



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 17 09.02.2024

## Forest school in Year 1 and 2

This half term 1SB and 2W have been enjoying their forest school sessions with Mrs Garratt. Despite some very changeable weather the children have enjoyed building a bug house, doing some bird watching and continuing to build some very ambitious dens. Despite the rain on Tuesday, 2W enjoyed toasting some marshmallows on the fire.

**After half term 2MS and 1L will be doing forest school again.** 2MS on a Tuesday afternoon and 1L on a Thursday afternoon. Please can you ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately for these sessions and has suitable wellies and waterproofs in school. 1SM and 2W will be doing PE instead of forest school so please can children come to school dressed appropriately for PE. Thank you.



## PTA News



### Valentine's Disco Reminder!



As a friendly reminder, please ensure to return your Valentine's Disco forms and money to the PTA letterbox by the 19th of February. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we can't wait to make this event a memorable one for all the children!

A big thank you in advance to everyone who supported our tuck shop. Your contributions help us to continue to fund raise for the school.

During the half-term break, we have an exciting activity planned for the children: the "Decorate a Heart" competition! Each class will have a winner, so encourage your child to unleash their creativity and return their decorated hearts on the first day back.

Wishing you all a wonderful break. We eagerly anticipate seeing everyone at the Valentine's Disco when we return from half term.

Thank you.

From Thomas Russell Infants' School P.T.A.

Becky, Gemma, Hardeep, Kirsty, Lily, Mae, Rachael and Sarah



## NSPCC Number Day

Thank you to everyone who donated money to this fantastic cause. The final total raised was a fantastic amount for the NSPCC- £288.87—thank you to everyone for their donations.

Congratulations to Thomas in 2MS who was the school winner of the Number Bond competition. He managed to complete 30 addition and subtraction questions in 5 mins and 10 seconds. He just beat Oscar in 2W by 9 seconds!! Thomas will now answer some more questions and his time will then go up against the other schools in the JTMAT. Fantastic work Thomas and good luck with your final questions.

**We've just found out that Thomas in 2MS has actually won the overall JTMAT Number Bond Competition with a time of 3 mins 15 sec. Thomas will receive a prize from JTMAT after half term!**

## Attendance

Please could we ask everyone to try and make sure that all routine appointments for the dentist and opticians are out of school hours where possible. If appointments are during the school day then the office will ask to see evidence of the appointment for their records. This can be a letter, appointment card or text message.

If you need to take your child to the doctors during the school day please could you ask for evidence of the appointment—this could be an appointment card which you bring back to school after you have been.

Punctuality in the morning is something we really value. Our school gates shut at 9.00am and lessons start at this time so it is important for children to be settled in class, ready to start their learning. We know that children often feel self conscious when they have to walk into their classroom after lessons have started in the morning. Please could we encourage everyone to allow a few extra minutes in the morning so that children have time to settle into the classroom before their learning starts.





### School Council Road Safety Campaign

The school council have been busy planning how they can help to make our children's drive or walk to school safer. They have a number of elements planned for the campaign but would like to begin by holding a road safety poster competition. The school councillors will be choosing the posters they feel clearly portray their messages and these will be displayed around the school and the village.

We are inviting all of the children in school to take part in the competition by designing a poster which gives one or all of the following messages:

- please drive slowly through our village
- please be patient when families are crossing the roads
- please turn off your engines when you are sat in a parked car near to our school

The closing date for poster entries will be Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February so that the children have the half term holiday period. The school council thank you for your support and look forward to seeing the posters.

### World Book Day

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we will be celebrating World Book Day and the theme is reading for pleasure. We have lots of exciting things planned for the day. We would like to invite pupils to dress up on the day. This could be in pjs with your favourite bedtime book or dressed as your favourite book character. Have fun planning your costume.

Please see the attached poster for information about a competition for World Book Day. You have the opportunity to create a book character from a cardboard tube. These can be brought into school from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and there will be prizes for the winners.

### Recommended Reads

In the coming weeks, the staff will be recommending some of their favourite books for you to read. Mrs Smith is starting us off by recommending - Quick Quack Quentin by Kes Gray & Jim Field



I like reading this book to my daughter. It makes us laugh when the duck tries to find the missing letter from his quack and takes letters from the other animals. A fun book to listen to or read aloud. I hope you enjoy it too.

You can listen to the book being read at

<https://youtu.be/MU0gb4GFsvA?feature=shared>

## Lunch Menu

Please see attached revised lunch menu's from Mellor's catering. Our cook, Miss Pugh is keen to point out that if your child does not like a particular hot dinner choice there is always a selection of sandwiches available. If your child prefers sandwiches every day why not ask them to give our sandwiches a try? All meals are free!

On the last day of term Ms Pugh and the kitchen team worked really hard to create a Chinese New Year banquet for the children. Everything looked and smelt delicious with lots of children talking about how it was their favourite lunch of the year so far.





## World Thinking Day

February the 22nd is World Thinking Day. World Thinking Day remains one of the most important dates in the guiding and scouting calendar, and every year the theme of the event encourages members to think about the big issues affecting them and their global community.

Previous World Thinking Days have tackled the subjects of poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and access to education. If you are a Rainbow, Brownie, Beaver or Cub and would like to wear your guiding or scouting uniform to school on February the 22nd then we would love to see you in it.



# Train to Teach Primary 3-7 Information Event

Wed 21 Feb | 5:30 - 6:30pm

**Register to secure your spot!**

**[JTHS.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](http://JTHS.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK)**



The John Taylor SCITT

## Clothes recycling



**Collection  
4 Clothes+**  
clothes, toys, bric-a-brac & more!



Birmingham  
**Children's Hospital  
Charity**

As part of the Eco Team's plan to increase recycling at our school, we now have a clothes, toys and bric-a-brac recycling bin. Did you know that in the UK, around 336,000 tonnes of our unwanted clothing get thrown away every year? Recycling our clothes reduces our waste but will also earn money for our school and for charities partnered with the collection company. All donations are sent to less economically developed countries where they are sold at local, affordable prices that benefit their local communities. The royalties made from these sales are donated to partner charities, including Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Our collection bin is located next to the existing bins, just through the gates onto the playground...

The following items are accepted in the recycling bin:

- New and used clothes, including school clothes
- Bric-a-brac
- New and used toys
- Bags, handbags and backpacks
- Belts and shoes

Please be aware that the recycling bin is locked by the collection company, *Collection4Clothes*, and we cannot retrieve any items once inside the bin.



## Dates for your Diary

*Lunch menu from Monday 19th February will be Week 3 Revised Menu*

<b>Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb</b> - Half term (school closed)	<b>Fri 24 May</b> - Inset Day school closed to pupils
<b>Mon 19th Feb</b> - 11am Pancake race for Y2 in Barton	<b>Mon 27 May - Fri 31st May</b> - Half term (school closed)
<b>Fri 23 Feb</b> - PTA Valentines Disco (non uniform)	<b>Tues 4th June</b> - 2MS parents invited to forest school 1.30pm
<b>Wed 5 March</b> - Parent consultations	<b>Thurs 6th June</b> - 1L parents invited to forest school 1.30pm
<b>Thu 7 March</b> - World Book Day	<b>Wed 12th June</b> - Sports Day & Summer Fair
<b>Wed 13 March</b> - Parent consultations	<b>Wed 26th June</b> - Reserve Sports day
<b>Thu 14th March</b> - Parent consultations	<b>Fri 5th July</b> - Inset Day - JTMAT Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils)
<b>Thu 21 March</b> - Easter assembly in church 2pm	<b>Wed 17th July</b> - Year 2 leavers assembly to parents 2.00pm
<b>Fri 22 March</b> - Last day of term	<b>Thurs 18th July</b> - Year 2 leavers party 3.15-5.00pm
<b>Mon 8th April</b> - Back to school new term starts	<b>Fri 19th July</b> - School closes
<b>Mon 6th May</b> - Bank holiday	
<b>Fri 10 May</b> - Country dancing and whole school singing to parents 2.30pm	
<b>Thurs 23 May</b> - 1SB parents invited to forest school 1.30pm	

### YEAR 2 PANCAKE RACE

We would like to remind Year 2 children that on the first day back after half term we will be taking part in the pancake race in the village. Children will need to bring a pan and pancake with them on the morning. They can also bring trainers to wear for the race if they would like to.

If anyone is available to walk into the village with the whole school then please let us know on the morning of the race.

*Have a lovely half term break*

*Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore*