



Newsletter



Issue No. 21

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

15 March 2024

Parent & Carer Survey

We aim to work in partnership with our parents and carers. At the parent consultation meetings yesterday, we invited parents to give us feedback via a survey. If you haven't had chance to do this yet, please scan the QR code and fill in this quick survey to let us know your thoughts about your child's school experience. We will collate the feedback, discuss this with governors and communicate to parents after Easter, suggesting some next steps about how the school and our families can work together more effectively. Thank you in advance for your time in completing the survey.



Fun-Raising

We are looking to plan some community events to help raise some funds for TRJS and enrich the experience of all our children. At the parent consultations, we invited any offers of help from parents to help organise and run some events. These include: disco (for children!), bingo, quiz night, treasure hunt, race night or triathlon? Come on down and volunteer to help the children have some FUN, while raising some much-needed cash for our school. Any other ideas welcome. Please sign up on the sheets in the hall or email the school office. Thank you!

Y6 Whatsapp Group

It has come to light that there is a Y6 Whatsapp Group, with over 40 children logged on. There have been some incidents recently of unkind and abusive messages from some children to others. We are currently investigating the matter and will contact parents if needed next week. We ask parents to be vigilant, talk to their child and ensure that there is appropriate and safe behaviour taking place. Government guidelines state that the minimum age for such apps is 16 years old, so the advice from school remains the same: children of primary should not be on Whatsapp – they do not have the maturity or resilience to cope with this environment.

Year 4 Invertebrate Hunt



On Monday 4th March, Year 4 went in search of invertebrates within the micro habitats found on the school field. As part of our science topic, Year 4 have been learning how to classify vertebrates and invertebrates based on their characteristics and were able to put these skills into practise using classification grids to help us to identify what we found. During our search, we found spiders, frogs, centipedes, worms, ladybirds, and snails.



We were very careful when we collected the invertebrates and observed them closely in specimen jars before releasing what we found back into their habitat.



Violin Concert



Next Wednesday 20 March, at 2.50pm in the school hall, the children who have violin lessons at school with Mrs Edwards will be performing in assembly. Any parent of a child who plays the violin, is welcome to attend. Please just drop an email to the school office so we can plan ahead.

Music at TRJS

After reviewing the quality of teaching and receiving feedback from pupils and a number of parents, we are changing our music provision. We currently employ external music staff to teach Year 3 (Keyboards) and Year 5 (Clarinets). After Easter, the teaching for Year 3 and 5 classes and the small group tuition lessons – **except violins** – will be provided by HotHouse Music (www.hhmusic.co.uk)

All music lessons will start during the w/c 15th April.



Hot House Music is a social enterprise that exists to improve the lives of young people through the transformative power of music. They have been delivering music lessons, ensembles and international touring opportunities to young people across the UK since 2002 and are recipients of international awards for outstanding services to music education. Mr Emery knows the teachers very well and has worked and performed alongside them in the past. They are inspirational musicians and such positive and enthusiastic teachers. You will LOVE it!

Year 3 - will continue with keyboard lessons. Year 3 will have the class keyboard lessons on TUESDAY afternoons.

Year 5 - will be learning to play the Ukelele. Year 5 will have the class Ukelele lessons on WEDNESDAY afternoons. (We are being supported by a local charity to purchase 50 new Ukeleles!) Please note that all clarinets need to be returned to school by next Monday 18 March, as they need to be returned to Entrust.

Violins – Mrs Edwards, who has done a brilliant job over many years, is retiring at the end of term. She will be replaced by another teacher from Entrust and the violin lessons will continue as they currently do.

Small Group Tuition

All other small group tuition lessons will be taught by HotHouse Music staff. Payment for these lessons will be arranged directly with HotHouse via their website. There will be a letter sent out next week to all those who currently have tuition lessons, with the details of how to book and pay for the new lessons. We are also looking at providing guitar lessons moving forward. We have a list of those who had guitar lessons previously and we will also send you a letter, but if there are any more budding Eric Claptons (yes, I am that old!) then please email the school office.

Refunds

If some parents have paid for tuition up front until the end of the year, the amount for the summer term will be refunded to you on ParentPay (Mrs Patrick will be working on this next week). Then you can then set up the new payment arrangements directly with HotHouse.

Assembly

On Friday 22 March at 2pm, HotHouse are coming to school to do a music assembly, after which a letter will be sent to all parents to see if any new children would like to take up the opportunity of learning to play a musical instrument at a cost of about £15 per month. We are looking forward to what we know will be an inspirational event. We are also planning a MUSIC NIGHT in July (further details to follow).

TRJS Football Team

It has been another busy week for the TRJS football team. On Saturday, the TRJS team, who won the Utilita Cup regional round, were invited to watch Burton Albion V Peterborough United. At half time, the team were invited onto the pitch as Burton's representatives in the Northern Regional Final. At half time, the children took part in a lap of the pitch and were applauded by both the home and away fans. We had a wonderful afternoon of football.



Monday 11 March was an early start for the TRJS football team as we were heading to Wigan to take part in the Northern Region Utilita Cup Final, representing Burton Albion Football Club. After a long journey north, we settled into our changing room and prepared for the day ahead. The games kicked off at 10:30am and we played schools representing Blackpool, Fleetwood Town, Port Vale,



Derby County, Barnsley, Carlisle United and Wigan Athletic. It was a nervy start for every team, with all teams drawing their first match. We soon found our stride and after another 0-0 draw, we then won 3 games back-to-back. The only team to beat us the group stage was Carlisle United, who won 2-0. Unfortunately, the team lost on penalties in the knockout stage. The team played exceptionally well, giving their all in every match and trying their best until the very end. They represented both TRJS and Burton Albion brilliantly across the day and should be very proud of their achievements, we most certainly are!

Celebrating Sport

Are you involved in sport outside of school? Do you represent a team? Do you play sports for fun? Then we want to hear from you!

On our website, you will see that we have added a Sports Newsletter. This is where we are going to be celebrating all of the amazing achievements in the sporting world both inside and outside of school. If you would like to be featured then please send me information about what you do, where you do it and why you enjoy it. I'd also love to see any photos! Please email me at lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk and I will share your exciting news on our newsletter.



Amazing Gymnastics!

Our talented gymnasts from Year 3 have excelled themselves and achieved their BEST. We entered the East Staffs Competition and the five girls went to DeFerrers Academy as one of 16 teams in the Y3 and 4 category. This is the first time we have entered gymnastics and they came SECOND! Wow! What a fantastic achievement. Thank you to Miss Sinclair for getting the team together and to all the parents who practised the routines at home. Francesca, Annabel, Thea, Penny and Elsie you have done TRJS proud!

Raising Attainment with Wellbeing

The team at TRJS are passionate about supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of our children and families and as part of this, a 'Raising Attainment with Wellbeing' programme has been established, with the aims of:

- Improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our school community
- Creating a culture that is trauma-informed and relationships driven
- Applying the latest knowledge and research to ensure that our school supports neurodiverse learners effectively

A group of parents met with Mrs Kerr-Delworth and Mrs Vydelingum to find out more about the initiative and reflected upon the work completed so far. We all agreed that the whole learning community (including families) should be aware of the importance of developing core strengths such as resilience and self-esteem, the need to celebrate diversity and difference and that a focus on positive behaviour management techniques is foundational. The next step is to come together and consider how this can be further embedded for our children in order to create an even more supportive environment for all.

We will be meeting again (date to be confirmed) and it would be lovely to have as many families represented at our next session so that your voice is heard. This is an opportunity to offer ideas and to make a difference to the future of our school and its provision for wellbeing in a friendly, relaxed and safe space.

Library Visits

A recent national survey showed that 47% of children said that they did not enjoy reading. This is scary! The most important skill to help children succeed in education is **READING**. At TRJS we love to visit the library and explore the wonderful world of books.

Year 4 had a lovely trip to the library on Monday in preparation for our World Book Day celebrations. They were lovely with a little 18-month visitor who was there at the same time and a member of the public commented, "The children were beautifully behaved and were working so purposefully". Y4 are a credit to TRJS 😊 Just a little plea from the librarians for everyone to have a look at home to see if there are any library books hiding – remember they can be put in the box near the hall at school and we'll deliver them back for you!



Little Princess Trust

Millie Cullen (4H) is cutting her hair to help the charity make a wig for those children who have cancer and may have lost their hair through treatment. She is also raising money for them to make a wig (which costs £700 to make). Millie is being sponsored to raise money for this amazing charity.

EYES for swimming

If you could spare an afternoon (2 hours) to help keep an eye on children during their swimming lessons, please contact the school office. Any help is very much appreciated.



Assemblies Next Week

Healthy Eating

Children will be bringing home their 'Eat Them To Defeat Them' mission pack on Monday. The pack includes a sticker chart to add a sticker every time your child eats a vegetable. There are also details about a competition with Lego sets to be won. We will be introducing the mission to the children in our assembly on Monday.



NSPCC PANTS – Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 will be learning the NSPCC PANTS rule. This is designed to teach pupils how to stay safe from sexual abuse, without giving explicit information or telling scary stories or even using the term "sexual abuse."

Children will learn about the 'PANTS' acrostic, which stands for:

P RIVATES ARE PRIVATE
A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU
N O MEANS NO
T ALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU
S PEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

The assembly will be delivered in a way that is fully age-appropriate. More information about the Underwear Rule, including a short film and a parent guide can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwearrule



LGBT+ and Pride – Year 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 will be discussing Pride and the language around LGBT+ using age-appropriate resources from Stonewall. We will be using their child-friendly explanations of the terms:

GENDER

Whether someone is a boy, a girl, or non-binary.

GENDER IDENTITY

everyone has a gender identity. This is the gender that someone feels they are. This might be the same as the gender they were given as a baby, but it might not. They might feel like they are a different gender, or they might not feel like a boy or a girl

TRANS

This is a word for people who feel that they were given the wrong 'boy' or 'girl' label when they were a baby. Some people might have been given the label 'boy' as a baby, but they feel that they are a girl. Other people might have been given the label 'girl' as a baby, but feel that they are a boy. For non-binary people, the labels 'boy' and 'girl' both feel wrong.

STRAIGHT OR HETEROSEXUAL

a straight or heterosexual person is someone who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with, people who are the opposite gender to them. For example, a man who is in a relationship with a woman, or a girl who is in love with a boy

GAY

the word gay refers to someone who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with, people who are the same gender as them. For example, a man who loves another man or a woman who loves another woman, this includes two dads or two mums

LESBIAN

a word to describe a woman who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with, other women. For example, a girl who is in love with another girl, or two mums who are in love with each other

BISEXUAL

a word to describe someone who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with someone of the same gender as them or with someone of a different gender to them. A bisexual person might say that the gender of the person they fall in love with doesn't matter to them

People might use words such as boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife or partner to describe the person they are in love with or in a relationship with

NON-BINARY

Someone who is not a boy and is not a girl either, or who may feel that they are both. Some non-binary people use they/ them pronouns.

We have noticed a handful of children in Years 5 and 6 using the term 'gay' in a derogatory way, and other homophobic language, so we will be using this and other Stonewall posters to discuss this. LGBT+ pupils are twice as likely to be bullied, so we all have the responsibility to use language respectfully.

Parents are always welcome to see any of the resources and materials we use in our assemblies. For more information, please ask Miss Branson.

'THAT'S SO GAY.'
LET'S BE HONEST, IT'S PROBABLY NOT.



Merit Award Winners

Well done to our winners over the last 2 weeks. Mrs Patrick's secret hot choc recipe has gone down well! Nearly as well as the jokes 😊



Early Birds & Night Owls bookings for Summer Term 1

Early Birds and Night Owls bookings for Summer Term 1. If you are interested in using the TRJS before or after school care, then please enter the following codes at www.schoolsinterviews.co.uk to book:

Early Birds – **43pvu**

Night Owls – **vy5nu**

Please note that by using the booking system we can guarantee your child's place.

Due to staff ratio, we may not be able to accommodate any bookings requested after the closing date of **Friday 5th April**.

Wishing everyone a good weekend

J Emery



BARTON PARISH COUNCIL

8 MAY 2024, 6pm - 8pm
HOLLAND SPORTS CLUB

BARTON LIVE

&

ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

Potter's Yard Cafe at 7.00pm

**MEET YOUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Your voice matters.
A vital platform for
community
engagement, allowing
us to collectively
shape the future of
your community.



FLOODING



TRAFFIC



PLANNING

Highlights:

Developing the Parish Strategic Plan:
Be part of the conversation as we discuss and
prioritise strategies for the next three years.

& MORE

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW !

clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01283 716059