



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 26 31.03.2023

Happy Easter

Although this has been a very short half term, it has still been a very busy one!

We started the half term by holding our parent consultation appointments. These were very well attended and parents were given the opportunity to look at a range of their child's work. This was a change from the usual format of only having English and Maths books available and in response to feedback from our parent questionnaire.

Mrs Smith planned and organised a very successful World Book Day which was enjoyed by everyone across school. Each class was left a special book by the 'book fairy' to share and staff visited different classes during the day to read their favourite stories to the children. We also launched our Amazon Wishlist on the day and we have been delighted with the response that we have received with some very generous donations. Walking around school you can see the many different books on display for the children to access. Thank you to everyone who has bought a book for the school.

We have continued to build links with the local library in Barton and they have been very generous with their time to arrange visits for each year group to explore and find out more about what they have to offer.

Year 1 and 2 children have continued to be offered a range of extra-curricular activities. Year 1 have the choice of a signing club or a book club while Year 2 have been offered country dancing, computing, Maths and construction clubs. We always have an excellent uptake for these clubs with the children keen to participate. The country dancers have been invited by the Parish Council to perform in the village for the Kings Coronation celebrations, so they are working hard to polish their performance!

As part of our work developing pupil leadership, Miss Cooper has been working with a team of 'Eco-warriors' to help us become a plastic free school. The children are working hard on their action plan which has included holding a 'trash mob' one afternoon to find out how much litter we have in the school grounds. You will read about their next project later on in the newsletter!

This year we have also decided to ask the children to vote for team captains earlier than have done in previous years. Traditionally these have always been appointed just before Sports Day, but this year we wanted the children to have a bigger role with motivating and bringing their team together.

There was barely standing room in the church yesterday when we took the children to present their Easter assembly. The children spoke about Easter traditions and the importance of traditions that we may have with our family. We took advantage of Rev Andy's new sound system and all of the children spoke and sang with confidence. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and to the staff for putting the assembly together.

We continue to be well supported by our PTA who work tirelessly for our children. They held a Mother's Day pop up shop where all children had the opportunity to choose a gift for someone at home. Today the PTA have also organised our annual Easter egg hunt and bonnet parade which is always a lovely way to end the term.

We hope that you all have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you back ready for the Summer term!



Get your DT thinking caps on and become a designer of the future!

As part of JTMAT Design Technology subject excellence, an exciting competition has been launched, giving your child the opportunity to get creative and design a product to 'make the world a better place', judged by the London Spy Studios Design Company. This idea can be as weird and wonderful as they wish, let your child's minds get creative!

Take a look at some of the examples below of 'blue sky thinking' products.

The can opener has been designed to help people with arthritis, it allows them to go about simple daily tasks like opening a can with ease. They would not be able to do this without this product being designed. [Weblink](#).



No power, no problem. Pull the cord. Generate electricity. Never run out of power. NowLight turns your effort into electricity. A minute of pulling will generate up to 2 hours of light or enough power for a 15-minute phone call. NowLight can also be charged from USB power sources or using a solar panel. [Weblink](#).



Adiff. A "jacket that can turn into a tent" (a.k.a. the trench & bomber), one of our first solution-based items designed to provide assistance to homeless and refugee populations. [Weblink](#).



Biscuit Pocket: The Cup That Holds Your Cookies. Perfect place to keep your biscuits safe and makes it easier to carry your cup of tea and biscuits to the sofa where you can relax.



Products can be drawn, modelled from junk, Lego or any other materials. All your child needs to do is submit their entry to tri-office@tri.jtmat.co.uk by Friday 12th May 2023.

Entries need to be on an A4 PowerPoint Slide saved as a PDF with your full name and school as the file name e.g. joe.smith_ThomasRussellInfantsSchool.

Make sure you answer the 3 questions fully. No more than 100 words per question.

- Who does your product help?
- How does it help them?
- Why is the product needed?

Include a visual representation of your idea (Maximum 3 images). These could be drawings or photographs of 3D models that you have made.

Have fun getting creative! Let your minds run wild!



Eco Team News

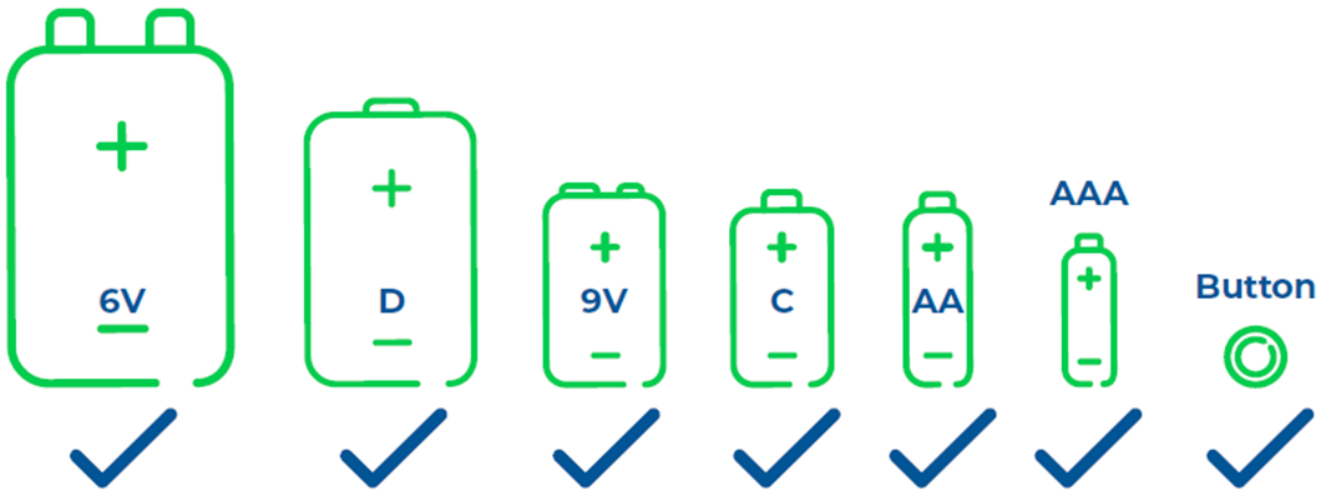
We now have a battery recycling point in school. The box is located inside in the main entrance. Don't forget that we still recycle ink cartridges too.

Batteries cannot be disposed of with normal household waste as they contain harmful heavy metals that are toxic to the environment and human health.

- Car batteries, industrial batteries and batteries with connecting wires cannot be accepted at our recycling point.
- Damaged or leaking batteries cannot be accepted.
- Where possible, lithium batteries should have their terminals taped over.



Please can we ask that it is an adult who brings in the batteries in to be disposed of and that they are not sent with children for safety reasons, thank you.



Our battery and ink cartridge recycling points





SAVE THE DATE—Friday 5th May

During the afternoon of Friday the 5th May we will be holding a Coronation Celebration in school. At the moment we are still putting plans together but so far we have arranged for all of our children to do some singing and the country dancers will be performing. More information will follow after the Easter holidays but we wanted to give you advance notice so that you are able to join us.



Barton Rovers Football

Barton Rovers U8 Football (current Yr2). There are a limited number of places to join our local football team. The season has come to a close, but we will soon be starting summer training with the next season starting in September.

If you are interested in your child joining, please either contact Barton Rovers on Facebook or David Fox (07485 468691)

School Nurse Team message for Reception Parents -

Subject: Reception Health e-leaflet

Dear Parent/Carer

The Families' Health and Wellbeing (0-19) Service is the local Health Visiting and School Nursing service. They offer support to schools and parents of children aged 0 to 19 years around lots of health related topics to help children.

Please follow the link to an e-leaflet, which introduces your local School Nurses and shares some development and health information which parents/carers of reception aged children may find useful.

<https://sway.office.com/zK7iPb7fO05Qt0QD?ref=Link>

The e-leaflet also contains a link to a contact form. This form is confidential, which means the answers you give will be returned to the Families' Health and Wellbeing Service and will not be shared with our school.

The Families' Health and Wellbeing Service can also be contacted through the Children and Families Health and Wellbeing Single Point of Access (CaFSPA), often referred to as the Hub, or their ChatHealth (text) services.

CaFSPA Freephone: 0808 178 0611

ChatHealth (cost of standard rate message) text: 07520 615 722



Easter bonnet parade and egg hunt

We couldn't quite believe our luck this morning with the weather after seeing forecasts of an 80% chance of torrential rain! Every year group was able to do their Easter parade outside and then enjoy the egg hunt with their grown ups. We had some fantastic Easter bonnets and hats that everyone had clearly worked hard to make and it was lovely to see the children enjoying the event so much. Thank you if you stayed to support the PTA by buying refreshments—it was lovely to see so many people in the hall. All of the children will be bringing home an Easter treat from the PTA tonight but also a big well done to our overall winners. Judging the event is never an easy task so thank you to the staff who Mrs Moore managed to persuade to do the judging for her!



Book Recommendation

Ivy from 2W wanted to share her special experience of her book review.

Ivy was a very lucky girl along with her brother as she got to meet the author and illustrator of some of her favourite books. Ivy even got her book signed and got a picture. Ivy loves the Draw with Rob books as she says "I love the pictures and I can draw the pictures in the book. My favourite book is odd dog out as I love dogs"



PTA News

Congratulation to Sue Connolly who won the lovely raffle prize kindly donated by Boat House Kitchen and Bakery.



School Crossing Patrol Vacancies

VACANT SCHOOL CROSSING POINT for Station Road, Barton - ref E205.

TIMES 8.20am to 9.05am and 3.10pm to 3.55pm = 1 hour & 30 mins per day (=7 hours & 30 mins per week)

Monday to Friday school term time only, (will be paid all year round through the school holidays).

VACANT SCHOOL CROSSING POINT for Efflinch Lane, Barton - ref E48.

TIMES 8.20am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 3.50pm = 1 hour & 30 mins per day (=7 hours & 30 mins per week)

Monday to Friday school term time only, (will be paid all year round through the school holidays).

Package Description

Variable hours and rates dependent on location (see below for more details)

Current Pay rates: School Crossing Patrols and Local Relief Patrols - Grade 3; hourly rate: £10.98

Main Responsibilities

The duties are term time only and are therefore ideally suited to anyone who prefers to take school holidays.

You will receive full training and uniform, and payment throughout the year.

You will also be required to attend a Health Assessment conducted by Staffordshire County Councils' Occupational Health Department.

Duty times usually fall between the hours of: 8am - 9am and 3pm - 4pm, and each duty can last from 30mins up to 1 hours in length, but each crossing location is unique and has its own specific operating times (some locations may fall outside of these times, please check with the School Crossing Patrol team for individual crossing information).

The Ideal Candidate

You will be able to:

- demonstrate an awareness of road safety.
- show commitment, reliability and dedication.
- enjoy working outside and serving the local community.

Applications are reviewed regularly. If a successful candidate is appointed to a vacant position, it may be removed, or the job advert may be closed early.

Interviews will be held locally, and other areas or vacant posts may take priority. Candidates are welcome to apply for posts 'under offer,' however if the current applicant is successful the vacancy will be withdrawn - you may then be considered for other posts.

Please be sure to indicate on your application form, which crossing location/s you are interested in by including the crossing location number.

For enquiries via the recruitment hotline

If you do not have access to the internet, or are unable to complete an online application form, please contact our recruitment hotline on 0300 111 8049, where you will be directed to an automated message system. Please follow the instructions as detailed within the message.

For further information you can contact us at: scp@staffordshire.gov.uk



Stars of the week



- RT - Ava for amazing work in phonics!
- RT - Joshua for working hard on his listening skills
- RC - Clementine for beautiful singing in our Easter service
- RC - Leo for amazing progress in phonics
- 1L - Poppy for working hard in her reading
- 1L - Isaac for demonstrating excellent chopping skills in DT
- 1RS - Zaki for excellent co-operation in forest school
- 1RS - Trixie for great improvement with her handwriting
- 2MS - Milo for a fantastic wanted : The Perfect Pet story
- 2MS - Clara for great improvement in your handwriting and presentation
- 2W - Caitlin for great ideas for her Perfect Pet story
- 2W - Andreas for showing super throwing skills in PE



Winning team

Congratulations to the **OWLS** who are our winning team for the term earning the most team points. They have enjoyed a treat in the hall with Mrs Moore this afternoon to congratulate them.

Dates for your Diary

Lunch menu from Monday 20th of March is Week 2

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| Fri 31 Mar - Break up for Easter | Thur 8 June - Sports Day 1pm |
| Mon 17 Apr - Back to school | Thur 22 June - Reserve Sports Day 1pm |
| Thur 27 Apr - Y1 trip to Twycross Zoo | Thur 29 June - Y2 visit to Tamworth Castle |
| Mon 1 May - Bank holiday | Fri 7 July - Inset Day School closed to children
(Staff JTMAT Training Day) |
| Fri 5 May - Coronation Celebrations , singing and country dancing (further information to follow) | Tue 11 July - Y2 music performance pm |
| Mon 8 May - Bank holiday | Wed 19 July - Y2 Leavers assembly to parents |
| Wed 24 May - Reception parents Forest school | Thur 20 July - Leavers party |
| Thu 25 May—Break up for half term | Fri 21st July - Last Day of term |
| Fri 26 May - Inset Day school closed to children | |
| Mon 5 Jun—Back to school | |

Have a wonderful Easter break

Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore