



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 28 28.04.2023

Well done

This week we were delighted to receive feedback for the work our children did for the JTMAT Subject Excellence RE project. Our child wrote reflections about friendship and kindness for their entries.

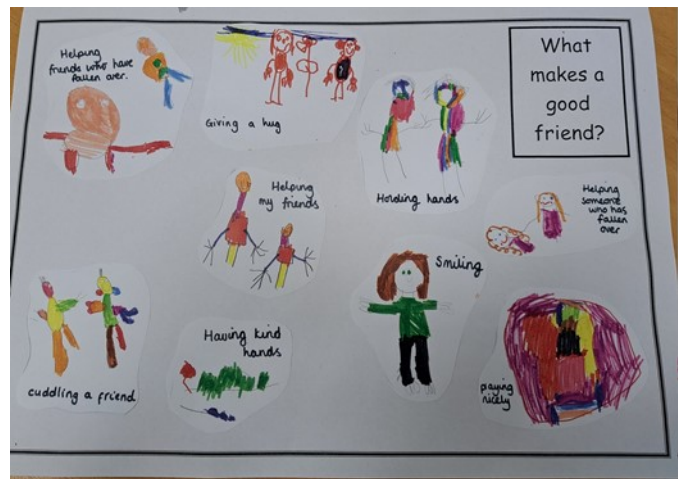
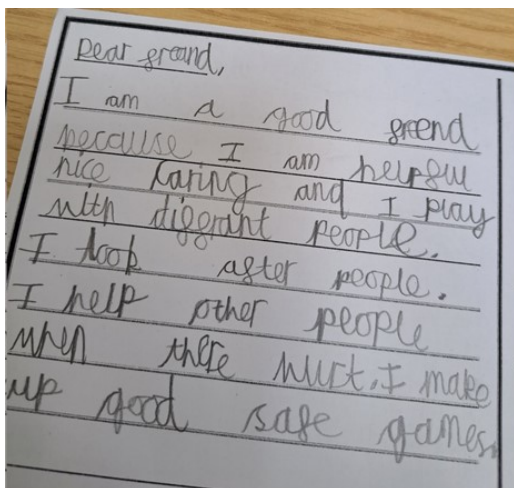
We were delighted that Felicity in Year 1 was the overall winner with the judges commenting that it was **'a lovely reflection on different ways of being happy and a beautiful drawing too!'** Felicity will be presented with a very special JTMAT Subject Excellence badge that she can wear on her school uniform.

Comments were made about some of our other entries too—

James in Year 2 was awarded 2nd place. The judges commented that it was a **'beautifully written message and a reminder of the importance of sharing your pizza with a friend!'** Beatrice in Year 2 was awarded 3rd place with the judges commenting that she had **'a well-written message about the importance of kindness in friendship - nicely done!'**

A special mention was given to Reception who submitted a year group entry. The judges felt that it was **'a beautifully illustrated poster covering all the important parts of friendship - well done!'**

There is still time to enter the JTMAT Design and Technology project. All of the information is on the over the page. Good luck to everyone who takes part.



Reminder—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!

King's Coronation Event—Friday 5th May

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for our Coronation Event on Friday 5th May. The school gates will open at 1.45pm to allow everyone to find a space to set up their picnic blanket. At 2pm the Year 2 country dancers will perform and the whole school will sing. You are then welcome to enjoy the PTA activities with your child. Afternoon tea orders will be ready to collect after the dancing.

We will take the children back to the classroom at 3.15pm to dismiss them in the usual way but the gates will be open until 5.00pm if you would like to stay and carry on enjoying the activities. Older children are welcome to come along and join in when they have finished school.

If you are unable to come along then please don't worry—children will be able to join in the event with their class teacher and we will make sure that they have some refreshments during the afternoon.

The children are welcome to come in non-uniform on the day—they might want to dress up as a king or a queen, or to wear red, white and blue!

We are really hoping that it will be a lovely event that will help the children remember the Coronation. In the event of bad weather we will let you know as soon as possible of how plans will change.



Spotlight on...mental health and the cost of living crisis

Mental Health & Money Advice have produced lots of useful information about how you can maintain your mental wellbeing during this time, alongside how to manage your money as your bills rise. Mental Health & Money Advice recognise that financial difficulty and mental health are interlinked and that the double stigma of mental health and money can be an isolating experience - but help is available. Find detailed information about dealing with money problems, how the cost of living crisis might affect your mental health, what other effects you might see because of the cost of living crisis and links to other advice, information and support, here:

<https://www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/en/managing-money/cost-of-living-crisisand-your-mental-health/>

Across Staffordshire, many people are feeling the pressure from the increasing cost of living. If you are struggling financially, or concerned about the future, getting help early can make a big difference. Lots of support is available from many different organisations, and it is often closer than people think. Visit Staffordshire County Council's webpage to find information, advice, and support to help you manage cost of living pressures:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Community/Cost-of-livingsupport/Here-to-help.aspx>





Stars of the week



- RT - Max L for perseverance in writing
- RT - Max P for fantastic independent work
- RC - Alyssa for being a kind friend to others
- RC - Ben for an informative newspaper report
- 1L - Finley for amazing participation in phonics
- 1L - Eryn for creating a detailed print in Art
- 1RS - Thomas for great knowledge about animal classifications
- 1RS - Iga for representing our school really well on our trip to Twycross zoo
- 2MS - Vinnie for a super blog about 'The Thing' in English
- 2MS - Elizabeth for beautiful artwork in the Style of Kandinsky
- 2W - Beatrice Skinner for showing fabulous reasoning and problem solving skills in maths
- 2W - George for writing a fantastic blog about the Thing



Dates for your Diary

Lunch menu from Tuesday 2nd of May is Week 3

Fri 5 May-Non uniform day - dress in red, white and blue!

Fri 5 May - Coronation Celebrations , singing and country dancing from 2pm

Mon 8 May - Bank holiday

Wed 24 May - Reception parents Forest school

Thu 25 May—Break up for half term

Fri 26 May - Inset Day school closed to children

Mon 5 Jun—Back to school

Thu 8 June - Sports Day 1pm

Thu 22 June - Reserve Sports Day 1pm

Thu 29 June - Y2 visit to Tamworth Castle

Fri 7 July - Inset Day School closed to children
(Staff JTMAT Training Day)

Tue 11 July - Y2 music performance pm

Wed 19 July - Y2 Leavers assembly to parents

Thu 20 July - Leavers party

Fri 21st July - Last Day of term

Have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend

Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore