



Christmas Performance

Thank you to all the parents who supported our children as they proudly performed in Church on Wednesday. I thought the children were a real credit to the school and their families. Everyone stepped up and read, sang, acted and played beautifully. Well done to our Year 3 children for sharing the Nativity story. They looked great in their costumes. It is amazing to think they have only been at TRJS for 1 term, as they have settled in SO well! A special mention to Year 6 who led our concert with clear and fluent narration. The school choir performed their two songs from the Mayor's Concert and, once again, sang like angels. Not forgetting the very brave and talented musicians who performed in front of 500 people. Adam, Nancy, Oscar and Freya – you are amazing! Well done to ALL children from every house in the school who led us in various, fun Christmas songs. Overall, a lovely afternoon and a fitting way to round off a very busy term! Thank you to Miss Branson who planned and organised the performance and to all the staff who worked so hard to prepare the children.



Year 6 Art



In Year 6 Art this term, we have been studying plants and flowers with the aim of creating our own 3D models. Children began by sketching from photos of real flowers based on the artwork of Henri Rousseau and moved on to experimenting with paper models. This week, we have spent three very enjoyable lessons creating our final wire 3D models. Children watched two videos to understand the techniques required for wire sculpting before attempting their own. The process was not without its frustrations, but we are incredibly proud of the perseverance shown. On Thursday, we worked as a whole year group in the hall to finish our models and delicately apply layers of tissue paper to the petals and leaves. The children have produced some stunning creations; we are thrilled with their effort and creativity.

Well done Y6!
The Year 6 Team



Sleep Workshop – Save the Date!

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

Y5 Residential

Y5 children have been 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 12th 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.

Early Birds and Night Owls

There are some changes planned for January 2024. If you are interested in using our before or after school care, then please see the letter attached to Newsletter Issue 14. Please use the following code to book ahead for the Spring Term: **Early Birds – vtw7d** **Night Owls – npbby**

Barton Library Opening Times

The library is closed over Christmas and opens again from 10am-2pm on 27th, 28th and 29th December. It is then closed over New Year, re-opening on Wednesday 3rd January, when normal hours resume.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to all our families for all the very generous gifts for staff at the end of term. Your kindness and support is very much appreciated.

Thank you to our team of TRJS governors who do a great deal of work behind the scenes to ensure that the school is providing the best education for our children. Please see an update below.

Thank you to our amazing team of dedicated staff who have worked their socks off this term. Last, but by no means least, a big thank you to the lovely children. The smiles on their faces and their enthusiasm for learning makes the job so joyful!

I have loved my first term at TRJS and hope you feel that the school continues to be a place where all children can be their best.

Santa is on his way! Only 3 more sleeps to go!

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back, safe and well, on Monday 8th January 2024

J Emery



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR GOVERNORS

REFLECTIONS

As we reach the end of the first term (how did we get here already?) it's great to reflect on all good things that have happened since September. All the staff have been working very hard on updating the school values to match the school vision of 'Helping all children to be their best and achieve their potential'. These values are displayed all around school and all the children can confidently talk about them and make them part of every school day. We also now have a school song. Some of you will have heard this at the Christmas Concert this week, it sounds great! You can see how much the children have enjoyed singing along and gives a real sense of belonging.

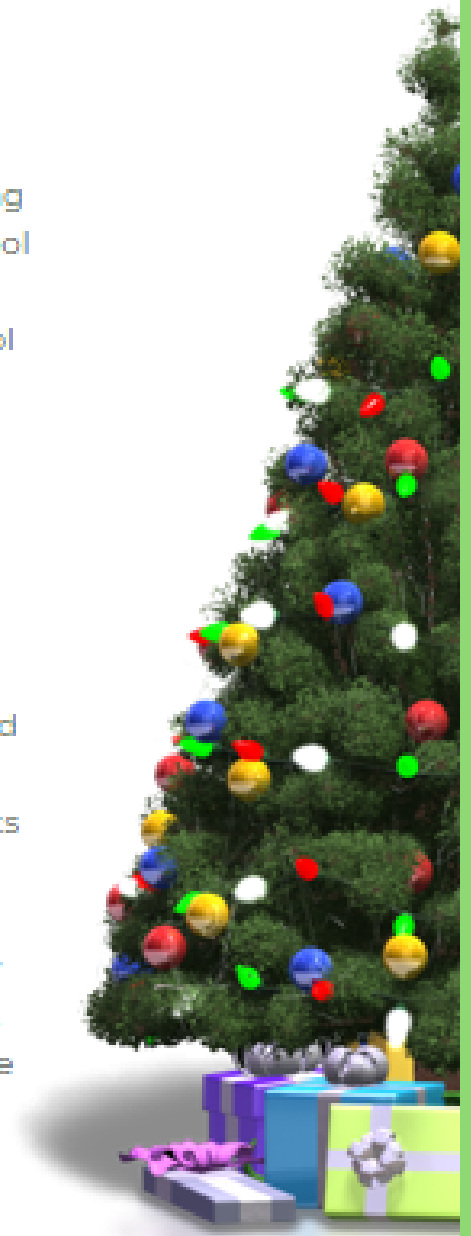
The children have also enjoyed sharing a hot chocolate (and some biscuits!) with Mr Emery when they achieve a Merit Award, a great chance for them to share their achievements with other children and celebrate their successes.

We are also very happy with, and confident about, the new changes to the end of school collection arrangements that are keeping all the children safe – a top priority for everyone in school.

ENGLISH AND MATHS LEARNING WALK

On Wednesday 22nd November, a handful of Governors had the pleasure of spending the morning at school to learn more about the English and Maths curriculum and to see the amazing work the children do. Governors came away from this process with lots of reassurance that great teaching and learning is happening at all levels. Governors thoroughly enjoyed speaking to the children in lessons and it was lovely to hear them talk enthusiastically about what they are learning and how they want to improve. It is clear the smaller teaching groups we are so lucky to have at the school are of great benefit to the children as it allows for more tailored learning to happen within those lessons.

Thank you to all the staff and children that were included throughout this morning, and we look forward to hearing lots more in the future about how well you are doing!



CURRICULUM UPDATE

During our recent CCS (Curriculum, Children and Staff) meeting we discussed in detail our anti-bullying strategy and recently achieved bronze award from "The anti-bullying alliance".

Children and staff have worked very hard on the understanding, recognition and prevention of bullying, and are determined to maintain (and improve upon) the high standards which they currently work to.

Staff and Governors are determined that every single child should feel safe here at TRJS and are using guidelines from United Against Bullying to achieve this. We also have our newly appointed Anti-bullying ambassadors who are vigilant and take their jobs very seriously. To help us achieve our desired goal of receiving the silver and then the gold award, the children completed a survey, details of which were discussed at length during the meeting.

NEW GOVERNOR – FROM TAMSYN

I'd like to thank all of those who voted for me to become a Parent Governor. Although I know I am well-known by many parents, I appreciate that doesn't automatically elicit confidence and so I am grateful.

We are extremely lucky to have such an outstanding school in the village. My work with the village hall has shown me how privileged we are to have such amazing facilities and providers in our community.

I am honoured to be part of such a strong and dedicated team within TRJS as a whole and thank the other Governors and staff for a warm welcome. I look forward to representing you all on the board in the coming years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

But that isn't all, alongside our Full Governors Meeting and the committee meetings this term the team of governors have carried out visits to support the school focusing on the following areas:

- Website compliance
- Safeguarding
- Performance
- Completing mandatory training for KCSIE
- Training for governors

If you want to find out more, or have any questions please email us at governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

We very much look forward to 2024 and the new spring term but for now we wish you all a very lovely Christmas break and hope you spend the time having lots of fun.