



Newsletter



Issue No. 10

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

17 November 2023

**Thank you for your generosity.
We raised £234 today for BBC Children in Need.
Well done, everyone!**



End of Day Routine

Thank you to all those parents who are working with us regarding the end of day routines. The reasons behind the change are all about keeping children safe. The guidance from the NSPCC website is that any child of primary school age should not be walking around the streets while not supervised by an adult. However, I am aware that many children at TRJS in Year 5 and 6, with the permission of their parents, enjoy the independence of walking home with their friends or meet their parents at certain locations. There have been several occasions since the start of term when there has been some confusion

around the collection arrangements for a child which has resulted in a few moments of panic for staff and parents regarding the whereabouts of a child. Therefore, it became clear that we need to tighten up on our routines to guarantee the safety of all. It is very busy at the school gates at 3.30 as over 250 children walk through, many of them to meet up with parents/carers on Gilmour Lane. Due to the large number of children and the wide distribution of parents on Gilmour Lane, it is impossible to guarantee a safe handover at the gate. Therefore, as the school does not feel that children in Year 3 and 4 are old enough to walk home without parental supervision, we ask that all parents of Year 3 and 4 come onto the school playground from **Monday 20th November**. Year 4 parents are asked to wait by the benches/trees at the side of the playground. Please note that if parents inform the school, an older sibling of secondary school age will be allowed to collect a younger sibling from school. May I remind parents that if you wish for a child in Year 5 and 6 to walk home without a parent/carer, the signed permission form needs to be returned to school. Thank you for your support as we work together to ensure the safety of all children at the end of the school day.

After-School Clubs

For the rest of the Autumn Term and through the Spring Term, we ask that any children attending an after-school club are collected by a parent/carer/older sibling and are not allowed to walk home on their own. As the nights draw in, it is often dark at 4.30 during the winter and we appreciate the co-operation of all parents to help us keep all children safe. Thank you.

Remembrance

The House and Vice-Captains were great ambassadors for TRJS, as they represented the school to lay a wreath at the memorial in Barton. It is so important to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Well done, guys; we are proud of you.



TT Rockstars Year Group Battle

Today saw a new type of TTRockstars competition take place at TRJS. For the first time, the battle took place live in school. It was brilliant to see the children's competitive spirit and their fabulous times tables skills. Throughout the course of the morning, our children answered an amazing 141,313 questions correctly!

The first round saw Y3 battle Y4. The atmosphere in the room was electric as both groups tried their best to take top spot in lower school. At the end of the 35 minutes, and after a tough battle, it was Year 4 who emerged victorious with a total of 24,582 points. Year 3 also did themselves proud with 16,807 points - a fabulous result.



Next up were Y5 and Y6. The winner of this heat would go on to play Y4 in the final. Both groups were feeling confident going into the contest and they gave their all. There could only be one winner though and, at the end of the session, it was Y6 who secured their place in the final with a score of 33,791 vs 25,814 for Year 5.



The final lasted for just 20 minutes and was very hotly contested between Y4 and Y6 with everyone wanting to win. It was incredibly close with the top spot changing a number of times during the battle. However, at the finish, it was Y6 who took first place with a total of 21,188 compared to Year 4's 19,131. This was such a close result and everyone should be really proud of their efforts.

Finally, a special mention for those children who were the top 3 scorers for their class in the heats:

3H 3K 4H 4M

Layla Riddim (aka Thea R) Rocky Steele (aka Ottis R) Pink Smith (aka Thomas G.) Lady Zarembo (aka Isabella a) Ezra Reid (aka Elsie W) Avril Sharp (aka Ella T) Carl Stevens (aka Vihaan V.) Noel Blackpoolrock (aka Leo W) Ella Owens (aka Georgie F) Dennis Rizzla (aka George B) Rojelio Glasshouse (aka Niilas W) Jazzy Drumstix (aka Sophia H)

5P 5W 6S 6M

Moo Arm (aka Kieran T) Joe Bruno (aka Oliver P) Grant Jacobs (aka Jacob G) Chester Dylan (aka Oliver C) Claudio Malone (aka Henry C) Graham Dollar (aka Rocco W) Autumn Rollins (aka Evie R) Isaac Clements (aka C) Ace the Rock (aka George E) Tamara Golden (aka Harris B) Robert Stump (aka Oscar W) Smokey Edwards (aka Max C)

Well done to everyone. It was a brilliant morning and great fun. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did .
Mrs Preston

Swimming

Previously, we informed parents that there would be no swimming from 16 November. This was because a member of staff was due to have an operation. However, this surgery has now been postponed. Therefore, **SWIMMING WILL CONTINUE until Thursday 14th December**. After Christmas, there may be a short period when we will be unable to teach swimming, but we will keep parents informed. It is amazing that at TRJS we can offer weekly swimming lessons in our very own pool with an expert teacher, Mrs Owen.

Anti-Bullying

This week our assemblies have focused on anti-bullying. We have been thinking about how we sometimes use “Banter” and tease with our friends. However, we discussed the guidance around when “Banter” may become bullying, such as: if the other person is not happy with the comments, or if the banter is targeting someone’s insecurities or if there is a power imbalance (such as older children teasing younger children).

Would you like to be an Anti-Bullying Ambassador to make sure our school is a place where we are kind, brave and show integrity? Then read this message from Miss Branson:



Have you got what it takes to be an Anti-Bullying Ambassador?

- Friendly and inclusive
- Listener
- Stand-up for others
- Speak-out
- Problem-solver

Let me know!

- Why do you want to be an Anti-Bullying Ambassador?
- Why would you be good at the role?
- Do you have any ideas for the role?
e.g. how to make the playground an even friendlier and happier place, and stop bullying at TRIS.

Role:

- **LEAD:** Help Miss Branson lead on Anti-Bullying and PSHE, such as in assemblies and special events.
- **USE YOUR VOICE:** Feedback to Miss Branson on what is working well / what needs to be improved. Meet regularly as a team.
- **STAND-UP:** Be a ‘go-to’ person on the playground. Help in friendship fall-outs. Look out for bullying and defend others from bullying.

You can apply by writing a letter, making a poster or powerpoint presentation.

Applications to Miss Branson.

Closing date: Monday 27th November

Festive Book Fair and Family Read-along!

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair and festive family read-along after school on both Monday 27th November and Monday 4th December from 3.30-4.15pm. Explore the bookshelves for some best-selling stories and top non-fiction titles, find the perfect Christmas stocking-filler and enjoy some shared reading over a warming mug of hot chocolate or mince pie! More information to follow soon....

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! If there are any parents or carers who would be willing to spare an hour or two to help set-up the book fair and serve refreshments, please contact the office to let us know your availability. Thank you ☺

Competition

As part of the Book Fair, we are running a Book Review competition. All children can have a go and write about a recent book they have read: fiction, non-fiction or poetry. We are looking for a good understanding of the book and reasons for your opinions, alongside neat presentation, accurate punctuation and ambitious vocabulary. Miss Murfin is circulating the sheets to all classes. We have £5 vouchers available for each class as prizes, for children to spend at the Book Fair. Entries should be returned to Miss Murfin by **Monday 20th November**. Go on, have a go!

Reading Ambassadors Y4

Well done to those children who have applied to Miss Murfin and been successful in becoming Reading Ambassadors. The dates for your meetings are: Thursday 16 November, Wednesday 22nd November and Thursday 30th November, all at 3.30-4.15 in the old mobile.

Parent Governor Elections

A reminder to parents that the closing date for returning ballot papers for the election of a Parent Governor is 9.00am on Monday 20th November.



Want to support our school?



LoveReading4kids donate 25% of books sales to schools. This is an amazing initiative and could help to enhance our library shelves with wonderful books for children to develop a love of reading.

Since the launch of LoveReading4kids, they have donated over £40,000 to schools to spend on books, with one school alone having over £1000 to spend for their library. WOW!

How It Works



When you buy any book from LoveReading.co.uk or LoveReading4Kids.co.uk, 25% of the cover price is donated to schools, to spend on books.



When you purchase a book, at checkout you can choose our school name for the donation to be allocated to, and our school can then purchase books with the funds.

Buy books, change lives

SLEEP WORKSHOP

Thursday 7th December 4pm-5pm All parents welcome.

Sleep – the forgotten superpower

Quality sleep plays a crucial for our physical and emotional wellbeing. It improves our memory and reaction times as well as our mood and behaviour. It helps us to manage negative thoughts and emotions and provides us with the energy to tackle the challenges of the day. Lack of sleep increases hyperactivity and other behavioural problems and decreases our ability to concentrate, remember and think creatively – all of which are vital for learning.

In this talk Jo Baker will explore the importance of good sleep for children's growth and development as well as their mental health and the overwhelming evidence that poor sleep habits have a serious negative impact on a child's ability to learn.

Jo is a qualified and highly experienced psychotherapist with extensive experience working with all forms of emotional distress including sleep disorders.

As well as her therapeutic practice Jo is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), an advanced level of professional standing that evidences expertise in teaching and learning in higher education. She delivers student mental health and wellbeing training, psychoeducation and mediation services to the education sector and has delivered many talks to parents, staff and students on topics such as Wellbeing & Academic Performance, The Importance of Sleep for Learning, How Learning Happens and Digital Wellbeing.

Jo is a senior tutor and assessor on the Human Givens Diploma in Psychotherapy, Head of Supervision for the Human Givens College and hosts their podcast. She works with Student Minds, the UK's student mental health charity and is an assessor for the University Mental Health Charter.

In 2021 Jo was appointed as a director of One Step Borders, a charity that supports young people in the Scottish Borders experiencing emotional and/or mental health challenges.

Joanna Baker SFHEA MHGI

Higher Education consultant, educator, therapist and supervisor

The Well-Minded Practice www.thewellmindedpractice.com

If you are interested in finding out more, please book through schoolinterviews.co.uk with the code: szhnt

For any questions or queries please contact Mrs K-D skerrdelworth@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Football Champions!



On Friday 10th November, members of the Thomas Russell football team took part in the Dove Valley 6-a-side cup competition. During the afternoon, the teams played a league format, playing teams from Rykneld, Alrewas, William Shrewsbury, Forest Family and John of Rolleston. The games were hard fought, and both of the TRJS teams played exceptionally well, showing excellent teamwork, perseverance and determination. Thomas Russell A team ended the afternoon as champions! Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part.

Dates for the Diary:

Monday 20th November - Y5 Barton Library Visit

Monday 20th November – Deadline for Parent Governor Voting; New End of Day Routine starts

Thursday 23rd November – Y6 Reading café at Barton Library

Monday 27th November – Book Fair 3.30-4.30

Monday 4th December – Book Fair 3.30-4.30

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

J Emery



Kara Strachan Art is at Kara Strachan Art.



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🎄 PAINTING FOR LITTLE HANDS 🎄 is back for Festive Painting Fun 🎨 FREE EVENT 3rd and 10th December. Little ones are welcomed into the studios to create Christmas themed paintings.to take home plus a little choccy treat for all super efforts. Free to join in but donations per child on the day would be greatly received and all pennies will go to 'Save The Children Charity '. Come along and have some fun , I know I will 🎨🎨🎨🎨 🎄 Curborough Countryside Centre



🎄 **Painting For Little Hands** 🎄 **Festive painting sessions for little ones 3rd and 10th December.** **A FREE event !** 🎨

Donations on the day would be greatly received and all will go to 'Save The Children Charity '

