



Newsletter



Issue No.3

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 4 October 2024

w/b 23 September	
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	98.9%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	98%
TRJS Overall	98.3%



The start of 2024-2025 saw excellent attendance at school. Well done, everyone. 98.3% for last week overall was brilliant! Year 5 were top of the leader board last week with a whopping 99.2%. This week, we are a little below our target, so let's have a big effort next week. The more you attend school, the better you learn!

w/b 30 September	
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.1%
Year 6	97.5%
TRJS Overall	96.9%

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** over the last two weeks and will be sharing hot chocolate and biscuits with Mr Emery. Don't forget to be ready to tell us all about your hobbies and interests out of school. Oh, and jokes are always good! Amazing work, everyone!

Year 3	Poppy N, Ted Copestake, Jaxson B, Charlie H,
Year 4	Elsie W, Georgie F, Isaac C, Santi Allen
Year 5	Bella H, Ada H, Isabel M, Emelia P
Year 6	Callum H, Bea-Lea S, Luke W, Nat E

KEEPING SAFE – Around School

There are some children who are arriving at school well before 8.40am. Some of the older children have been seen playing around the pond and near the brook on the lane to Holland Sports. Please discuss road and water safety with your children and ensure that they do not arrive at the school gates too early, as there are no staff in place to supervise until 8.40am.

Could we ask that parents do not park within 10m of the end of Gilmour Lane? Parking near the junction can cause congestion and makes it very difficult for the Crossing Patrol Warden to cross safely with children. Thank you.

School Car Park

Children are reminded not to ride their bikes into the school car park at any time. Parents are also asked not to use the school car park to drop off or collect children. There are many occasions when parents and children leave the school via the office and we need to restrict vehicles for the safety of all. Thank you.



SMARTPHONE SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete this quick survey and give us your views about smartphone use. The survey is relevant for ALL parents, regardless of whether your child owns a smartphone or not.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ctm2AXymAf>

The results of the survey will give us an insight into how TRJS parents feel about smartphone use in children, and what action may be needed to support the school community. The results will be shared in future newsletters. Thank you!

We are a Nut Free School

Due to having some children in school with an allergy to nuts, we welcome the support of parents in being a **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**. Therefore, we ask your co-operation to avoid sending snacks or lunch into school that contain nuts. We thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

Hello Yellow

Next week in our assemblies we will be talking about *the benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness*. Our work on OPAL playgrounds forms a big part of this and children will be encouraged to make use of our Wellness Walk through the week. Thursday 10th October is 'Hello Yellow' day when we ask children to bring in a donation and come to school wearing something yellow. Children have come home today with a 'Wellbeing Bingo' sheet to play with their friends and family. Cross off the activities you've done to help your mental health.



Library



As part of our World Book Day activities earlier in the year, children were challenged to create a new design for the library door in school.

Beau drew a wonderful picture of Paddington that inspired the final design.

We are working with Barton Library to get our school library up and running to inspire our young readers.

Home Learning

The homework sheet you will get next week will look a little different. It will have a few tick boxes to make it easier for you to see what homework is expected each week. At TRJS, we build on the expectations from TRIS, so that in every year group we ask for reading, spelling and times tables practice. There is space for parents and carers to comment on how their child has got on with the homework. Sometimes there is an additional task to practice or consolidate work done that week. We are also providing information on what is coming up in English and Maths lessons the following week so that you can talk about this at home in preparation if you would like to. We know that doing frequent practice of the basic facts outside of lessons is vital for children's learning. We want to work in partnership with parents and carers so that all of our children can BE THEIR BEST and homework is an important part of this. Thank you for your support. We are aware that parents may have differing views about homework. As a school we have reviewed what we do and we feel it is appropriate and manageable. We are also aware that some parents have commented on the use of the internet for homework. However, the online learning we set are excellent resources and still only represent 20-30 minutes of screen time each day.

There are opportunities in school for children to catch up on their homework. On Wednesdays after assembly, children can use their playtime to complete any bits of homework they have missed. This is not compulsory, but we encourage children to take the opportunity if they need it to complete their home learning. At Night Owls, after tea has been cleared away, children will have a table set up for homework if they so choose. Both of these opportunities will be time for the children to do their homework independently, on their own.

BBC 500 Words Competition

The popular children's writing competition returns for 2024! If you are a budding TRJS author, then why not grab your pen and give it a go? The competition is open for entries from Tuesday 24th September and closes on Sunday 8th November.

Children are encouraged to **write a story they would love to read** in 500 words or less. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked. The shortlisted finalists will be invited to the grand final, where they could see their story read by a superstar celebrity!



To help, go online and watch the special **500 Words BBC Live Lesson**, where you can join presenters **Shereen Cutkelvin** and **Joe Tasker** as they take you on a journey inside a props warehouse, filled with thousands of objects used in films, TV, and on stage, to show how everyday items can inspire epic stories. **For more information and top tips, visit the official BBC 500 Words web page:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Reading Ambassadors!

We are now inviting applications from any current Y4 pupils who are interested in undertaking the important role of **Reading Ambassador** within school.

Our Reading Ambassadors must love to read and want to inspire others to read too. You would be expected to attend a meeting every half term and provide regular support with our reading scheme, lunchtime reading den, book fairs and reading events, including World Book Day.

A red, distressed-style stamp with the word 'WANTED' in bold, capital letters. The stamp is tilted slightly to the right and has a white background behind it.

Key Reading Ambassador Duties

- Read, review and recommend books to others
- Organise and lead reading activities at break/lunchtimes
- Help to run our Reading Den, Book Fairs and reading events
- Listen to others read and provide support as a reading buddy
- Monitor and tidy our reading scheme book corridor



To apply for the position, please either send in either a written letter, email or video application, explaining why you want the job, why you would make a good reading ambassador, what you love about reading and your favourite authors, a few suggestions about how we could inspire reading in school. Please send your application to Miss Murfin via email by **Friday 18th October**: cmurfin@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



UKLA Book Awards 2025

The longlist of books nominated for the UK Literacy Association Awards has finally been published!

Mrs Vardy is one of the teacher judges this year, which means that TRJS will receive copies of all of the longlist books. They will be making their way to classrooms soon!

Have you read any of the books on the longlist? Pass on your reviews to Mrs Vardy so that she can share them with the judging panel. 😊

Saxon Spies!



Y6 are currently studying the Vikings as part of their history learning. Last week we went outside working as Saxon spies who happened across a Viking ship. We only had short amounts of time to study the ships before we had to rush back to our groups to avoid

detection! The children had lots of fun and this week they have applied their learning to create non-chronological reports all about the boats. Fantastic work Y6!



Sleep – the forgotten superpower

Wednesday 6th November ONLINE 6pm – 7pm All parents/carers welcome

Quality sleep plays a crucial role for our physical and emotional wellbeing. It improves our memory and reaction times as well as our mood and behaviour. It helps us to manage negative thoughts and emotions and provides us with the energy to tackle the challenges of the day. Lack of sleep increases hyperactivity and other behavioural problems and decreases our ability to concentrate, remember and think creatively – all of which are vital for learning.

In this online workshop Lydia Falle will explore the importance of good sleep for children's growth and development as well as their mental health and the overwhelming evidence that poor sleep habits have a serious negative impact on a child's ability to learn.

Lydia is a Psychotherapist and studied Psychology at the University of Worcester and the University of Exeter and is based in Jersey where she practises. <https://www.lydiafalle.com/sleep-clinic>

If you are interested in attending, please book before October 18th by contacting:

skerrdelworth@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Fund-raising Events

At the parent' evenings last year, many parents added their names to a list for helping with some suggested fund-raising events. Miss Branson has sent an email to all those parents on the list and we are looking to arrange some events this year. The first event will be a Christmas Disco in December. Parents are asked for to confirm their help by email, and permission for Miss Branson to share their email address with others in the group, so watch this space for more information and dates once they are agreed.

Tennis Stars of the Future

Congratulations to Harry F and Oliver P who have been selected to be part of the Staffordshire County Junior Development Squad.



Thank you to all those who baked cakes and attended the coffee morning. We raised £117 for a very good cause.

THANK YOU!

Dates for the Diary:

Tuesday 8 October	4H to Packington Farm
Thursday 10 October	4S to Packington Farm HELLO YELLOW Day (wear something yellow)
Tuesday 15 October	NO swimming for Year 3
Thursday 17 October	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 22 October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 23 October	Harvest Assembly (9.10) – All welcome 😊
Friday 25 October	INSET DAY (School closed to pupils for staff training)
Tuesday 17 December	Christmas Service in Church (2pm-3pm ALL WELCOME) Parents may collect their child at 3pm from church. If you need to cancel a place at Night Owls, then please let us know.

Wishing everyone a good weekend.

J Emery



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 (School closed to pupils)
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 (School closed to pupils)
Friday 18 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS
Monday 21 July	INSET DAY



Autumn Disco

FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2024

Yoxall Foresters Scouts are collaborating with St Peters to run a fundraising Autumn Disco! Money raised will support YSP PTA and help the Scouts to go to Kanderstag, Switzerland in 2026.

MUSIC **TUCKSHOP**
GAMES **CRAFT**

4pm – 6pm @ St Peters School Hall
All Primary year groups welcome

Tickets are **£6** (drinks, hot dog and tuck shop included in the price)

Payment deadline: Friday 25th October 2024

Payment to made via BACS:

The Foresters Scouts
Sort code: 30-99-50
Account: 34231460

Please put DISCO and child's name as payment reference ☺ AND complete this online booking form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSDRWTJ>