



Newsletter



Issue No. 26

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

17 May 2024



Attendance at school has been very good over the last couple of weeks. We are very close to our target of 98%. Year 4 and Year 6 have hit 98% for one week or more. Keep going guys! I wonder if any year group will manage the 100% for a whole week?

A reminder to all parents to check the attendance information at the end of this newsletter about penalty notices and the legal process for unauthorised absences from September 2024. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who ensure their child is at school and ready for learning by 8.50am each day. Every day, every session and every minute counts, as we all work together to help our children be the very best they can be. Remember: the more you attend school, the more you learn and the better you do!

	29.04.2024	06.05.2024
Year Y3	94.8%	97.7%
Year Y4	98.1%	99.6%
Year Y5	97.5%	95.4%
Year Y6	95.7%	98.8%
Totals	96.6%	97.9%

STAY SAFE.

S Stay Safe
Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.

M Don't Meet Up
Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.

A Accepting Files
Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.

R Reliable?
Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?

T Tell Someone
Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.

Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!

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A reminder about the basic online safety rules. We encourage all children to tell a trusted adult if they have any concerns about anything they have seen or heard online. Let's stay SMART!

Bikes and Scooters

For all those who ride a bike or scooter to school and also stay for Night Owls, may I ask that you leave bikes and scooters in the usual place inside the little gate, as we have seen some scooters speeding into the school car park, which is not safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

SPORTS DAY HELP

A reminder that next Thursday 23 May, is Sports Day (9.30-12.00, then 1.30-3.00pm). Gates will open at 9.15 in the morning and 1.15 in the afternoon.

To enable us to offer refreshments for parents, we are looking for 3-4 volunteers who could help out.

Please drop us an email if you are available: office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Thank you 😊

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the Merit Awards over the last 2 weeks and have been to see Mr Emery for hot chocolate and biscuits. We have enjoyed hearing all about your achievements in and out of school. Keep it up!



Year 3	Thea R, Ivy G, Qasim H, Penny M
Year 4	Imogen B, Niilas W, Joe R, Eloise S
Year 5	Cecelia H, William B, Anna D, Ruby C
Year 6	Xander K, Archie H, Finn C, Scarlett F

Y6 SATs are done!

A couple of weeks ago, we had a visitor in school who works in an advisory capacity for many schools in Staffordshire. She recognised that our Year 6 children were calm, confident and had been very well prepared for SATs. I have been very impressed with how all the Y6 children have coped with this week, stayed focused and given their absolute best. Well done, Year 6; we are so PROUD of you! SATs are OUT! Last week, we reminded Year 6 that SATs are only a small part of what we do and who we are, with a poem that captures a really important message:

*SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.
So, sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.*

TRJS Football

On Thursday 9th May, TRJS football team played their semi-final match against Alrewas B. On a very hot afternoon, the match got off to a great start with Sahaan scoring early. The goals kept on coming with Sahaan, Jacob, Max and Evie all scoring. At the final whistle, the result was 10-0 to TRJS. The team will now progress to the final where they will play William Shrewsbury A.

Year 4 String Telephones

In Year 4 we have been learning about sound and how we hear. As part of our learning, we have investigated how sound travels and how sound gets quieter the further away you move from the source. We investigated how a string telephone can be used to help a sound travel a greater distance by making and testing how a string telephone works. We had great fun in the sunshine testing our telephones and using our scientific knowledge to explain how they work. Hello? Can you hear me? 😊



Year 3 Aboriginal Dream with Mrs Bennett



Year 3 found out that Aboriginal art and paintings mostly represent “The Dreaming” or the creation stories and spiritual beliefs of Aboriginal people. The earliest type of Aboriginal art was symbols and patterns, made only in natural colours, often with dots and swirls. Year 3 had great fun creating their own Dreams which will be on display in our upcoming art exhibition in July.



Every year group will be doing an art project led by Mrs Bennett, who is a specialist art teacher. We can't wait for the exhibition to showcase all the wonderful artwork at TRJS!



Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey at the end of March. The feedback has been discussed by the governors at their last meeting at the end of April. Please find the summary analysis and national comparisons at the end of this newsletter. There are many strengths highlighted and it is clear we are significantly above the national figures when compared to Ofsted Parent View. (Our survey asked Q7 in a slightly different way and we included a couple of extra questions about healthy lifestyles and transition.) The written comments were hugely positive but also give us some suggestions of how to tweak things and improve as we move forward. (We haven't shared the comments as they are personal to some staff and parents.) Staff will now discuss some next steps identified in the feedback and include these areas on our School Improvement Plan for next year. I feel very privileged to lead such a strong, professional and positive team; we are very lucky to have such supportive parents. Thank you to everyone involved.

Early Birds & Night Owls Summer 2.

Early Birds and Night Owls bookings for Summer Term 2. 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 – **nm7pk**

Night Owls – **g7se7**

Booking closes on **Friday 31st May**. Please be aware there will be NO Night Owls on Friday 19th July, as this is the last day of term.

Please note that due to the high number of bookings and the staff ratios needed to cover each session, places are limited to 28 for Early Birds and 43 for Night Owls per day.

After School Clubs

We are in the process of arranging some further after school clubs for after half term which will be sent out in an email early next week.



HAIR-RAISING FUNDRAISING

You may remember that Millie Cullen in Year 4 was raising money for the Little Princess Trust and donating her own hair to the charity. Millie has now raised £1520! Wow! What a wonderful achievement. The new hair cut really suits you!



Y6 Teach Y2 at TRIS



Mrs Vardy took the Year 6 House and Vice-Captains over to the Infant School yesterday to train up the Year 2 children. We have invited Year 2 to come along to the TRJS Sports Day on 23 May. So, to get ready for the big day, Year 6 have been putting the younger ones through their paces and helping them to learn the details for their races. Mrs Vardy was immensely proud of our Y6 guys. You did a brilliant job and showed super leadership and communication skills; you are great ambassadors for TRJS! We look forward to seeing our friends from Year 2 next week. 😊

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS!

Does anyone have a 2-sided easel (either a blackboard or whiteboard) they may be willing to donate to school? We are looking for free-standing ones that will rest on tables. Thank you. Mrs Rollins



FREE TO A GOOD HOME

We have a monkey puzzle tree on the school grounds. A lovely tree, about 8-10ft in height but the leaves are quite sharp and present a hazard for young children. If anyone would like to make a fair donation to school fund, you are welcome to dig it out and take it away. Please email office@. First come, first served.

INSET DAY

A reminder that school is closed to pupils on **FRIDAY 24 MAY** due to staff training. Please see further dates for this term and next academic year at the end of the newsletter.

Wishing all our families a good weekend. The weather seems to be on the up, so let's hope for a bit of sunshine and not too much rain!

J Emery



School Attendance Changes from September 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.”



Please be assured that the school will always be sensitive to children and families who are absent due to genuine health concerns. We always aim to work with our families and discuss support to overcome the barriers to attendance wherever possible.

Attendance is a national and a local concern. Since the days of COVID, the attendance figures for schools have dropped dramatically and the number of children who are absent for at least 10% of the time (“Persistent Absentees”) has increased. Therefore, the government have issued a document outlining how schools and parents are expected to work together to ensure that children attend school regularly and achieve their best (***Working together to Improve School Attendance 2024***).

The main changes from September 2024 include:

1. The requirement for schools to share their attendance data each day with the DFE and
2. Changes to penalty notices from this date.

The government will now receive data from all schools regarding attendance each day. This will enable everyone to monitor attendance and, as communicated with parents in previous newsletters, if a child is absent for unauthorised reasons (such as taking a family holiday in term time) for 5 days or more, they may currently receive a penalty notice of £60 per parent per child. In this instance, the school will inform Staffordshire County Council who may then issue the fine. At present, it is possible for some families to receive several fines even if this is not having a positive effect on attendance.

However, from the Autumn Term 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution or other legal routes regarding attendance.

At TRJS, we are proud of the high levels of attendance overall. However, we aim to work with all of our families to ensure that ALL CHILDREN attend school as much as they can. Please remember that the new approach is set by the government, not TRJS, and parents need to be fully aware of the consequences of unauthorised absence.

Thank you for your support.



TRJS Summer Term 2024



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)
Monday 22 July	INSET DAY

TERM ENDS

Dates for 2024/2025

Monday 2 September	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 4 September	AUTUMN TERM STARTS
Friday 25 October	INSET DAY
Monday 28 October-Friday 1 November	HALF TERM
Friday 20 December	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
Monday 23 December-Friday 3 January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 January	SPRING TERM STARTS

Monday 17 February-Friday 21 February	HALF TERM
Friday 11 April	SPRING TERM ENDS
Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April	Easter Holidays
Monday 28 April	SUMMER TERM STARTS
Monday 26 May-Friday 30 May	HALF TERM
Friday 4 July	INSET DAY
Friday 18 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS
Monday 21 July	INSET DAY



		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child is happy at this school	58.5	40.4	1.1		
2	My child feels safe at this school	70.2	28.7	1.1		
3	The school makes sure the pupils are well-behaved	56.4	37.2	2.1		4.3
4	When there have been issues affecting my child, the school has acted promptly	51.1	38	5.4		5.4
5	The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	53.3	40.2	5.4		1.1
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	55.4	40.2	1.1		3.3
7	If your child has Special Educational Needs (or disabilities): The school gives my child the support they need to succeed	37.5	14.3	1.8	1.8	44.6
8	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	43	43	7.5	3.2	3.2
9	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (changing year groups, transition to high school)	48.9	43.3	2.2		5.6
10	The school has high expectations	63.8	33	1.1		2.1
11	My child does well at this school	55.9	40.9	1.1		2.2
12	The school lets me know how my child is doing	52.1	44.7	1.1		2.1
13	There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	60.6	36.2	3.2		
14	My child can take part in clubs and activities at school	51.1	39.4	7.4		2.1
15	The school supports the wider development of my child	41.9	47.3	5.4		5.4
16	I would recommend this school to another parent	68.1	29.8	1.1		1.1

According to our parents, the strengths of the school are:

- Children feel happy, safe and are well-behaved.
- TRJS helps parents to support their child's learning.
- Parents of SEND children feel that their child gets the support they need.
- The school has high expectations and children do well at TRJS.
- There is a good range of subjects and the school let parents know how their child is doing.
- Nearly 98% of parents would recommend the school to another parents.

Next steps that the school will consider (based on the feedback of a small number of parents):

- TRJS will continue to ensure that we give parents prompt feedback if there are any issues.
- We plan to provide information about the curriculum in a more accessible format.
- The school will consider what more we can do to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Further after school clubs and activities are being planned in the near future.
- We will review our curriculum to reflect on what we provide beyond the National Curriculum.

Parent and Carers Survey National Comparison March 2024

	TRJS Strongly Agree Or Agree	National Strongly Agree Or Agree
1. My child is happy at this school	99	89
2. My child feels safe at this school	99	90
3. The school makes sure the pupils are well-behaved	94	84
4. When there have been issues affecting my child, the school has acted promptly	89	67
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	93	83
6. The school helps me to support my child's learning	96	56
7. If your child has Special Educational Needs (or disabilities): The school gives my child the support they need to succeed	91 *	67
8. The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	86	N/A
9. The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (changing year groups, transition)	93	N/A
10. The school has high expectations	97	83
11. My child does well at this school	97	87
12. The school lets me know how my child is doing	97	84
13. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	97	91
14. My child can take part in clubs and activities at school	91	88
15. The school supports the wider development of my child	89	79
16. I would recommend this school to another parent	98	84

*For question 7, the SEND percentage figures at TRJS are based on the number of replies minus "Don't know". The Ofsted Parent View survey asks "Does your child have SEND?" The YES/NO answer means that for Q7 the Ofsted answers would not include any "Don't know" answers.