



# Newsletter



Issue No.12

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

10 January 2025

## Welcome Back!

We hope that all our families have enjoyed a good time over the holidays. It is always a shock to the system to return to school (for everyone!) after the Christmas break, but the children have settled in well and are getting into the groove of the new term. Here's to 2025 and a brand-new term. We look forward to celebrating all the wonderful achievements of our children as we work together to help them be the very best they can be.



## Attendance



W/B	06.01.2025
Year 3	99.8%
Year 4	93.3%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	97.5%
TRJS Overall	97%

Year 3 are in pole position! Despite the cold weather and the bugs, well done to all the children for a positive week of attendance.

## Night Owls/Early Birds

The booking for Night Owls and Early Birds has now closed. We are fully booked for the majority of sessions, but we may have 1 or two spaces on some days. Any parent requiring a place, please ring/email the school office with at least 48 hours' notice and we will then let you know if we have availability. Parents may also contact us in the case of a genuine emergency (such as flooding/road closures) and we will always keep your children safe at the end of the day. We do appreciate that parents rely on this service, but hope you understand that we only have a certain number of staff available; we need to keep to ratios of supervision to ensure the safety of all. Thank you for your understanding.

## OFSTED Update

Following the Ofsted inspection of 25/26 November 2024, our Ofsted report is being finalised and will be communicated to everyone via the school newsletter next week. It reads very well and celebrates the teamwork of staff, pupils, governors and parents. Thank you to everyone in team TRJS for playing your part in ensuring that TRJS is a positive, happy place where children can achieve their very BEST.

# After School Clubs

We still have spaces at some of our after- school clubs:

Club	Year	Day	Dates	Cost	Sign Up
Rugby	4, 5 & 6	Mon	06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	£18 (£3 per wk)	<a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk">www.schoolinterviews.co.uk</a> Code – hfpe9
Dance Club	All	Mon	06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	£33	See flyer at the end of this Newsletter
Woodland Warriors	All	Tues	07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	£36 (£6 per wk)	<a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk">www.schoolinterviews.co.uk</a> Code – hfpe9
Soccer Stars	All	Tues	07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	£33	See flyer at the end of this Newsletter
Hot House Keyboards	All	Tues	07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02		Please sign up using the link: <a href="#">Music Lessons in Burton at Thomas Russell Junior School</a>
All Shook Up	All	Thurs	09/01, 16/01, 23/01, 30/01, 06/02, 12/02.	£12 (£2 per wk)	<i>This club is continuing for children already signed up.</i>

**\*\*NB - There is no choir after school on Fridays this term**

## Safety Around School

### Water Safety

We have reminded all children in assembly about the dangers of ice on the surface of ponds, canals or lakes. The water at this time of year is very cold. The ice is very thin. If any child played on the ice and then



fell through the ice, the cold would cause them to go into shock and they would be in serious trouble. Please, please remind your children not to walk or slide on the ice. Let's keep everyone safe! The brook near Holland Sports Club has also been very high and we have reminded all children not to mess about in the brook on the way to or from school.

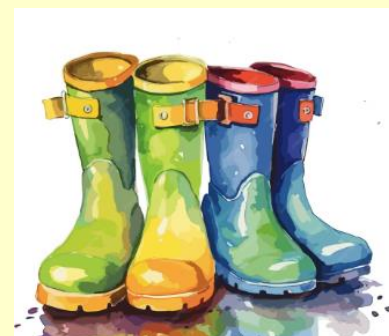


### Wrap up Warm!

May we remind everyone to wrap up warm during the cold winter weather. It is great to see children in warm coats, scarves, gloves and hats. They are often outside at lunchtime for 45 minutes, so wrap up!

## Wellies for OPAL

We have trialled the use of walking boots / trainers, but they were not waterproof enough for use on the field. This led to some very soggy boots/trainers, so we are asking for children to bring wellies. ALL children will need wellies in order to access the school field. These can be left in school or taken home each day. Please ensure wellies are named and pegged together (strong peg, bulldog clip, towel clip for sunbed). They no longer need to be in a plastic bag. We are aiming to continue OPAL and have access to the school field from next week. Thank you.



# Reports

We have sent out the Autumn Term reports for parents today. Please return the slip including any comments.

**Attendance** - In terms of attendance, while we aim to promote the highest possible attendance, we do acknowledge that some children have genuine medical reasons for absence. However, helping your child to attend regularly is so very important and is a key factor in their success at school. Thank you to all our parents who work with the school to get your child here whenever possible, ready and on time for learning.

**Home Learning** – regular help at home with the basics of reading, spelling and times tables makes a huge difference to the progress of our pupils. Please maintain this vital support. Thank you.

**Attainment and Progress** – The most important thing is that we help your child to work hard and try their best. Please be reassured that we treat every child as a unique person and aim to give them the support they need to make good progress, whatever their starting point.

**Year 6** – As discussed at the Y6 parent meeting last term, to help the children revise and prepare for the SATs in May, we will be sending home CGP SATs books next week. These will be used for Y6 homework tasks over the next term and a half. This is mentioned in the Y6 reports and more information will follow next week.



## Young Voices 2025

The big day is nearly upon us! 6 more sleeps!

Mrs Patrick has sorted the letters and T-shirts for the YV choir, which were given out today. The QR codes for the parent tickets have also been emailed out to parents. (A HUGE thank you to Mrs P for all the organisation behind the scenes. She is the queen of Young Voices!)

A reminder that there are no Friday night choir sessions this term; we have some slots during the school day next week for the choir to practise, ready for next **Friday 17 January**.

A reminder that the children leave school at 12.30pm, the parent coach leaves school at 5pm and we will all be back at school (exhausted!) at about **10pm**.

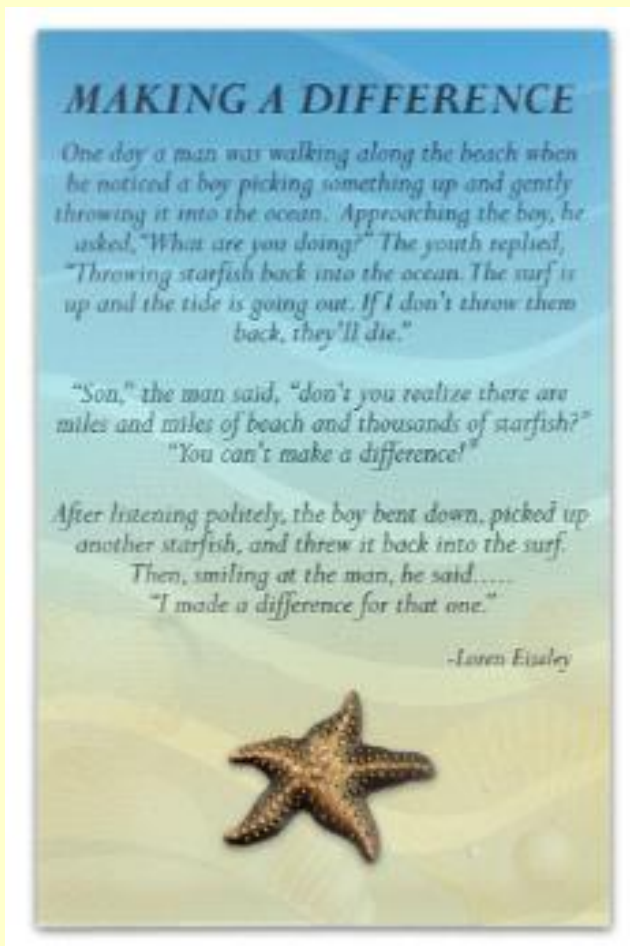
## Healthy Snacks

As a school, we aim to encourage healthy lifestyles. We plan for 3 sessions of PE on the school timetable each week, to keep the children active, which is well above the requirements of the national curriculum. Healthy habits for snacks are also very important. On our last parent survey, a small number of parents felt that the school could do more to promote healthy eating. For break time snacks, we would recommend fruit, vegetables or healthy bars. A number of our children bring in large bags of crisps, bags of sweets or bars of chocolate. We would advise that such snacks are avoided. Large amounts of sugar do not help children to stay regulated and maintain concentration, so we would welcome the co-operation of parents in providing healthy snacks. Thank you.



## Making a difference

When reflecting on our progress and efforts to improve, there are occasions when the journey can seem a little steep and it may seem as if we are never going to be able to achieve our goals. This story helps us remember to keep doing the right thing and make that difference each day, just one step at a time, however small.



**Every Action, No Matter How Small, Can Make A Difference.**



*Have a good weekend. Keep warm!*

*J Emery*

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**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**Football**  
School Years: **3 to 6**

**Thomas Russel Junior School**

**Price:**  
Dates: **Tuesday** Term 3 Price - £33.00  
Time: **3.30pm-4.30pm** Term 4 Price - £38.50

TO BOOK AND MORE INFORMATION **01332 368000**  
**PLEASE VISIT HERE** @ [footie@soccerstarsuk.co.uk](mailto:footie@soccerstarsuk.co.uk)

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## *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