feeders to put around the school grounds. As you can see from the photographs below, the children cored an apple and threaded string through the middle with sticks tied to the bottom. They then pushed sunflower seeds into the apple.

It might be nice to do at home whilst the weather is cold! You could then register as a family to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch by clicking here <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/register>



Team captains

As part of our work on pupil leadership, we decided to approach choosing team captains in a slightly different way this year. The year 2 children were invited to submit an application, explaining why they felt that they would make a good team captain and what qualities they thought were important. We had some amazing applications—thank you to all of the children who took the time to put so much thought and effort into what they could offer. This morning, each team got together without the candidates present, so that they could listen to the candidate statements and then make a private vote for the person who they would like to choose.

We know that it is a real test of resilience for the children when they don't get chosen and it is something that they are desperate to do. We are incredibly proud of them all for putting themselves forward and we know that they will have lots of other pupil leadership opportunities in future years.

Look out for a photo of our new team captains in next week's newsletter, when they have been awarded their badges. Below you can see some of the lovely statements that children made in their applications.

"I will support my team mates. I can listen and encourage them."

"I am kind and helpful. I like to work as a team to get lots of team points. I like to do the best I can."

"I always do my best in everything. I follow instructions and help other to do the same. I care for everyone."

"I am confident speaking in front of people, setting a good example for the school and encouraging others to do their best".

"I am a good role model. I am good at listening to others. It is important for the captain to share and encourage their team to be kind towards other people".

"I will be responsible and support my team mates. I can listen to others and encourage them".

NSPCC Numbers day

Friday 2nd February 2024

Please see the attached letter and sponsorship form for more details.

It is a non-uniform day and the children can wear anything with a number on it if possible.



Raring 2 Go

The latest edition is now available to view online at www.raring2go.co.uk





Stars of the week



- RT - Esme for continuing to work hard in phonics!
1SB - Charlie L for showing resilience in their learning
1SB - Fraser for showing resilience in their learning



Road safety and parking

You may be aware that we had 4 parking enforcement officers outside school yesterday morning giving parking advice and issuing on the spot fines to any cars parked illegally. Please find a statement below from our PCSO Chris Edwards

We have been working alongside Staffordshire County Council in regards to parking on 'KEEP CLEAR' and yellow line markings at schools and streets in Barton. We will continue our partnership with Staffordshire County Council to monitor as we strive to keep pedestrians safe on their travels. Whilst dropping your children at school please do not park on the zigzag markings, this will result in an on the spot fine by Staffordshire County Council.

We would urge our school community to please allow a bit of extra time in the mornings and at the end of the school day to find somewhere to park safely, if you do have to drive to school. Mrs Burton will be working with our school council next week to look at the road safety issues we have around our local area.

Dates for your Diary

Lunch menu from Monday 15 January will be Week 2

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| Fri 2 Feb - NSPCC Number Day (non-uniform) | Mon 6th May - Bank holiday |
| Fri 9th Feb - Inset Day school closed to pupils | Tue 7th May - Country dancing and whole school singing to parents 2.30pm |
| Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb - Half term (school closed) | Fri 24 May - Inset Day school closed to pupils |
| Thu 7 March - World Book Day | Mon 27 May - Fri 31st May - Half term (school closed) |
| Thu 21 March - Easter assembly in church 2pm | Wed 12th June - Sports Day & Summer Fair |
| Fri 22 March - Last day of term | Wed 26th June - Reserve Sports day |
| Mon 8th April - Back to school new term starts | |

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore