# Thomas Russell Junior School

The place to be YOUR BEST



# Newsletter



Issue No. 16

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

10 January 2024

#### Welcome Back!

A Happy New Year to everyone! I have been very impressed with how the children have settled back into their learning. I think the break has done everyone the world of good! Keep going everyone!

#### **TRJS Values**

We have been thinking about our values at TRJS and what they mean for our learning and how we behave. Our values can be summarised in this poem, written with ideas from several children at school:



TRJS is the place to be; Be KIND, be BRAVE and SHOW INTEGRITY. We all LOVE LEARNING and have fun too. We EXCEL and give our BEST in all we do.

#### **Be KIND**

This week we focused on our first value, be kind. We read this story together in assembly: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAo4-2UzgPo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAo4-2UzgPo</a>

It ends with these words:

"Maybe, I can only do small things, but my small things might join small things that other people do.

And together they will grow into something big, something really big.

So big, that all our kindness spills out across our school, moves through the village, travels across the country and goes all the way around the world."

What a great thought for 2024!

# Sleep Workshop - Save the Date!

Sleep workshop with Jo Baker on Wednesday 28 February at 4pm.

#### Y5 Residential

Y5 children were given a letter regarding the residential visit on 6-8 March. Parents/carers are asked to log on to ParentPay and pay the deposit by Friday 12 January, to secure a place on the trip. If you would like to discuss the trip, or have any questions, please email or call and speak to Mrs Preston or myself. Thank you.

# **Swimming Update**

Further to information sent out last term, I can confirm that there will be no swimming for the next 3 weeks. We will update you as soon as Mrs Owen, the bionic woman (for those that are old enough to remember!), returns after her surgery.



#### Clubs

The following after-school clubs will start from next week:

Club	Date/Time	Year Groups	Staff
Chess Club	Monday lunchtimes	Y5/6	Mrs Kerr-Delworth
Reading Den	Tuesday lunchtimes	Y3/4/5/6	Mrs Murfin
Keyboard	Wednesdays 3.30-4.10	Y3/4/5/6	Ms Chen
TTRS	Wednesday lunchtimes	Y3/4	Mrs Khalid
Coding Club	Thursdays 3.30-4.30	Y5/6	Miss Hurdman

For further details, dates and payment (for keyboard) please book a place in the usual way:

http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk/ with the code - y9rg3

**Soccerstars** continues on Tuesdays and information has been emailed out to parents earlier this week. Please pay direct to Soccerstars for this club.

Mrs Preston will continue to do her cooking club on a Wednesday after school for the children who are involved. They have been informed.

### **Young Voices 2024**



Not long to go now! We are taking 96 children, 11 staff and 2 coach loads of adoring fans (parents) to this amazing concert on Thursday 25 January. Mrs Patrick has prepared a pack for every child participating, with a letter explaining all the arrangements, a T-Shirt and a torch. The packs will be given out at choir this week. We will leave at 12.30pm on the day, after an early lunch, and return at around 10pm. Great excitement!! We can't wait (and that is just the staff!).

A reminder that we have 2 choir sessions remaining: Friday 12 January and

Friday 19 January. After Young Voices, we will be doing choir in a slightly different way and further information will follow in due course.





# Let's Get Ready for Learning at 8.50

We have made some slight changes to the school timetable. Previously, we had assembly at 9.00am each day. After discussing the timetable with staff, we feel it is important to help the children settle in the classrooms and get busy with learning in that first part of the morning, so assembly is now at 10.30am. As we aim to make every second count, we ask that children are ready for learning by 8.50am. School gates will open just before **8.40**am as usual and then the children will be allowed into school at **8.45am**, without the need to line up on the playground. This allows the children time to get coats/bags/resources sorted and get themselves **ready to start lessons at 8.50**am. The school day has always started at 8.50am, but we would like to make this a really prompt start to help TRJS be the place where everyone achieves their best. Thank you for your co-operation.

# **Early Birds and Night Owls**

For those parents using Night Owls, please note the changes and information covered in the newsletters before Christmas – Issues 14 and 15. The timings for Night Owls remain the same for Monday-Thursday (finish at 5.45pm). Friday is the only change, when Night Owls finishes at 4.30pm.

To help clarify the provision of snacks, breakfast will be served at **8.15am** and tea will be served at **4.30pm** each day. Please note, we can't guarantee to provide "take-outs", so if you wish your child to have tea, please collect them from 4.45 onwards on a Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, we will serve a light snack/fruit at about 4.10pm.

#### **Mobile Phones**

The vast majority of children do not bring mobile phones to school. We do not encourage mobile phones in school. However, if parents of Y5/6 children feel that they are necessary to clarify arrangements with the journey home from school, then please remind your child to take the phone directly to the school office at the start of the day. Their phone can then be collected from the school office at home time. Children are not allowed to have mobile phones in their coats or bags during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation as we aim to keep all children safe online.

# **Assembly Talk**

A message from Miss Branson:

Each week in assembly, we have a question for children to think about, reflect on and research. Any child is then invited to prepare and present their ideas the following week. This is a great opportunity to develop confidence, reasoning, explaining and presenting. We have been very proud of many children who were BRAVE enough to have a go at this last term.



So, the question for this week is:

# "How do you prepare for a special time?"

This could relate to a religious ceremony, family occasion, sporting fixture, or drama/musical event. Some vocabulary that may help you to communicate your ideas could be: *belonging*, *commitment*, *community*, *ceremony*, *tradition*, *value* and *ritual*.

Even if your child does not wish to present in assembly, we ask that everyone has a think about this question and is ready to talk about next week in school. Let's get talking © Go on! Be brave and have a go!

The next newsletter will be sent out to parents on Friday 19 January.

J Emery