



# Newsletter



Issue No. 18

*Headteacher: Mr J Emery*

2 February



Safer Internet Day is celebrated across the globe (in over 170 countries) to promote safe and positive use of technology for children to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. This year, the focus is on the changes in new technology and how we can use the internet to change our world for the better. Over the course of this week, we have used our assembly times to discuss a range of issues about staying safe online, including cyber bullying.

Being safe is the key. At TRJS, there are many children across the school who access social media platforms and gaming sites such as Roblox, Fortnite and FIFA. The school advice is that we follow the age guidelines on all social media platforms, which is generally 13+. These guidelines are there for a reason: younger children may not have the awareness and resilience to cope with live messages from a range of people. If parents decide that their child is allowed to use such platforms, we strongly urge you to monitor what your children are accessing, know who they are communicating with and to check all settings to ensure that all messages are safe and appropriate. Over the last term, senior staff at TRJS have talked to a number of children and helped to resolve situations which have often started with unwise messages online.

Many younger children in Y3/4 are on Roblox, some aspects of which are not age-restricted. However, some elements have age restrictions. Fortnite is set at 12+ and both Roblox and Fortnite have been highlighted in recent years as sites that unsuitable adults target, posing as young people, to gain access to children.

Some parents may feel confident that they monitor their children's internet access very closely. Others may appreciate some further advice. Here are some links from the website Internet Matters. Please let us know if you find this useful:

#### Parents' Guide

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide-6-10-year-olds/>

#### Fortnite

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

#### Roblox

[https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMImb3CiuyChAMVh5VQBh3b-wJkEAAYASAAEgJeUvD\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMImb3CiuyChAMVh5VQBh3b-wJkEAAYASAAEgJeUvD_BwE)

#### Social Media Controls

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

#### Chat Apps

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

#### Cyber Bullying

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/>



## TRJS Football

It has been a busy week for the Thomas Russell football teams.

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, TRJS girls took part in the Dove Valley girl's football tournament. Both teams played incredibly well, working hard as a team, supporting each other and showing the TRJS school values in every match they played. Thomas Russell 1 made it all the way to the final where unfortunately they lost to William Shrewsbury. All of the girls who took part should be very proud of their achievements.



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, two TRJS teams took part in the Utilita Kids Cup at Burton Albion. The tournament was highly competitive, and 20 teams were in attendance (the largest turn out Burton Albion have ever had for this tournament). Again, both teams showed excellent determination, skill and teamwork skills and never gave up. Thomas Russell 1 progressed all the way to the final where they beat Rykneld 1-0. The team are now one step closer to the final at Wembley stadium and will represent Burton Albion in the League One Northern Regional Final in Wigan. Well done TRJS, a fantastic achievement.

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, TRJS took three teams to the Dove Valley football festival. In true TRJS style, each team gave each match 100%, showing excellent skill and perseverance, working excellently as a team and scoring (and saving) some excellent goals. A wonderful evening of football. Well done to everybody involved.



## Early Birds and Night Owls

Early Birds and Night Owls bookings for Spring Term 2. If you are interested in using before or after school care, then please enter the following code at [www.schoolsinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolsinterviews.co.uk) to book:

Early Birds – **dtjn9**

Night Owls – **qmcbk**.

Please note that the only way to guarantee your child's place is through the booking system.

Due to needing to maintain the appropriate staff: pupil ratio, we may not be able to accommodate any bookings requested after the closing date of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Please note that there will be no Night Owls on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



## Y6 Guacamole



As part of the DT curriculum, Y6 enjoyed a very busy morning working in teams to plan, prepare and make a delicious wrap with guacamole. It was like an episode of Master Chef! Well done Year 6, it was great to see everyone involved and refining your food tech skills. All fingers and thumbs were safely accounted for at the end of the session!



## Let's Dance with Year 6!



A number of boys and girls went to JTHS after school on Wednesday with Miss Sinclair. They moved and they grooved, creating and performing innovative dance moves. Looking good guys!



**CANCELLED** Sleep Workshop Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 4.30-5.30pm **CANCELLED**

Sadly, we have had to cancel the above workshop due to lack of interest. Apologies to those who had signed up but as we were paying a considerable amount for Jo's expertise, we just cannot justify the cost per head. It is such a shame that we can't go ahead with this as I know we have lots of parents, and children, telling us about problems with sleep.

## REMINDER:

### Raising Achievement Through Wellbeing

At TRJS we are passionate about supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of our children and families and are keen to share with you that we at the beginning of a 'Raising Attainment with Wellbeing' programme which aims to:



- Improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our school community
- Create a culture and practise that is trauma-informed and relationships-driven
- Apply the latest knowledge in the neuroscience of learning to ensure our classrooms support neurodiverse learners through cognitive and metacognitive practice

We are offering some short and informal drop-ins for anyone interested to come and along to find out a bit more or share your views and ideas. From this we are going to create a 'steering group' of our children, staff, governors and parents to help us work towards achieving this award. We are holding 4 sessions across a day, in the hope that we can see as many of you as possible!

The sessions will be on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**8.50am-9.30am, 10.30am-11.10am, 2.50pm-3.30pm, 5.00pm-5.40pm**

MPFT NHS Events › Empowering Parents and Carers: Building Healthy Sleep Habits with Children and Young People › Wed 7th February 2024 › 6:30PM

## Empowering Parents and Carers: Building Healthy Sleep Habits with Children and Young People

📍 Online

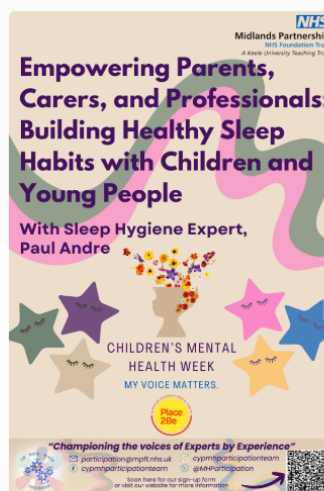
📅 Wed 7th February 2024 6:30PM

During Children's Mental Health Week, join us for a webinar about sleep hygiene and its impact on young people's mental wellbeing. Are you a professional, parent, or carer supporting a child or young person with their mental health? This webinar, presented by sleep expert Paul Andre, is designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to help your young person achieve healthy sleep patterns.

The webinar will cover:

- The importance of sleep hygiene for children and young people's mental health
- Practical tips and strategies to create a positive bedtime routine
- How to identify and address common sleep challenges
- Strategies for managing night-time disturbances and early wakings
- Debunking myths and misinformation about sleep

Get your questions answered during a live Q&A session, or following this webinar via email.



**BOOK NOW**

50+ tickets available

Price

Ticket price  
£0.00

Share this event



## A letter from our very own Y6 Reading Ambassadors:

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello! We are the Year 6 Reading Ambassadors. We are looking for individuals, local companies or charities that are willing to sponsor us towards the first ever TRJS book vending machine! Last term, we held a Scholastic Book Fair and making £1868.48 worth of sales therefore raising enough to fund the books to fill it. However, we now require the £1800 for the machine itself.

The benefits of sponsoring us are:

- Helping to encourage more students to enjoy reading for pleasure,
- Read more frequently and complete their reading assignments.
- It will have a range of age-appropriate books for any ability.

For the pupils, the vending machine will act as reward system for completing your weekly home reads.

The following paragraphs are about us and why we would enjoy having the machine in school:

Hi, my name is Freya. I am really looking forwards to us having a book vending machine because it will be a great reward system.

Hi, my name is Daisy. I am also really looking forward to a book vending machine because I love reading and think it will be an amazing opportunity for a fun way to be encouraged to do your five reads per week.

Hi, my name is Evie. I would love to have a book vending machine in school because I think it would be a good way to help increase the amount of books that students read.

Hi, my name is Oscar. I think the book vending machine would be a great addition to the school because it would promote reading in the school which greatly expands your imagination and creativity.

If you are able to sponsor us in any way or would like to donate, please contact the office at;

[office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

The Year 6 Reading Ambassadors- Freya, Daisy, Oscar and Evie.

## Chinese New Year Dinner

Please see the flier below regarding the themed dinner on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## Farm Boy

See the flier below for an exciting opportunity to see Lichfield Garrick on tour with the FARM BOY, by Michael Morpurgo, to be performed at Barton Village Hall.

## Swimming

A reminder that we plan to re-start swimming lessons for all year groups, after half term from **Monday 19 February**.

## INSET DAY

A reminder that school is closed to pupils, for staff training, on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

## Six nations

For all you rugby fans out there, enjoy the first round of the Six Nations. We have listened to the various anthems and songs in assembly, so hopefully the children will annoy you with renditions of Swing Low, Flower of Scotland or Ireland's Call!

## Spring Term 2 Clubs

Please see below the list of available clubs for Spring Term 2.

Please log on to [www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk) and enter the code **rdm2**.

Clubs will open at 4pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

When a child signs up to a club we do expect them to attend for the full session EVERY week and will need a written note or call from a parent before the club if they will be absent.

Day	Club	Staff	Time	Year Groups	Cost	Dates
Monday	Chess Club	Mrs Kerr-Delworth	Lunchtime	Years 5 & 6	FREE	19/02, 26/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03
Monday	Rugby Club (Lower School)	Barton Rugby Club	3:30 - 4:30	Years 3 & 4	FREE	19/02, 26/02, 04/03, 11/03, 18/03
Tuesday	Mindfulness & Reading Den	Miss Murfin	Lunchtime	Whole School	FREE	20/02, 27/02, 05/03, 12/03, 19/03
Wednesday	Rugby Club (Upper School)	Barton Rugby Club	3:30 - 4:30	Years 5 & 6	FREE	21/02, 28/02, 06/03, 13/03, 20/03
Wednesday	Keyboard Club	Ms Chen	3:30 - 4:10	Whole School	£20	21/02, 28/02, 06/03, 13/03, 20/03
Thursday	Coding Club (Lower School)	Miss Hurdman	3:30 - 4:30	Years 3 & 4	FREE	22/02, 29/02, 07/03, 14/03

## Choir

**A reminder that there is no choir on Friday 2 February. Further information about choir will be sent out to parents shortly.**

The darkest nights are behind us; Spring is not too far away ☺

Wishing all our families a good weekend.

*J Emery*



**Staffordshire County Council**  **GOING WILD!** 

**For Random Acts of Kindness Week**

Free 1 week course starting Sunday 11th February 2024! For families in Staffordshire, with children of all ages.

Be kind to yourself, others and the planet! 

The course is made up of two parts:

1.) Going Wild Event at Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase, WS12 4PW - Sunday 11th February 1pm - 4pm - Fun, hands-on nature themed activities to celebrate RAOKW! Make bird feeders, medals or try woodland yoga. Pick up your pack (including your **free sapling!**) to then complete at home over the following week.

2.) It's Over to You - Take on the kindness challenge and complete all seven acts of kindness throughout the following week. There will be online resources to help you and inspire further acts of kindness! Your family will receive a certificate of achievement at the end of the course!

For more information and to reserve your place contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 or [communityforestservices@gmail.com](mailto:communityforestservices@gmail.com)

**Staffordshire County Council**  **HOW ON EARTH?** 

Free 4 week online course starting Monday 19th February 2024. For families in Staffordshire with children aged 4-16 

Families are guided through fun, flexible, hands-on activities to open up conversations about climate change, connections with nature and making small, sustainable changes. 

You will receive a weekly email activity pack, full of themed ideas to try at times to suit you. From waste free picnics, to upcycling projects to forest bathing, we will support you to adapt the activities for your family. 

For more information and to reserve your place contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 or [communityforestservices@gmail.com](mailto:communityforestservices@gmail.com)

**LICHFIELD GARRICK ON TOUR IN THE COMMUNITY**

A LICHFIELD GARRICK PRODUCTION

**MICHAEL MORPURGO'S FARM BOY**

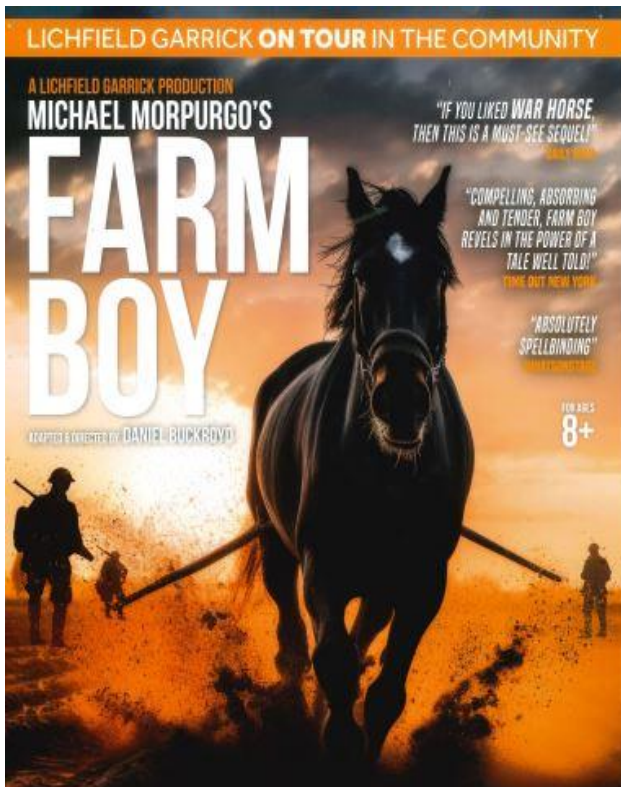
*"IF YOU LIKED WAR HORSE, THEN THIS IS A MUST-SEE SEQUEL!"* THE NEW YORK TIMES

*"COMPELLING, ABSORBING AND TENDER, FARM BOY REVEALS IN THE POWER OF A TALE WELL TOLD!"* TIME OUT NEW YORK


*"ABSOLUTELY SPELLBINDING!"* THE NEW YORK TIMES

FOR AGES **8+**


ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY DAVID BLICKENHORN



Coming Soon to Barton Village Hall  
Sunday 17 March 2024 ~ 7.30 pm  
TICKETS ON SALE ONLINE OR BOX OFFICE ↓

[WWW.LICHFIELDGARRICK.COM](http://WWW.LICHFIELDGARRICK.COM)  BOX OFFICE 01543 412121

Join us for a

**ROARSOME CHINESE NEW YEAR** 

main

CRISPY CHICKEN BALLS

FRIED RICE OR NOODLES

BROCCOLI/BABY CORNS

QUORN BATTERED CHUNKS

SWEET & SOUR SAUCE, PRAWN CRACKERS

Dessert

COOKIES

VANILLA ICE CREAM & PEACHES



THURSDAY 8TH FEB

**YEAR OF THE DRAGON**