

Thomas Russell Junior School

'Ambitious culture, strong team ethos, outstanding academic achievement, high expectations, exemplary behaviour' Ofsted 2019.



Newsletter



Issue No. 1

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

8 September 2023



What a week of sunshine that has been! Isn't it always the case that, the minute the summer holidays are over, we finally get some beautiful weather. Firstly, may I say what a joy this week has been. I have been given such a warm welcome by all the pupils, parents, governors and staff. It genuinely feels like I have been here for a good while and I am delighted to be part of the TRJS family. The new Y3 children have coped very well with the big step up to the juniors. They have been settled, listened well and shown a great attitude to learning. It is so lovely to see their smiling faces. Year 4, 5 and 6 are responding brilliantly to the new, exciting challenges that the new year brings. If it helps, I am new also and am learning all about the school building and trying to remember all your names. I am getting there – honest! Keep going guys, we will achieve amazing things if we work together. Here's a poem:

We are Better Together

The halls are busy, the kids are tall.

The day is bustling, and I feel small.

So much to do, so much to learn,

Sometimes it makes my brain feel the burn.

One day at a time, one foot in front of the other,

We will excel, if we support each other.

KEEP SINGING

I have been very impressed with the children's attitude, behaviour and singing in assembly. There is nothing quite like the beautiful sound of 257 children singing their hearts out. If you feel like doing some singing at home, here are some links for some of the songs that we have been enjoying:

The Climb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWL5v2y_dOI

Sunshine in my heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e8QOHmiLSU>

Here comes the sun <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc1ta1UMGeo>

We are a Nut Free School

Due to having some children in school with an allergy to nuts, we welcome the support of parents in being a NUT-FREE SCHOOL. Therefore, we ask your co-operation to avoid sending snacks or lunch into school that contain nuts. We appreciate that this is change for everyone, but I thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Congratulations

House Captains and Vice-Captains are very important positions at TRJS. They will be responsible for organising the sports teams for house matches, collecting trophies on behalf of their house and representing the school at various events. It is an honour to be voted for this role and we are confident that they will be mature, respectful and articulate ambassadors for both their house and the school. We were very impressed by how brave all the Year 6 children were to present their speeches with such clarity and confidence. A big well-done to the following; we are VERY proud of you:

	Anson	Clinton	Jervis	Bassett
Captains	Freya C	Nancy B	Lucy F	Scarlett F
	William O	Jamie R	Walter H	Rhys G
Vice-Captains	Evie R	Emilia S	Macy W	Eleanor P
	Max C	Sahaan V	Oscar W	Jacob G

Here are the photographs to prove it. 😊



Term Dates

Here are the dates for the year ahead:

INSET DAY	Monday 4 September
Autumn Term 1:	Tuesday 5 September 2023 - Friday 27 October
Half Term:	Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November
INSET DAY:	Monday 6 November (School is closed to pupils)
Autumn Term 2:	Tuesday 7 November - Friday 22 December
Spring Term 1:	Monday 8 January - Thursday 8 February
INSET DAY:	Friday 9 February (School is closed to pupils)
Half Term:	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
Spring Term 2:	Monday 19 February – Friday 22 March
Summer Term 1:	Monday 8 April – Thursday 23 May
INSET DAY:	Friday 24 May (School is closed pupils)
Half Term:	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May
Summer Term 2:	Monday 3 June – Friday 19 July
INSET DAY:	Monday 22 July (School is closed to pupils)

Attendance

TRJS pupils have a proud tradition of achieving excellent attendance at school. We expect parents to plan family events and holidays outside of term time, so all pupils can make the best possible progress while at school. Thank you for your support 😊

RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC. The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

Please be assured that Thomas Russell Junior has not been asked by the DfE to close any areas of the school. We have carried out initial checks and we judge the building to be SAFE at this point, so we are open as usual. We will continue to liaise with the DfE and Staffordshire County Council to arrange further assessments, in the coming weeks, to ensure that the school buildings remain safe in the future and will endeavour to keep parents informed.

Extra-Curricular Clubs Autumn 2023

Please find the list of clubs for the first half of the Autumn Term below. These activities help children discover a new hobby, improve self-confidence and develop social skills as they mix with a different group of children. I recognise and appreciate the huge commitment of school staff, who are willing to offer clubs on a voluntary basis. Please note that when a child signs up for a club that includes a charge, we expect them to attend the full session every week and would need a written note from parents in advance, if a child was to be absent.

Extra-Curricular clubs are very popular at TRJS and places are given on a first-come-first-served basis. Initially, we place a limit of TWO clubs per child, to give a greater number of children opportunity to attend. Once a club is booked, we expect payment of the amount indicated which will be on ParentPay from 15 September. From Monday 11 September, any places left will then be opened again.

Please note that, to book a place at football with Soccerstars on a Tuesday, parents need to follow the information on p6 and book directly with Soccerstars.

Booking Clubs

Booking for clubs will open at 5.30pm tonight.

1. Log on to www.schoolinterviews.co.uk
2. Select: Make a booking and enter code: **kcc86**
3. Enter email, child's first name AND surname.
4. Choose your child's year group and clubs they would like to attend.
5. Receive instant email confirmation of booking.

Please note you will not receive any further confirmation from school – once you have signed up and received your confirmation email, your child's place is secured.

DAY	CLUB	STAFF	TIME	YEAR GROUPS	COST	DATES
Monday	Rugby	Barton RFC Mrs Vardy	3.30-4.30	Y5 and 6 (30 max)	FREE	11/9, 18/9, 25/9, 2/10, 9/10,16/10
Monday	Netball	Miss Wortley	3.30-4.30	Y5 and 6 (20 max)	FREE	11/9,18/9, 25/9, 2/10, 9/10, 16/10
Monday	Junior Cadets	PCSO	3.30-4.30	Y5 children will be informed	FREE	11/9, 18/9, 25/9, 2/10, 9/10,16/10
Tuesday	Football	Soccerstars	3.30-4.30	Y3-6	£38.50 (p6)	12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10,17/10, 24/10
Tuesday	Clarinet	Mrs Smith	3.30-4.10	Y5-6	£21.00	12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10, 10/10, 17/10, 24/10
Tuesday	Reading Den	Miss Murfin	12.30-1.15	Y3-6	FREE	Every Tuesday lunchtime
Wednesday	Keyboard	Ms Chen	3.30-4.10	Y3-6	£21.00	13/9, 20/9, 27/9, 4/10, 11/10, 18/10, 25/10
Wednesday	Cookery	Mrs Preston	3.30-4.45	Children will be informed	FREE	20/9, 27/9, 4/10, 11/10
Wednesday	Rugby	Barton RFC	3.30-4.30	Y3 and 4 (20 max)	FREE	13/9, 20/9, 27/9, 4/10, 11/10, 18/10
Thursday	Rainbow Retreat	Mrs K-D	12.15-1.15	Y3-6	FREE	Every Thursday lunchtime
Friday	Choir	Mr Emery	3.30-4.30	Y3-6	FREE	22/9, 6/10, 13/10

Choir

I am committed to continuing the fantastic tradition of singing at TRJS. I may not be able to commit to every week due to my diary, but I will do my best. I have scheduled 3 sessions before half term to get us started. We will be booking Young Voices again this year and a small group of the choir will be taking part in the Mayor's Christmas Concert in Burton in December.

Music Tuition (For those children whose parents have completed forms already)

Woodwind lessons will be on Tuesdays.

Violins for Y4,5,6 will be on Wednesday. Violins for Y3 will be on Friday.

Keyboards will be on Wednesday lunchtime.

Guitar lessons will be confirmed as soon as we know the availability of the teacher.

Are you interested in a grammar webinar for parents?

Dandelion Learning have just sent Miss Murfin a free online grammar webinar for primary school parents. We thought it might be useful, particularly for those parents of Y5 and Y6 pupils. Here is the link:
[Free Online Training: Helping Parents with Home Learning. Getting to Grips with Grammar! - Dandelion Learning](#)

Football Trials

Miss Marston will be arranging football trials on Tuesday 12th September. This will be for boys and girls in Year 5 and 6 who are interested in representing the school in the league, tournaments or festivals. Please wear your usual school games/PE kit and remember your boots and shin pads.

Special Educational Needs Support

If any parent has any questions or would like further support with regard to Special Educational Needs, please send an email to Mrs Rollins (our SENDCo) at the following email: krollins@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Swimming

As all year groups start swimming next week, we would be very grateful for parents to act as “EYES” to help supervise the lessons. The pool is a wonderful facility and we rely on parental support to ensure we are able to offer this life-saving skill to all the children at school. Please phone or email to let the school office know if you could offer 1 hour from Monday-Thursday afternoons. Thank you. 😊

Swimming Kit – girls are required to wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys are to wear ‘short’ shorts or jammers, not baggy shorts, as they impede the swimmer. All children need a towel, swimming hat and a waterproof bag.

PE Kit

Indoor PE kit – house colour T-shirt, black shorts and pumps (However, we find that a pair of clean indoor trainers are often better than pumps and give the feet more support.) Indoor PE kit is to be left in school. Outdoor PE Kit – house colour T-shirt, plain dark tracksuit trousers and trainers. Please note (especially for Y4 and Y6 who are doing rugby during PE) trainers may well get muddy – it is all part of the fun – so please do not send children into school with expensive fashion trainers.

Jewellery – all items of jewellery must be removed for every PE lesson, including watches. Any children with earrings must remove them or not wear them to school on PE days. The school cannot accept responsibility for any items of jewellery brought into school.

Parent Consultations

Meetings for parents to come into school and discuss how your child has settled in will be planned for the last week before half term. Therefore, there will be no clubs run by school staff during that week.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Eleanor (4H) is performing at The Brewhouse in this wonderful musical. Please find further information on p6 if you wish to get tickets.

Names!

Please ensure that all clothing and equipment brought into school is clearly labelled with your child’s name. Thank you 😊

Headteacher Awards

I have enjoyed the most wonderful morning celebrating the awards with children in every class. A special well done to anyone who did the Summer Reading Challenge at the library. KEEP READING! 😊
Let the journey of discovery begin!

J Emery


Staffordshire County Council


AWESOME ANIMALS

A free, flexible, 4-week online family learning course

Starting Friday 15th September
For families in Staffordshire, with children aged 3-8

Your family will receive a fantastic weekly email activity pack, full of themed ideas to try at times to suit you! From crafts, to cooking, to activities to support local wildlife, we will support you to adapt the activities for your family. Once enrolled on this course, you will receive an exclusive invitation to our live Autumn Family Event. Details TBC.

- Is your child animal mad?
- Are you looking for something flexible to do as a family around work and school?
- Would you like to support your child to develop a wide range of skills, as well as an early love of the natural world?

For more information and to reserve your place contact
Rebecca on 07525 120117 or
communityforestservices@gmail.com


Staffordshire County Council

FOREST SCHOOLS FOR FAMILIES

Free, 8 week, online course starting Friday 6th October
For parents and carers with children aged 5-11.

Support your child's development in the core subjects and beyond through fun, forest school activities. Inspire their curiosity, spark their joy for learning, nurture a love of nature. To reserve your place or for more info contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 / communityforestservices@gmail.com.

Each week we provide an email pack with ideas to try at times to suit you. We cover maths, science and literacy, the arts, and practical skills to raise confidence and build resilience. Families are also introduced to activities and resources to support mental health and wellbeing. Your family will also be invited to an exclusive Family Autumn Event - details TBC. This course is free for families in Staffordshire.


little
THEATRE COMPANY

IAN FLEMING'S CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

MUSIC AND LYRICS by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
MUSIC by Special arrangement with Sony/ATV Publishing
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE by Jeremy Sams

Based on the MGM Motion Picture • Licensed Script Adapted by Ray Roderick

at the Brewhouse, Burton upon Trent
Tuesday 28th November to
Saturday 2nd December 2023
 at 7.30 each evening plus Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Tickets: £16.00 adults / £14.00 concessions (Concessions available: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday Matinee only)

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI • www.mtishows.co.uk

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1072000




SoccerstarsUK specialise in After School Football Clubs, we provide an exciting football programme for boys and girls of all abilities ensuring that they can enjoy the game in a safe and positive learning environment.

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After School Club at Thomas Russell Juniors School

FOOTBALL CLUB

School Years: 3 to 6
 Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 Dates: Tuesday
 12/9/23 - 24/10/23
 Price: £38.50

 Highly Qualified & Trained Coaches
  Fun Story Games
  Individual Ball Familiarity
  Dribbling & Turning
  Themed Tournaments

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW

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