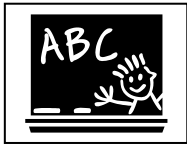


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 23

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

10th March 2017

TERRIFIC SCIENCE PART THREE

Does warm water freeze faster than cold water?

Here at Thomas Russell Junior School we think it is vital to develop science learning in primary schools. Therefore, by taking part in these super BBC investigations, our aim is to develop children's scientific thinking and investigative skills.

So...what did the children investigate this month?

On Tuesday 7th March, children in Years 5 and 6 took part in the third BBC Terrific Scientific activity, which aimed to answer the question: Does warm water freeze faster than cold water? Initially the children found out about the differences in their tap water. Where does water come from? Why does some water, in certain areas of the country, contain lots of dissolved minerals and in other parts of the country, fewer dissolved minerals?

Next, they found out about 'The Mpemba Effect'. Erasto Bartholomeo Mpemba was a young student of 11 or 12 years of age at school in Tanzania. He observed a phenomenon which today carries his name, all because he was in a rush to freeze hot cream. It had previously been observed by Francis Bacon, and even Aristotle, but the Mpemba Effect was first tested in detail in 1969 by Erasto Mpemba and Denis Osborne.

Following this, (with the help of our Science Ambassadors) each year group set up their own experiment and compared differences in freezing times of warm water and cooled tap water. This enabled the children to investigate what is commonly called 'The Mpemba Effect'.



So does warm water freeze faster than cold water? The children's experiment confirmed that warm water does freeze faster than cold water. However, the effect doesn't always appear, but this Mpemba effect occurs regularly, and no one has ever been able to definitively answer why.

Remember to investigate the BBC Terrific Science website for more information and interactive activities.

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Mellors

As you may be aware, we moved over to our current caterers, Mellors, a year ago now. We have been really pleased with the improved quality of the menus, better portion sizes and flexibility to serve meals that children really enjoy. Before the move, we had just over quarter of our children having a cooked dinner and numbers have significantly improved to well over half and nearly three quarters on some days.

National Living Wage increases from £7.20 to £7.50 on 1st April this year and food costs have also increased as we aim to source the highest quality ingredients from local suppliers. In order to maintain the standards at the level we are currently able to achieve, it is necessary to increase costs to £2.20 per meal from after Easter. Any increase in costs is obviously unfortunate, but the price has been fixed at £2.10 since April 2010! so we hope parents will understand.

If you wish to change your child's lunchtime arrangements, please notify us in writing to:

kjackson@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Governors' Open Morning

On Thursday this week, we welcomed a selection of our Governors to school: Mr Wells, Mrs Watling, Mrs Brant, Mrs Cowgill, Mrs Budge and Mr Lloyd-Jones. The Open Morning was designed for Governors to witness our 'Policies in Practice' with each Governor taking a specific focus on an aspect of interest.

Mr Lloyd-Jones is our Health and Safety Link Governor, so he was looking at all aspects of H&S, how fire drills are conducted, locations of extinguishers etc. as well as the general condition of classrooms, such as lighting, storage, furniture, décor. Mrs Budge has an interest in Marking and Feedback linked to her role as a Governor and also a teacher at JTHS. She was keen to look at how consistently our Marking Policy is applied; to look at the quality of marking in books; to discuss with children about their understanding of where they are now and what they need to do to improve. She also looked at classroom environments and how these are used to help children engage with marking.

Other Governors looked at other aspects such as:

Classroom environments and displays - how these are used to celebrate learning and achievement.
Behaviour - looking at Golden Time, Rewards and Consequences Ladders and how consistently the Positive Behaviour Policy is applied both in the classroom and at playtime.

Classroom organisation - looking at the impact of different seating arrangements on learning, and how provision for SEN children is managed and organised across the school.

I know all of our Governors were pleased and impressed by what they saw, reflecting incredibly positively on the children's attitudes to learning, their engagement and behaviour. They were also very complimentary about how the organisation of classes into smaller groups is implemented flexibly to ensure best use of teaching time is made and children are able to access work which is carefully differentiated to suit all abilities. We look forward to welcoming our Governors into school again soon.

Science Week

Next week is Science Week which we will be celebrating with an amazing visit from Black Hole Planetarium. On Monday or Tuesday, all children will have the opportunity to visit the Planetarium - we hope it will be a thoroughly enjoyable experience and give you plenty to talk about over the dinner table!

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Spring Fair

We had a very successful non-uniform day today; the children always enjoy the opportunity to dress in their own clothes for the day. Thank you for your kind donations of bottles and chocolates for the Spring Fair. Don't forget we have another non-uniform day on Friday 24th March, where children have the opportunity to wear red for Comic Relief. They are also welcome to wear a red nose or any other Comic Relief merchandise. Please ensure it is labelled as lots of children will all have the same.

School Council

Our School Council met this week to discuss changes implemented since our last meeting, discuss a letter they had received from the Chair of Governors and also to look at future plans. Feedback on the menu changes that have been implemented was very positive and the children said they really enjoy having more say in menu choices and also the flexibility. Our most exciting 'future plan' is about getting the lines painted on the playground (finally!) which we hope will start on Monday 20th March - weather permitting.

Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat

Today saw the last choir rehearsal on a Friday after school. Next week we have our very exciting performance in Joseph with JTHS students. Final arrangements for choir children: On **Wednesday**, we will be going to JTHS for the day to rehearse all together. Please ensure children bring a packed lunch, plenty of drinks and have a coat in school. On **Thursday**, we need to meet at 6:30 at the side entrance to JTHS (we will show the children exactly where on Wednesday). Boys will need to be dressed in white shirts and black trousers; girls in black dresses with hair tied up. As at the Garrick, we will give out ties and bows on the evening. On **Friday**, we need to meet at 4:30 in the same place, dressed the same please. On **both evenings**, we expect children to be ready for collection at approximately 8:10. Please note we will not be issuing tickets - there will be a list of those purchased on the door for each show. There are no more tickets left for Friday at 7pm, but the last few tickets for Thursday at 7pm and Friday at 5pm are available this weekend.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please check the grid below to confirm which dates our clubs are on to avoid confusion.

Week commencing		NEXT WEEK 13/3	20/3	27/3	3/4
M	Easter Craft	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Forest Schs	Y	Y	Y	Y
T	Gymnastics 2	Y	Y	Y	Y
W	Art 2	Y	Y	Y	Cancelled due to Spring Fair
	Mario Kart 2	Y	Y		
	Netball	Y	Y		
	Tennis	Y	Y	Y	
Th	Football		Y	Y	
	Science	Y	Y		
F	Choir				

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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