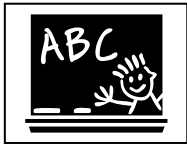


# Thomas Russell Junior School

Inspiring all, achieving together.



## Newsletter



Issue No. 21

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### Where My Wellies Take Me!

Thank you to Mrs Vardy for planning a lovely week of activities, based around this book. It culminated in a day of dressing up on Friday with a superb range of characters. We have sent home every child with their free voucher, plus a little booklet of recommended reads. Why not tick off those that you've already read and see how many of the others you can find either at the library or in book shops. Thank you to Spalding's Books for their kind donation of nearly 100 books to use as prizes for activities throughout the week.

### Y5 at Laches Wood

Congratulations to our Y5 children for an absolutely fantastic week at Laches Wood. Your behaviour and attitude was commended by a number of the instructors. You worked well together, threw yourself into all of the activities and demonstrated great knowledge too. Four night's away from home is a superb achievement at your age. (Children - Don't forget to give your family a well done cuddle for their achievement too - they missed you more than you realise!)

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30 - 3:00, Y5 will lead an assembly: 'My Wellies Took Me to Laches Wood!' Parents of Y5 children are warmly invited to join us for this.

### Light Factory - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

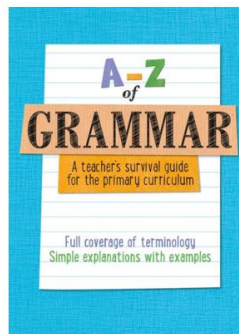
Barton Churches together meet from 6pm 'til 7:30pm @ Methodist Church, Crowberry Lane, Barton under Needwood. Children's activities for 5 - 10 year olds. 50p per session all welcome.

### A-Z of Grammar

We often hear from parents that it can be tricky to help children with their homework as the vocabulary they use now and the way they are taught is different to the ways taught in the past.

This can certainly be the case when

supporting children with grammar work. The new National Curriculum has far higher expectations of the level of knowledge that the children will have. We have found a guide to grammar that we think parents may find particularly useful.



The book:

- contains full coverage of the new curriculum grammar terminology
- includes simple explanations with examples for quick reference
- is presented alphabetically for ease of use.

Copies of the book are normally £4.99, but we are able to order them at the reduced price of £3.50.

If you would like to order a copy, please pay via ParentPay no later than Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Books will be delivered the following week. If you would like to view the book before you purchase, a sample copy is in the Office.

Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: [questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)

## Menu matters!

Those of you who keep up to date with Parent Forum information will know that the school raised concerns during the last meeting regarding catering issues.

We have two excellent cooks in Mrs Brammer and Mrs Roach, and they have always been passionate about cooking tasty, healthy food that the children enjoy.

Our concerns include the questionable appeal of the new menu, the lack of flexibility in ingredient choices and recipe constraints, and that Chartwells' prices are due to rise to £2.20 from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

The children have told us that the new menu is leaving some of them not enjoying their meals and / or not having access to as wide a variety of options as they have had in the past. We are unhappy to pass on increasing costs to parents at a time of decreasing satisfaction from the children.

We are seeing a drop in the number of children taking school dinners and feel the two problems outlined above will only compound this issue further.

We have been exploring a number of different options to address this situation, including discussions with senior managers at Chartwells as well as meetings / discussions with other catering companies.

Please feel free to discuss with your child and let us have your feedback via 'Questions@'

As I have said we have already started taking action to secure improvements and will keep parents updated on this matter. I would like to thank you for your support while this issue is addressed.

## NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March the Thomas Russell netball team travelled to the Dove Valley Upper Netball League at de Ferrers Academy. The team included: Reeve, Jack C, Katie P, Amelia, Olivia, Alex, Laili and were led by the fantastic Mrs Ayre.

Firstly, we had a tough match up against William Shrewsbury. As we were all on form, we won by a solid 4-0. After that, we played against our rivals John of Rolleston and won 3-1. Next up we had Shobnall (the hardest match of the tournament) and unfortunately lost 2-0. Finally we played Richard Cross which was the most straightforward match of the lot; in this match we won 9-0. This was an amazing result!

Overall, because Shobnall won every game, we came a close second. However, everyone played excellently.

Well done Thomas Russell ☺!

By Reeve and Jack

## Mrs O'Hara - Parent Consultations

We are aware Mrs O'Hara missed consultations with a small number of parents before half term. We would like to offer parents the opportunity to come and see her on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March between 3:30 and 5:45. Alternatively, if this is not convenient, or you would prefer a telephone conversation, or you do not need a further appointment, please let us know via 'questions@'. Thank you.

*Best wishes, Mrs S Sharpe*