



Newsletter



Issue No. 25

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

3 May 2024



	w/b 15.04	w/b 22.04
Year 3	97.2%	95.5%
Year 4	96.0%	97.0%
Year 5	94.6%	97.9%
Year 6	99.0%	98.8%
Whole School	96.7%	97.3%

Overall, as a school, we are still well above the national. I wonder who managed 100% to achieve attendance by coming to school every day last week? Well, it looks like Year 6 are in the lead this week! They have hit our school target of 98% on both weeks! Well done, Year 6 – a great way to get ready for SATs 😊. A special well done to a number of children who, despite feeling under the weather, were very BRAVE and came into school to try their BEST. Parents are asked to note the attendance information at the end of this newsletter as there are some significant government guidelines from next September regarding unauthorised absences for family holidays. The message from the government is clear: please book family holidays outside of term time. (See dates for 2024/2025 below.)

Netball Tournament

On Thursday 18th April, TRJS took two teams to the Dove Valley netball tournament where we played a range of schools including William Shrewsbury, Rykneld, Rangemore, Yoxall and John of Rolleston. Both teams played exceptionally well, thinking about all the skills they have learned at netball club as well as using the expertise they have gained from playing for netball teams outside of school. Thomas Russell Team 1 were victorious, winning 6 out of their 8 matches during the tournament. Well done to all those who took part; what an amazing achievement!



Putty/Slime

A few children have brought silly putty or slime into school. We recognise that some children need something to help them stay focused and not fidget; the school has play dough that can be used so we ask that putty and slime is left at home. Thank you for your co-operation.

KEEPING SAFE

A reminder to parents that DOGS are not allowed on school premises. Thank you for your support. We have a number of children coming to school on a bike or scooter. A reminder that parents need to apply for a bike or scooter permit and be prepared to follow the safety rules. Please contact the school office if you would like a permit. For all those who rise a bike or scooter to school and also stay for Night Owls, may I ask that you leave bikes and scooters 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.

Dove Valley Football Cup Match

On Wednesday 24th April, TRJS played Rykneld in the quarter final of the Dove Valley cup. This is the 4th time we have played Rykneld this year and each match has been a very tense affair. TRJS started brilliantly scoring early in the first half. Rykneld then pulled a goal back to level 1-1 at the beginning of the second half. TRJS then came very close on two occasions with Evie R and Sahaan hitting the woodwork. TRJS then took the lead again scoring a further 2 goals. Toward the end of the match, Rykneld were awarded a penalty, meaning that the result was 3-2. TRJS will now play Alrewas B in the semi-final.

Burton Albion “Play On The Pitch”



On Wednesday 1st May, TRJS took two teams from Year 5 to play in the Burton Albion “Play On The Pitch” tournament. The teams arrived and were escorted through the players entrance and down the tunnel onto the Pirelli pitch, where all of the matches were played. Both TRJS teams played exceptionally well, scoring a lot of goals, playing superbly as a team, and showing all of the TRJS values. TRJS team 1 were victorious, winning the tournament. Well done to all those who took part.

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to all the children who have received the Merit Awards last week. We have enjoyed hearing all about your achievements and even your hilarious jokes! What sort of cheese does a parrot eat? Cheddarrrrrrrr! Winners are as follows:

Year 3	Isaac C, Caitlin V-T
Year 4	Isabella A, Eleanor L
Year 5	Mya O, Imogen W
Year 6	Freya D, Mollie C



PE Shorts

A reminder about the expectations for PE shorts. We expect children to wear shorts of a length about half-way down the thigh. Recently, some girls in Year 5 and Year 6 have been wearing “very short” shorts which cannot be seen under a cardigan or jacket. As children walk to and from school in their kit on some days, we ask that everyone wears the correct length of PE shorts. Thank you.

Y3 PAPER CHAIN TEAMWORK

A group of girls in Year 3 had a great idea to try and make a paper chain to break the world record. Well, I am not sure whether they broke any records, but they did a fantastic job! To everyone's amazement in assembly last week, the girls unveiled their incredible paper chain. We counted 770 links, each one 12cm long on average. I wonder how long that paper chain was (to the nearest metre)? Go on you mathematicians and problem-solvers, see who can solve it and show your teachers for 10 HP 😊



SATS WEEK

The Year 6 SATS are nearly upon us. I have been very impressed with how the children have been prepared and how they are responding to the task. Year 6 are still having fun in their learning and are demonstrating confidence in their reading, SPAG, writing and maths. Keep going guys! Please note, that from Monday 13 May-Thursday 16 May, the SATs will be taking place each morning and it is very important that everyone is here promptly. Don't forget the most important thing: you guys get a free breakfast at 8.50 each morning in the hall, so don't be late (or I'll eat yours)! 😊



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 has raised over £900 so far! If you would like to support her, please scan the QR code! What a star!



Communication

If you need to get an urgent message to the school for the start of the day, we would advise that you make a telephone call on: 247505. If you have less urgent communication, then please email the school on: office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk Mrs Patrick or Mrs Chaddock will then pass the email on to the relevant member of staff. Please note that there are some days, I am in class, assemblies or meetings for most of the day, so may not pick up emails until the evening time. If you send it through to office@ then the school will make sure that the message gets through to staff in a timely manner.

EARTH DAY

Last week our team of creative, charismatic Climate Changers, prepared and presented a super assembly to celebrate EARTH Day. The focus of the assembly was about the effect of plastics on the environment. The mantra of REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE was shared with everyone. The competition that our Climate Changers are promoting is: "Design or make something with a plastic bottle with the theme of recycling." The team set a deadline of THURSDAY 23 MAY. So...start creating 😊



FUN RUNNING!



You may have seen people running around the playground. That isn't an odd new game, no. We've started a fun run group!

This all started with the London Marathon, and no we didn't run it we're 11! My Mum's colleague ran it for Barnardo's, and he asked people to run a marathon or metric marathon (26km) in the week leading up to the big run to help him reach his total for Barnardo's.

I started off by running a 1km around my garden for half an hour and created the most hilarious Strava map ever!



From there, with 1km under my belt, I ran over 16km at Barton Marina over the next 4 days and now know every inch of the pavements – I can confirm they are mainly beige. 😊

That fun run group started when I wanted to try and complete the marathon at school during lunch and so I got together some friends and started running and did 6km on Wednesday and 3km on Thursday getting me to a total of 26km! In total I raised £360 and helped Connor reach £2,446.



In total, Adecco raised over £40,000 for Barnardo's just from the London marathon!

[Donate to Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)

Well done, Will! You are a true example of our school values.

“Independent and resilient in all we do. Best of all, together, we have great fun too!”



English Transition with JTHS

Y6 had a visit from Mrs Craddock on Friday 26th April. They had a fantastic time playing drama games in the hall and finding out about what drama at high school is like.

The children worked in groups to create freeze frames of scenes from Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. They showed great teamwork and enthusiasm for the task!



Sports Kit Amnesty

Please could we ask you to check at home for any of the TRJS sports kits that may be hiding in cupboards? We ask that all kits are returned as soon as possible after use so that they are ready for the next event. Please don't keep kits in anticipation of the next football match, as we also use the kit for other sporting events. Thank you.



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



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)
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

Wishing everyone a super bank holiday weekend.
See you all on **TUESDAY**.

J Emery
Headteacher