Thomas Russell Junior School

The place to be YOUR BEST



Newsletter



Issue No. 24 Headteacher: Mr J Emery 19 April 2024



Thank you to all our parents who support their child's education by ensuring that your child attends regularly and on time. The research around attendance is very clear: "The more a child attends school, the better they do." At TRJS we are aiming for every child to achieve 98% attendance at school. This means only having less than 4

days off in one academic year. Each day, we aim to start learning at 8.50am. At this time, children are involved in a variety of activities, including basic reading, writing and maths or tasks to help them regulate and get settled into school. Every day, every hour and every minute really counts, so thank you for your support to help your child achieve their best at TRJS. Please be aware that from September 2024, the government are expecting schools to be much stricter about absence due to family holidays in term time. We do ask parents to avoid such absence and will have no option to recommend that penalty notices are implemented if unauthorised holidays are taken next year. This term, we are going to celebrate the high attendance at school and see which year groups can achieve 98% or maybe even reach 100% all week. A special treat will be awarded to the class that can achieve this.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	96.8%
Year 5	95.6%
Year 6	96.5%
Whole School	96.3%

National attendance is about 94%, so we are doing well overall.
However, let's challenge ourselves to be the very best we can be and try to achieve our TARGET of 98% or maybe even 100% . Year 4 are top this week, but which year group will be first to get the special prize?

KEEPING SAFE



How much time do our children spend on devices each day? The World Health Organisation found that not getting enough sleep and spending too long sitting down looking at screens has negative impacts on children's development. The best way to combat this is to reduce overall screen time, encourage plenty of physical activity and make sure children are getting good quality sleep. This is said to help improve mental health, physical health and general wellbeing and development.

Q: What is the recommended maximum time for a child to spend in front of screens or on devices each day?

A: 2 hours

DOGS

Please be aware that dogs are not allowed on the school premises for reasons of health and safety. This includes when parents/carers are collecting from Night Owls after school. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to keep our children safe.

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to all the children who have received the Merit Awards in the last 2 weeks. We have enjoyed hearing all about your achievements and even your hilarious jokes! Winners from the last 2 weeks are as follows:



Year 3	Amelia M, Avery
	Vincent G, Santi
Year 4	Oscar O, Yusuf H
	Alyssa P, Alfie H
Year 5	Oscar S, Poppy C
	Beau-Lea S, Kian L
Year 6	George W, Rocky
	Daniel B, Charlie M



Y4 CLAY WORKSHOPS

Year 4 had a great day making clay pots inspired by the Romans. The enthusiasm and focus of all the children was amazing to see. All the children worked hard and produced some excellent final products. Thank you to Mrs Khalid for organising the workshops for both Year 3 and 4 this year.









THE UKELELES ARE HERE!

On Monday, representatives from Barton Music Makers joined us in assembly to present the school with a very generous donation to help us buy 49 new ukeleles to be used by Year 5 during our whole class music lessons. Barton Music Makers have supported TRJS over a number of years through donations to help support individual musicians. This year, they have donated £850 to the school to help fund the acquisition of ukeleles which are already in use in Year 5. Thank you very much to Barton Music Makers for their generosity. Let's get strumming!



MUSIC IS FUN

Thank you to parents for your patience as the new routines for music lessons have been established. There has been a real buzz around school and we have seen an increase in those children signing up to learn a musical instrument. Music is FUN!

NETBALL NINJAS!

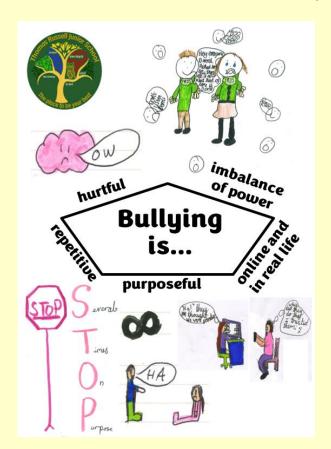
Hot off the press: The TRJS netball team have won the Dove Valley Sports Association tournament! More info to follow. Top work guys!

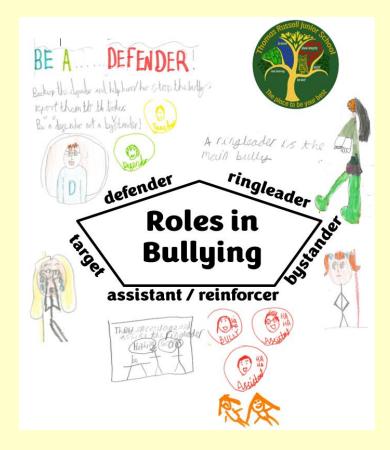
ANTI-BULLYING AWARD

We are very proud to announce we have been awarded the **SILVER** United Against Bullying from the Anti-Bullying Alliance. A note from their assessors:

Firstly, thank you for all the work you've done on the United Against Bullying (UAB) programme. We were completely blown away by the amount of work done by schools to reduce bullying and improve wellbeing for pupils. This is not an easy award programme and you should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved! For context, we had 296 schools complete the programme with 11% achieving Gold, 24% Silver, and 55% Bronze.

But of course, our work towards reducing bullying and improving wellbeing for our pupils does not stop there. Our dedicated team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have together created two child-friendly posters showing the definition of bullying and the roles involved in bullying. Our Ambassadors shared these with the rest of the school, confidently and knowledgably talking through each part of the posters.





Our next task is to create an easy-to-use flowchart for how to report bullying that we will be sharing with our school community this term.

FOOTBALL CRAZY!

On Thursday 18th April, TRJS played Richard Crosse in the Dove Valley football league. The team played brilliantly, showing perseverance, resilience, and wonderful teamwork skills. TRJS won the match 7-3. GET IN, team TRJS!

Don't forget to check our Summer Dates below. A busy term ahead!

Wishing all our families a great weekend.

J Emery



TRJS Summer Term 2024

Monday 13-Thursday 16 May

KS2 SATs Week (Year 6)

Friday 17 May

Y6 Circus Skills Workshop

Thursday 23 May Sports Day (9.30am and 1.30pm)

Friday 24 May INSET DAY (School Closed to pupils)

Monday 27-Friday 31 May HALF TERM

Thursday 6 June Class Photographs

Monday 10 June Y6 Visit to Library

Tuesday 11 Y6 Trip to Cannock Chase

Monday 17 June Y5 Visit to Library

Thurs 20 June New Y3 Parents' Meeting

Monday 24 June Y4 Visit to Library

Wednesday 26-Friday 28 June Y6 Residential to Standon Bowers

Monday 1 July Y3 Library Visit

Tuesday 2 July Transition Day (Y6 to JTHS, Y2/3 Transition Day)

Thursday 4 July School Art Exhibition (all day)

Thursday 11 July Y2 swimming/transition morning

Tuesday 9 July Music Night (Details to be confirmed)

Thursday 18 July Y6 Leavers' Assembly- Perform to School (10am)

Friday 19 July Y6 Leavers' Assembly – Perform for Parents (10.00am)

LAST DAY OF TERM

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2 September INSET DAY

Tuesday 3 September INSET DAY

Wednesday 4 September TERM STARTS

Friday 25 October INSET DAY

28 October -1 November HALF TERM