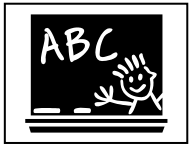


Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



Newsletter



Issue No. 21

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

13th February 2015



Secretary of State for Education

Mrs Gahagan and I were very pleased to accept the invitation to London to attend a celebration at Lancaster House in recognition of the school's recent achievements. We were treated to wine and canapés, a speech from Nicky Morgan MP and an opportunity to see the very impressive inside of Lancaster House.

Thomas Russell Junior School was amongst one of approximately 100 schools from across the country invited to the celebration and we felt proud and honoured to accept the invitation on everyone's behalf, recognising the exceptional journey of improvement we have been on.

Read more at: <http://www.burtonmail.co.uk/Parliament-reception-marks-hard-work-teachers/story-25845258-detail/story.html>

Reading Book Labelling

Next half-term we have a mission to sort, re-label and update our reading book resources. This will enable us to ensure that our spending in the new financial year is targeted exactly where we need it and ensure children across all reading abilities have access to high quality, interesting, good condition books. If there are any parents that would be happy to give up an hour or two of their time, we would love to hear from you and would really appreciate your support in a working party or two to help us accomplish this mission.



♥ Defibrillators - Did you know? ♥

Barton now has three defibrillators: located at the entrance to Thomas Russell Junior School, at the Fire Station and the Library.

♥ Coffee Morning ♥

Barton Bowls Club will be holding a
Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th February
from 10am - 1pm in aid of
British Heart Foundation
Please do go along to support if you can.

♥ Heart Start CPR training ♥

There will be two Heart Start CPR training sessions, on the 9th May at Barton Bowls Club, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These sessions will be run by the British Heart Foundation and will include child and adult CPR and also cover the use of the defibrillators. Places are limited but if there is sufficient demand we will look at offering further courses in the future. Please register your interest by emailing lisaholden@btopenworld.com

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We started this half-term by telling parents about the highlights of the last year, what we have achieved and how we look forward to building on that during 2015.

I am really pleased to be able to finish the half-term telling you of a further accolade in our increasing repertoire.

This week we have had our re-assessment for Dyslexia Friendly Status which takes place every 3 years. The assessor was so impressed by what she saw on her tour round school and speaking to staff that she recommend we consider 'Enhanced' Status. Our assessment report is incredibly positive and confirms we meet every criterion with a great number of additional strengths highlighted. She will be coming back on 1st April to conduct an assessment for the 'Enhanced' Status, and has recommended we host a network event to share our good practice with other local primary schools.



Mrs Haywood (SENCO) has led the work and improvements in this area for a number of years, such recognition is further evidence that the leadership team are continually striving for further improvement even once high standards have already been met.

Mrs Haywood has adapted to significant changes to her role over the last couple of years. Previously responsible for one-to-one and small group work, she has now returned to whole class teaching five days per week. She has thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that this brings, whilst careful management has ensured we can maintain momentum across our SEN department too.

Mrs Haywood is responsible for leading our dedicated team of teaching assistants:

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mrs Fowler (3G) | Mrs Sawbridge (3M) | Mrs Windsor (4M) | Mrs King (4E) | Mrs Rumsey (5B) | Mrs Vardy (5M) | Mrs Cozens (6S) | Mrs Alcock (6D) |

These ladies implement children's individual programmes of support such as speech and language, SpLD programmes, reading and spelling diaries, nurture group and a whole host of interventions. They also work in class with children supporting in Literacy and Numeracy lessons primarily.

Their creative flair and expertise can be seen in displays all over school, showcasing children's excellent work as well as moving their learning forward.

Do take the opportunity to enjoy these as you attend Parent Consultations after half term.

I know there are numerous parents who really appreciate the fantastic work that Mrs Haywood and her merry band do on a day-to-day basis. Keep up the great work!

We will be holding our **Grandparent's / Visitors lunches** for Year 4 children next half term.

4E will be on Wednesday 4th March and 4M will be on Wednesday 11th March. Please ensure you have completed the appropriate reply slip and made payment on Parent Pay. Do get in touch with Mrs Jackson if you have any queries.

Dinner Money for next half term is £60.90 or £50.40 for Y5s going to Chasewater. **Breakfast Club** costs £2 per session or £52 for the half term (£43 for Y5s) but MUST be booked and paid for in advance.

If you have any new or used wrapping paper or spare rolls / part rolls of wallpaper that you would be happy to give to school, we would really appreciate your donations.

Please send them in to school via your child to Mrs Gahagan or to the office. Thank you.

Welcome to Mrs Lorraine Brant. I am pleased to announce that following our Full Governing Body meeting last Thursday we have a new co-opted Governor with financial expertise. Mrs Brant is already an experienced Governor at TRIS and has a background in finance which will complement the make up our existing GB.

Have a lovely half term break. See you on Monday 23rd February. Mrs Sharpe

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