



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 2 15.09.2023

## Learning behaviours and Star of the Week

If you have ever visited our school hall you will have seen our learning behaviours on display. Each half term in our assemblies we focus on one learning behaviour, and as part of our ongoing drive to support our children with becoming life long learners we look at the importance of the learning behaviour. We use an image to make the learning behaviours more explicit to the children, the school community and parents alike.

We believe that the explicit teaching and recognition of learning behaviours can support behaviour and engagement, developing a positive climate for learning and the images help the children in remembering them. With this in mind, this year we have decided to change our Star of the Week rewards system. Each week teachers will be choosing children who have explicitly displayed our learning behaviour for the half term.

This half our learning behaviour is co-operation and our character is co-operative chimp. You can support your child at home by talking about what co-operation is and showing them examples of where you use co-operation in everyday life.

Stars of the Week will be chosen because they are demonstrating excellent examples of co-operation in school. This may mean that some children are rewarded more often than others during year as we focus on the different behaviours.



## Children's special achievements

If your child has a special achievement they would like to share with us, then we would love for them to bring these into school on Fridays to share in our afternoon assembly. These might be certificates, trophies, medals, rosettes etc for any hobbies the children have outside of school. Unfortunately we won't be able to look at all of the achievements the children have previously received but we welcome them to bring in any new ones to future assemblies.

## PE Kit—REMINDER

It has been lovely to see our children looking so smart in their school uniform at the start of term. We wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone of our expectations on days when children come to school in their PE kit.

To participate fully in P.E we ask that children wear a PE kit to school on the day of PE. This kit will include a tee shirt (team colour) and a pair of black or grey shorts. In colder weather the children may choose to wear a pair of black or grey jogging bottoms and either a black or grey, long sleeved top or their school jumper or cardigan. For safety reasons children should not wear any articles of jewellery whilst doing PE because they may cause injury to themselves or fellow pupils.

If your child has pierced ears then please ensure that they are able to remove them themselves or do not wear them on PE days (we are no longer able to cover over earrings with micropore tape). Long hair should be tied up.

## Thomas Russell Infants' School LOVES Reading!

As a school we are very passionate about reading and fostering a love of reading in our pupils. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the ways we support and encourage the children to read both in and out of school.

**Reading awards** - pupils can earn certificates and prizes for their reading. Please record in their reading diary each day that your child has read at home. This could be their school reading book, a library book or a book from home - it all counts. The first award is for 25 days reading so it can be easily achieved before half term.

**Library Visits** - Pupils in all classes have regular opportunities to visit the school library, to look at the books and also choose a book they wish take home.

**Reading classrooms** - Last academic year many parents and friends of TRIS kindly purchased books for our classrooms through the Amazon Wishlist. This has seen the classrooms become reading friendly areas and provide the children with more opportunities to read for pleasure and develop a love of reading from an early age. We will be adding more books to the Amazon wish list during the year—please click on the link if you would like to have a look. [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2L7WLU3FD5PFY?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2L7WLU3FD5PFY?ref=wl_share)

**Reading volunteers** - We would love to give the children as many opportunities to read with an adult as possible and so welcome any volunteers who would like to support in this way. It may be that you have a spare hour each week that you could come and spend some time listening to children read. If this is something that you are interested in please speak with Mrs Sutton from Class 1SB or make contact via the school office.

### Reading is so important for children. Did you know...?



Children (and adults) who read for pleasure have **higher levels of self-esteem** and a greater ability to **cope with difficult situations** (Quick Reads, University of Liverpool).



Reading for pleasure is associated with **better sleep patterns** (Quick Reads, University of Liverpool).



Children who read for pleasure are likely to **do a lot better** than those children who don't read for pleasure in **maths, vocabulary and spelling** (Sullivan and Brown Trust).



Having books at home makes a real difference in children choosing to read for pleasure (Reading Agency).

## Forest School

### What is Forest School?

Forest School is an ethos which encourages the development of children's emotional and physical development through outdoor play, activities and exploration in a woodland environment. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive experiences and participation in engaging and motivating achievable tasks and activities fostering:

- Independence
- Confidence
- Communication skills
- Self-esteem.

Originally a concept developed in Denmark, children attending Forest Schools were found to have developed strong social skills, the ability to work in groups effectively and generally had high self-esteem and confidence in their own capabilities. These attributes proved to be an effective foundation that raised academic achievements and is therefore an excellent way to support the Early Years Framework and consolidate learning in the classroom.

At Thomas Russell Infants our forest school sessions take place within the school grounds - we are very lucky to have a small woodland area within the school grounds that has been specifically designated for Forest School. Forest School takes place outdoors whatever the weather. Forest School sessions are only cancelled if high winds, thunderstorms, or very bad weather make it unsafe to use our woodland area.



## PTA News

We're really looking forward to hosting our coffee morning on Friday the 29th of September. If you are able to bake a cake and bring it along with you we would be so grateful. This is a lovely chance to meet us and for all parents to get to know each other.

Please also have a think about what you want from the PTA?

Do you have any ideas for future events?

Would you like to be more involved and volunteer to help at one of our upcoming events.

We can't run these events without the support of you! We need volunteers and generally more hands on deck, so please pop along for a chat to hear more about what we do, what we fund and how you can help.

Thank you.

The PTA



### Stars of the week

2W - Hugo, William, Isaac and Thomas

For showing excellent co-operation when building dens in Forest School



### Dates for your Diary

*Lunch menu from Monday 11th of September will be Week 2*

**Wednesday 27th September**—School photographs: individual and family.

**Friday 29th September**—PTA coffee morning.

**Wednesday 4th October**—Flu vaccinations.

**Thursday 5th October**—English information meeting for parents 6.30pm

**Tuesday 10th October**—Maths information meeting for parents 6.30pm

**Wednesday 18th October**—Open day for 2024 intake.

**Friday 27th October**—School closes for half term.

**Monday 6th November**—Inset day.

*We hope you have a lovely weekend*

*Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore*