

Thomas Russell Junior School

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



Newsletter



Issue No. 5

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

6 October 2023

TRJS Values

We are in the process of writing a school anthem and we invite ideas, words or verses from any child brave enough to have a go. Here are the values we have agreed upon so far:

TRJS is the place to:

BE KIND, BE BRAVE, SHOW INTEGRITY, LOVE LEARNING, BE OUR BEST.

Thank you to Nancy (Y6) who has created her own verse:

We can all be learning queens or kings and we can do that while we sing.

I assure you – we are ALL AMAZING; that's because we love learning.

TRJS is the place to: be brave, be kind and show integrity.

We learn and play so kindly, which makes our faces smiley.



Tuesday 10th October is **World Mental Health Day** and we would like children to come to school on that day dressed all in **yellow** or with a splash of **yellow** for youth mental health charity YoungMinds' campaign in support of young people's mental health. Please either bring a £1 or pay your donation via ParentPay. **#HelloYellow** campaign calls on people to stand together in support of young people struggling with their mental health, to show they matter and deserve the help they need, when they need it, no matter what. Any money raised will help YoungMinds to support young people, so they don't feel alone with their mental health. TRJS pupils will join thousands of schoolchildren across the country swapping their school uniform for **#HelloYellow** at a time when more children and young people than ever before are struggling with their mental health. Over 1.2m under 18s were referred to children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) last year, an increase of 53% since 2019.

Children in school will continue with some work started last July on 'Brain Breaks' and what we can do to help ourselves if we are feeling dysregulated or 'wobbly'. Look out for more information about this in next week's newsletter. At TRJS we are committed to supporting our children's mental health and wellbeing. If you would like any information about this or have any questions, or ideas for how we can further develop this, please contact Mrs K-D skerrdelworth@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Year 7 Transition

Parents of Year 6 pupils are reminded to complete the application forms by 31 October. Please check TRJS Newsletter Issue No. 3 for further information about the arrangements for John Taylor High School, including the Open Evening on Thursday 26th October.



Keep Reading (I make no apology for repeating this item. Reading is THE most important thing you can do to help your child at home.)

I am sure we all would agree that becoming a fluent reader is so vital to success in all aspects of education. Once a child can read well, it opens the doors to a world of imagination and knowledge. At TRJS, we expect children to read **5 times per week** and have this noted in the reading record. We welcome the support of parents to help all children achieve this goal. I have given SO many Headteacher Awards out this morning for regular reading, including reading plus. Keep reading 😊

Parent Helpers and Eyes

Thank you to those parents and governors who have already volunteered to help with reading or as “EYES” for swimming lessons. Your support is so very much appreciated and it really does make a difference.

BBC 500 Words Competition

(A message from Miss Murfin)

BBC have launched its **500 Words** competition for 2023. The UK’s largest children’s writing competition; we are encouraging all our budding TRJS authors to take part!

The challenge? Use your creativity and imagination to **write a story you would love to read**, without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation or grammar! This year, there are two age categories: **5-7 year-olds** and **8-11 year-olds** and entries are now being invited up until **20:00 on Friday 10th November**. Everything you need to know about writing and submitting your 500 Words entry (plus lots of inspiration, tips and story-telling tricks) is available on the 500 Words official website: [500 Words - BBC Teach](https://www.bbc.com/teach/500-words)



Parent Consultation Meetings

The meetings have been scheduled for the week beginning 23 October, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have changed the time of the Year 6 meetings on Thursday 26 October, so as not to coincide with the Open Evening at JTHS. The link for the meetings is open on the School Interviews site so parents can book their preferred time slot. The code for each year group can be found in Newsletter Issue No 4.

The main focus for these meetings is to discuss how your child is settling into the new year and how parents can support learning at home, as we work together to help your child be the best they can be. Please note that the booking system will close at 10am on Friday 13th October.

Hot Chocolate with Mr E

I enjoyed the company of another group of Merit Award winners for Hot Chocolate (and cookies and Oreos!) to celebrate their amazing work and have a good chat about our hobbies, interests and things that make us laugh.

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

What a great book this is! So many important messages about self-reflection, life and friendship. A lovely book for children and adults alike. If you see some black and white quotes in our newsletter, they will probably be from this book. 😊



Creative Request

If you have any empty 2 litre plastic milk cartons, please bring them in as the school kitchen is planning something creative for Christmas.

Dates for the Diary:

Parent Consultations – Week/Beginning 23 October
Half Term- Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November

Enjoy the warm weather and have a great weekend.

J Emery