



# Newsletter



Issue No. 27

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

23 May 2024



	<b>13.05</b>	<b>20.05</b>
<b>Year Y3</b>	96.3%	97.3%
<b>Year Y4</b>	98.9%	96.0%
<b>Year Y5</b>	99.7%	99.0%
<b>Year Y6</b>	99.5%	96.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>97.1%</b>

Attendance at school has been very good over the last couple of weeks. The whole school achieved the TRJS target of 98% last week. AMAZING! Thank you to all our parents for your support. It is brilliant to see nearly every child through the gate before 8.50 with a big smile on their face. Year 5 continued to smash their attendance with 99% for this week. 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! Simple!

## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the Merit Awards over the last week 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!

<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Luca C, Max J</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Isla B, Felix R</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>William G, Layla S</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>All classes received a Super Class Award for their amazing attitude in SATs week 😊</b>



## KEEPING SAFE

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, not at the main door of the school, as we have seen some scooters speeding into the school car park, which is not safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Reflecting on the feedback from our recent Parent Survey, some parents felt that we could offer more clubs after school. Please be assured that ALL the teaching staff offer some extra-curricular activities for the children. Some of these activities may be at lunchtime and some may be provided for certain groups, so they may not be advertised via the newsletter. There are also many sporting fixtures arranged by various staff, who commit a huge amount of time, but this is not necessarily shown in a list of events that happen after school.

Here are the details for clubs:

	Day	Dates	Year Groups	Booking
<b>Choir</b>	Monday 3.30-4.30 Mr Emery	3 June, 10 June, 24 June, 1 July	Year 4,5,6	School Interviews Code: jxnew
<b>Arts and Crafts</b>	Monday 3.30-4.30	Every Monday Until 7 July	All Years	Book Direct with SuperStar Sport
<b>Woodland Warriors</b>	Tuesday 3.30-4.30 Ms Veevers	Every Tuesday Until 8 July	All Years	Fully booked
<b>Soccerstars</b>	Tuesday 3.30-4.30	Every Tuesday Until 8 July	All Years	www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk
<b>Boccia</b>	Tuesday 3.30-4.30	Every Tuesday Until 8 July	All Years	Book Direct with SuperStar Sport
<b>Cricket</b>	Wednesday 3.30-4.30 Mr Tolley	Every Wednesday Until 10 July	Year 3 and 4	Email school office £2 on ParentPay
<b>Lego</b>	Wednesday 3.30-4.30	Every Wednesday Until 10 July	All Years	Book Direct with SuperStar Sport
<b>Archery</b>	Thursday 3.30-4.30	Every Thursday Until 11 July	All Years	Book Direct with SuperStar Sport
<b>Skiing at Swadlincote</b>	Friday 4.15-5.15 Ms Sinclair	7 June, 14 June, 21 June, 5 July	All Years	Fully Booked

**SUPER STAR SPORT**

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

We are committed to keeping your children fit, active and healthy!

**Thomas Russel Junior School**

**Monday**  
★ Arts and Crafts Club | All Years

**Tuesday**  
★ Boccia | All Years

**Wednesday**  
★ Lego Construction | All Years

**Thursday**  
★ Archery | All Years

**£36 for 6 sessions**  
**3:30PM - 4:30PM**  
Starting from **Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Thu 11<sup>th</sup> July**

★ Trustpilot  
★★★★★

**To book:**  
Visit [www.superstarsportmidlands.co.uk](http://www.superstarsportmidlands.co.uk)  
Go to "Book Now" & select your club!

We have teamed up with SuperStar Sport to provide after school clubs for the next half term.

Please see flyer for booking information, alternatively you can book using the link:

<https://super-star-sport-midlands.classforkids.io/term/371>

## CHOIR

The choir from Y4,5,6 will be asked to attend the rehearsals after school and be ready to perform a few of their favourite songs at **MUSIC NIGHT** on Tuesday 9 July at 6pm. (See further information on the next page.)

# MUSIC NIGHT

On Tuesday 9 July at 6pm, we will be celebrating a music night to showcase the wonderful musical talents of the children at TRJS. HotHouse music staff will be performing with the children involved in various instrumental tuition lessons. We also welcome those children who have been brave enough to perform in assembly at school this year with a variety of instruments. The choir from Y4,5,6 will be invited to attend some rehearsals after school and perform a few of their favourite songs. Further information will be communicated after half term.

## Early Birds & Night Owls

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](http://www.schoolsinterviews.co.uk) to book:

Early Birds – **nm7pk**

Night Owls – **g7se7**

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

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

## Ella Tooth Year 3 – Dancing Queen

Here is what her dance teacher writes about Ella:

*“A special shout out to this little one, Ella won the under 8 Beginner section exactly a year ago at the Mezzo Anniversary Comp... fast forward a year and she's won her last Intermediate comp taking her to U10 Champs, Dance Nations Runner Up, Oxford WINNER, Nottingham Runner Up, Welsh Championship WINNER, Mezzo Anniversary WINNER. Beginner to Champ in a year! Well done you little grafter; excited to see what lies ahead.”* This is outstanding. Great work, Ella!



## INSET DAY

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

## SPORTS DAY

Apologies to our parents for the inconvenience caused due to postponing Sports Day. Not much we can do about the beautiful, unpredictable British weather! We do appreciate that many of you will have arranged time off work. With this in mind, the new date of Monday 17 June is planned to be half a day: Y5/6 from 9.30 and Y3/4 from 1.15. We do hope this helps with the work commitments of parents.

We do hope that all our families enjoy a pleasant Bank Holiday weekend and half term. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **MONDAY 3 JUNE**.

*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)
<b>Monday 27-Friday 31 May</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Thursday 6 June	Class Photographs
Monday 10 June	Y6 Visit to Library
Tuesday 11	Y6 Trip to Cannock Chase
Monday 17 June	<b>SPORTS DAY</b> (Y5/6 9.30-12.00 and Y3/4 1.15-3.30) Y5 Visit to Library am
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)
Tuesday 9 July	Music Night (Details to be confirmed)
Thursday 11 July	Y2 swimming/transition morning
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 for staff
	<b>TERM ENDS</b>

# TRJS

## *Dates for 2024/2025*

Monday 2 September	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 September	INSET DAY
Wednesday 4 September	AUTUMN TERM STARTS for pupils
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