



Newsletter



Issue No.6

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 8 November 2024

Staffordshire County Council

HERE EVERY DAY READY ON TIME

Little Heroes Assemble

Find out more SCAN ME

visit staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes

w/b 04.11.24	% Attendance
Year 3	91.3 %
Year 4	98.9 %
Year 5	97 %
Year 6	98.9 %
TRJS Overall	96.5 %

Thank you to all our families for your support in helping your child to be a little HERO. Attendance so far this term has been very positive. Let's keep going! A reminder to avoid family holidays during term time. There is a significant change in the fines and legal process. Please see the information at the end of the newsletter.

KEEPING SAFE

We continue to ask parents NOT to use the school car park. There are often children and parents who need to access the main entrance to the school and we need to restrict cars using this area. Thank you for your co-operation.

Could we ask parents to be vigilant at the end of the school day and not allow younger siblings to go on the adventure playground. This is just to ensure the safety of our little people. Thank you.

Sporting Achievements



Poppy G and Thea R (Y4) took part in the Tamworth Olympic Gymnastics Club's annual invitational competition. Poppy and Thea competed on all four pieces of apparatus and in a field of 23 gymnasts, Thea finished in first place overall and Poppy placed second. Poppy and Thea's team also won the gold medal in the team competition. Here is a photograph of them with their medals following their success.

Ruby C (Y6) has met the swim times needed to compete in the County Championships coming up next year (in at least 2 strokes and in at least 2 distances). She also has the swim times to qualify for the Derbyshire County Championships as she swims for Derby Excel as well as Burton.

OPAL

Over half term, the new surface for the sensory garden area was installed, which has been a huge hit with the children and will hopefully reduce the mud on shoes and clothes 😊. This represents a considerable investment as we recognise the importance of free play for all children to feel happy at school. Enjoy!

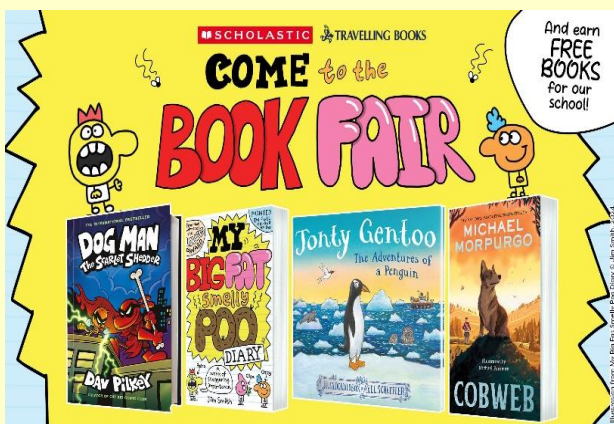


The children have enjoyed the opportunities that OPAL has brought to the school so far. We were gifted some old computer screens; the children have enjoyed role playing working in an office! The chess pieces for our games table have also been very popular. I'm sure we must have some Chess Grand Masters of the future with us.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to support our OPAL sessions at lunchtime. We would love to provide the children with kitchens to play with. If you are able to donate one to school, please drop it off to the office. The children would also really like some colouring books and craft activities.

Please may we remind parents that children need appropriate boots/wellies to be able to access the field. Thank you. 😊

Festive Book Fair & Family Read-along!



We are pleased to announce that TRJS will be hosting another **Scholastic Book Fair** and festive family read-along after school on:

Monday 18th November - for Years 3 & 5

Wednesday 20th November - for Years 4 & 6

We have split the event across year groups this year, to have a more even spread of visitors across the two days. Each event will run from approximately **3.30-4.15pm**.

Explore the bookshelves for some best-selling stories and top non-fiction titles, find the perfect Christmas stocking-filler and enjoy some shared reading over a warming mug of hot chocolate! There'll be plenty of delicious treats on offer too!

Books can be purchased with CASH ONLY please. It would be helpful if you could bring in some coins as well as notes, to help us with providing change.

If you are unable to attend the event in person, please send your child in with a named envelope to purchase at school at break time on **Thursday 21st November**. If your child usually attends Night Owls on Monday/Wednesday, then similarly staff will ensure children who have brought in any money, can visit the event. All purchases get transferred into reward points for us to spend on books for school, which we will be using to stock our new book vending machine (our new reading rewards initiative)!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! If there are any parents or carers who would be willing to spare an hour or two to help set-up our forthcoming Festive Book Fair on Monday 18th or Wednesday 20th November (approx. 3.00 – 4.30pm) and serve refreshments, please contact the TRJS office to let us know your availability. Thank you 😊



Children In Need

Children In Need is on **Friday 15 November**. We encourage all children to come to school as a superhero, wearing spots or something yellow. This is a non-uniform day. We will also be helping Pudsey and the Thousand Mile challenge, so please have outdoor shoes and wellies in place to walk around our Wellness Walk during that day. We suggest a donation of £1-£2 for the day



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday 3rd December

Lower School (Yr3 and 4)
3.30pm—4.30pm

Upper School (Yr5 and 6)
4.45pm—6.15pm

Payment to be made through ParentPay by Friday 22nd November

£5 Per child which includes a drink and small snack

The poster is white with red text for the title and date. It features a string of colorful Christmas lights across the title. At the bottom, there is a gold £5 coin with a red Santa hat on top. The text 'Per child which includes a drink and small snack' is written in a smaller font next to the coin.

School Fun-Raising Events

Following expressions of interest from parents to offer to help out at fund-raising events, the first date is in the diary! Miss Branson is liaising with various parents to plan the disco/party on Tuesday 3 December. Please note that Y3/4 children can stay at school and go straight to the disco at 3.30 and then be collected at 4.30. Year 5 and 6 children will need to leave school as usual and then be dropped off by parents/carers at 4.45pm.

Please note that all children will need to be collected at the end of their disco by a parent/carer from the school hall.

Parents are reminded not to use the school car park to help keep everyone safe.

ELF DAY

Alfie Mellish (Y6), with help from the School Council, will be organising an ELF DAY, to raise money for the Children's Department of the Burton and Derby Hospitals Charity.

This will be on **Friday 13 December**. Alfie has come up with this idea, following his time in hospital last year when he was very poorly. He has bounced back to full health and would like to turn his difficult experience into a positive to help other children. Way to go, Alfie!



Derby & Burton Hospitals Charity

School Name

WE ARE HOLDING AN ELF DAY

Friday 13 December

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MUSIC IN THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

EVENT DETAILS

Alfie and the School Council will be organising this event. Further information to follow.

The poster is light blue and green. It features a large green elf hat with red pom-poms at the top. Below the hat, the text 'School Name' is in a light blue box. The main title 'WE ARE HOLDING AN ELF DAY' is in large, bold, red letters. Below that, the date 'Friday 13 December' is in a green box. The purpose 'TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MUSIC IN THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL' is in red and green text. At the bottom, there is a red box with the text 'EVENT DETAILS' and a white box with the text 'Alfie and the School Council will be organising this event. Further information to follow.' The bottom of the poster features a row of six colorful elf faces wearing different colored hats.

Christmas Concert



All the children will be going to St James Church for the Christmas Concert. This is on **Tuesday 17 December at 2pm-3pm**. All parents/carers are invited to come along; it would be great to see the church full once again! Parents/carers will be able to take children home directly from the church at 3pm if they wish. Any children not collected will be escorted back to school by staff, for collection at the usual time of 3.30pm. If your child was due to be at Night Owls and you wish to cancel the place for that day, please let the school office know. Thank you.

Paddington in Peru



We are taking all children to the Red Carpet Cinema during the last week of term. We are planning to watch “Paddington in Peru”. This is a PG film and we will be asking for parental consent and a small contribution to the cost of the trip via ParentPay. Further information to follow.



On Monday 11 November, we will have 2 minutes silence at 11am. The House Captains and Vice Captains will be walking to the Memorial in Barton and taking part in a short service of remembrance with the local community.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 15 November – Children in Need
- Monday 18 November 3.30 – Book Fair for Y3 and Y5
- Wednesday 20 November 3.30 – Book Fair for Y4 and Y6
- Tuesday 3 December - Christmas Party/Disco
- Wednesday 11 December – Christmas Dinner day
- Friday 13 December – ELF DAY
- Tuesday 17 December – Christmas Concert in Church

Wishing all our families and good weekend.

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.

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