



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 5 06.10.2023

Forest School

Below are some photos from 2W's most recent session where you can see how proud the children were after managing to light a fire!

Please can we remind you that children should come dressed appropriately on days that they are doing Forest School. This is a potentially muddy, wet and cold session and children need to be wearing long warm trousers/joggers, wellies, a warm top and appropriate coat/jacket. This is particularly important now the weather will be turning cooler and long sleeves, trousers and wellies also protect the children from accidental scratches from bushes and trees. Thank you.



Primary school book club

Please find attached to the newsletter email information about the Primary School book club. If you would like to sign your child up then please contact the company directly following the information on the leaflet. The books are delivered to school and we distribute them to the children to take home. There is quite a tight deadline to sign up of the 9th October.

PTA News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to everyone who came along and contributed in every way to the Macmillan Coffee Morning. With your kind donations of delicious cake we raised **£195.99** for Macmillan Cancer Support!!



Thank you also to the children who crafted some amazing bunting for us, and those who baked the amazing cakes! You made such a lovely morning (and afternoon).

Embrace the Holiday Spirit with Us!

We're thrilled to invite you to our first Christmas Wreath Workshop, guided by the talented Lily from Flower Design Lichfield on Thursday 30th November in the evening. Join us for a creative session that includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. It's the perfect opportunity to get together with friends and feel festive!

Event registration will open this Friday from 8pm. There are limited spaces so set your alarms and don't miss out!!

Event registration link: <https://forms.gle/xRzvZDqUJeTagvmC9>

We hope you can join us!

Safeguarding

Northamptonshire Police have created a short film for parents to raise awareness of child exploitation. It includes examples of what child exploitation can involve, including criminal and sexual exploitation; common signs of possible exploitation; and information on how to report concerns.

Watch the video/film: [Film launched to tackle child exploitation](#)

See also on NSPCC Learning

> [Protecting children from sexual exploitation](#)

Measles

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease.

NHS

102,000 children starting school in England are at risk of catching measles

Check your child is up
to date with their
MMR vaccinations

Parent consultations

Next week we will be sending out booking details for our parent consultations which are due to take place after half term. These meetings will be held in school and will give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, and discuss how your child is settling into their new year group.

Appointments will be for 10 minutes and there will also be the chance for you to look through your child's work from this year so far. Please enter your child's full name.

Due to the space available in school we are having to run several different sessions. Details are below so that you can plan ahead for when the booking information is released.

Tuesday 7th November - 2MS(Mrs Moore), 2W (Mrs Walker), 1L(Miss Lamond)

Appointments will start at 1.20 and be available until 4pm

Wednesday 8th November—1SB (Miss Brassington), RT (Mrs Toft), RC (Miss Cooper)

Appointments will start at 1.20 and be available until 4pm

Wednesday 15th November - RC (Miss Cooper), RT - (Mrs Toft)

Thursday 16th November—2MS (Mrs Smith), 2W (Mrs Walker), 1RS (Mrs Sutton) and 1L (Miss Lamond),

Appointments will start at 3.30 and be available until 6.00pm.

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).

National Poetry Day

On Thursday the children had a surprise delivery of a poem in their class. This was to mark National Poetry Day. The children had the opportunity to read poems in the book corner as well as hearing their teacher read poems. The staff will be continuing to read poems next week during story time. If you would like to read or listen to some poems at home, there are lots at

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/explore/?key=&type=&poet=&theme=&form=&age=251>



English Information Evening

Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended the meeting on Thursday evening. If you were unable to attend or would like any further information, there are lots of resources on the school website in the Curriculum section. Here you will find the English section and Helping with English at home section. We have also attached the slides from the meeting to this weeks newsletter.

<https://www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk/english>

<https://www.thomasrussellinfants.co.uk/helping-with-english-at-home>

BBC 500 words competition 2023

The BBC has launched its 500 Words competition for 2023. The UK's largest children's writing competition, we are encouraging all of our budding authors to take part!

The challenge? Use your creativity and imagination to write a story you would love to read, without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation or grammar! This year, there are two age categories: 5-7 year-olds and 8-11 year olds and entries are now being invited up until 20:00 on Friday 10th November.

The 500 Word judges will be casting their expert eyes over the final 50 stories; award-winning and best-selling authors Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, former children's laureate, Malorie Blackman and a new addition to the panel, TV legend and children's author, Sir Lenny Henry.

A competition means one thing... prizes, and there are some unbelievable prizes up for grabs this year! The competition has been given the royal seal of approval by Her Majesty, The Queen, who is inviting the top 50 finalists, along with a parent or carer, to the grand final in February 2024 at Buckingham Palace! The event will also be featured in a special 500 Word programme with The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

The two gold winners will receive the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books. The two silver winners will receive the height of Her Majesty the Queen in books and the two bronze winners will receive the average height of a 7 or 11 year-old in books. That's a LOT of reading!

On top of this **EVERY** story which is submitted will be entered into a random draw in February. One lucky child will win a pair of tickets to the final, a bundle of books, 500 books for their school as well as a literacy wall-art of the school's choosing.

Everything you need to know about writing and submitting your 500 Words entry (plus lots of inspiration, tips and story-telling tricks) is available on the 500 Words official website:

[500 Words - BBC Teach](#)





Stars of the week



RC - Charlie for being a helpful friend

RC- Isla for being a co-operative and supportive friend when others are upset

1L - Rosie, Daniel, Clementine and Georgie for fantastic co-operation in English

2W - Luna and Henry for showing super co-operation when working with a partner during DT



Dates for your Diary

Lunch menu from Monday 9th of October will be Week 3

Tue 10th Oct - Reception Early Years

Information evening for parents 6.30pm

Wed 18th Oct - Open day for 2024 intake

Thu 19th Oct - RC to Packington Farm

**Fri 20th Oct—RT parents forest school session
9.30am**

Fri 20th Oct—RC parent session 2.15pm

Mon 23rd Oct—1SB parent session 2.15pm

Tue 24th Oct - RT to Packington Farm

**Tue 24th Oct—2W parents forest school
session 1.30pm**

Wed 25th Oct—1L parent session 2.15pm

Thurs 26th Oct—2MS parent session 2.15pm

**Fri 27th Oct - School closes for half term.
PTA Halloween Disco 3.15-5pm**

Mon 6th Nov - Inset day.

Tue 7th Nov - School reopens.

Thu 16th Nov - Y2 trip to the NMA

**Fri 17th Nov - Children in need non -uniform
day**

Wed 29th Nov- Pantomime in school

Thur 30th Nov—PTA wreath making workshop

Fri 8th Dec - Christmas jumper day

**Wed 13th Dec - Reception Christmas play to
parents 2.00pm**

**Thu 14th Dec - Y2 Christmas play to parents
2.00pm**

**Mon 18th Dec - Y2 Music performance to
parents 1.30pm & 2.10pm**

Tue 19th Dec - JTMAAT Christmas concert

**Wed 20th Dec - Y1 Christmas play to parents
2.00pm**

Thu 21st Dec - Christmas lunch

**Fri 22nd Dec - Christmas singalong
& last day of term**

Mon 8th Jan - Back to school first day of term

We hope you have a lovely weekend

Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore