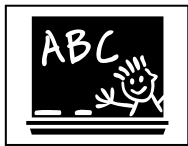


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 18

Headteacher Mrs S Sharpe

27th January 2017

BBC Terrific Science

On Tuesday 24th January, pupils in Year 5 and 6 took part in the BBC Terrific Science classroom investigation all about 'taste'. They were asked the question: Are you a super taster?

Super tasters experience bitter tastes more strongly than other people; this is because they have a higher number of taste receptors within fungiform papillae, the big pink bumps on your tongue which contain your taste buds, enabling you to taste sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami.

By counting the number of fungiform papillae, children were able to determine whether they were a 'super taster', 'taster' or 'non-taster.'

This investigation accompanies the Live Lesson: 'What happens when I eat?' which the children will be taking part in on Tuesday 31st January at 11am.



Parent Forum - We will be holding our next meeting on

Wednesday 1st February. We really welcome your contributions, questions and

comments. Please either e-mail them in to question@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk, pass them to a member of staff or to one of the members of Parent Forum. Not sure who they are? Why not have a look on the website or on the board in the entrance hall, or even better...why not come along and join us!



Congratulations to the 100 strong choir who attended the **Young Voices Concert** yesterday. We had the most amazing time and I was incredibly proud of the children, not only for their energetic and enthusiastic singing, but also for their behaviour which was exceptional.

Thanks to the wonderful staff who made it possible. Your feedback is marvellous too: "Could you please pass on a big thank you to everyone involved in Young Voices yesterday. What an amazing event!!! It was the first time for me, and I didn't know what to expect, but it was a fantastic evening."

Choir have their next concert at **Lichfield Garrick Theatre on 1st March** and I have been informed today that tickets are on sale and going fast. Please book ASAP to avoid disappointment via www.lichfieldgarrick.com.

Select 1st March, then select Rotary Schools Concert. More info will follow next week.

Parent Consultations - don't forget these take place on Thursday 2nd and Tuesday 7th February. There is no Gym Club on Tues 7th. Bookings close on Monday 30th Jan, so please book via www.schoolinterviews.com Code: **fgb5n**



It was great to see parents taking advantage of our Helping Hands Coffee Morning this week, and thank you for the kind feedback: "I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for the group Helping Hands being set up at the school. I really feel it's a fantastic group and proactively works in partnership with parents/guardians."

Remember - we ALL need a Helping Hand from time to time, our next Coffee Morning is Thursday 30th March.

Friends' Meeting - Please find minutes from last week's meeting attached to this Newsletter.

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

Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding children is an absolutely fundamental role of the school and a responsibility that we all take very seriously. Effective safeguarding relies on a strong partnership and open communication between parents and school. We would like to take the opportunity to clarify the procedures for a few aspects of safeguarding and thank parents for their continued support in enabling us to effectively carry out our duties.



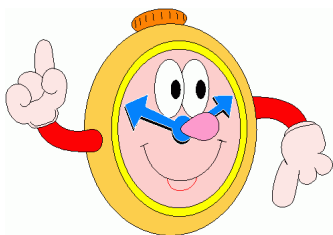
Illness / Emergencies - Occasionally, it is necessary to contact parents in an emergency or because of illness. In order to do this quickly, we require up-to-date emergency contacts, of people within close proximity who could collect children, if required at short notice. At Parent Consultations next week, we will be circulating Data Collection Sheets. When reviewing these, we would like parents to ensure we have enough emergency contacts. It would be preferable to have at least 4 emergency contact numbers; ideally a minimum of one should be a landline. For some children we only have two mobile phone contacts. If parents know they travel away around the country or abroad, then it is most helpful if you can let us have a number of someone local who could help.

Medicines - we have a policy in school that staff are able to administer medicines. In order to do this, it is essential that parents provide us with a fully completed permission form. Under no circumstances are children allowed to bring medicines in to school without this form. The form covers all medications, from Epipens and inhalers to Calpol, antibiotics and all other prescribed medications. A blank form is attached with this Newsletter and can also be found on the school website.



Dinners / Sandwiches - whilst this might not seem like a safeguarding issue per se, ensuring all 242 children in school are appropriately fed is of great importance. Our policy in school is that children can stay for dinners all week or sandwiches all week, or a combination of the two. (e.g. Dinners M, W, F & Sandwiches Tu, Th) We kindly request that parents make their decisions and abide by them. We ask for written notification if your child is changing arrangements.

Pick up - we are really lucky to be within a close community and always have families on hand who are happy to look after those children whose own parents have been delayed. This can be really helpful and far better for the children than coming back in to school to wait. However, children are given a very clear instruction from the first day of Y3 - **if the person collecting them isn't there, they should come back in to school.** This way we can ensure that staff in school know where children have gone and can alleviate unnecessary panic associated with missing children.



Earrings & watches - whilst we do not encourage jewellery of any description in school, we understand some parents may wish for their children to wear earrings and / or a watch. We do allow a watch and small stud earrings to be worn. ALL items of jewellery must be removed for PE, Games and swimming. We can accept no responsibility for these items brought in to school.

*Best wishes,
Mrs Sharpe*