



Newsletter



Issue No.13

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 17 January



Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	93.9%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	95%
TRJS Overall	95.8%

Please remember to avoid holidays in term time, so we can all work together to help all our children be: Here, Every Day, Ready and On Time. Thank you to all our parents for your continued support.

OFSTED

Following the inspection at the end of November, the Ofsted Report is now available on the Ofsted website using this link: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/124150>
It is also uploaded on the TRJS website under "About our School" > "Ofsted Reports".
Parents may be aware that, from September 2024, a one-word judgement of a school's overall effectiveness is not provided. However, TRJS achieved the highest judgement possible under the current system. The report concludes: "Thomas Russell Junior School has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection." The report includes many positive comments, including: "It is a warm and nurturing place to be. The school is determined that all pupils should reach their full potential. The school does all it can to make sure pupils feel happy and cared for." Thank you to all the staff for their tremendous work: "Staff are excellent role models".

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** last week and have shared hot chocolate and biscuits with Mr Emery this week. Yum!

Year 3	Luca T, Charlie E
Year 4	Otis E, Maeve W
Year 5	Joseph N, Millie C
Year 6	Eliza D, Scarlette O

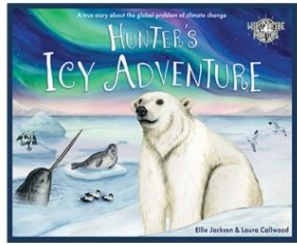
Fundraising

We all had a lot of fun at our Christmas Disco and raised a huge £950 for school funds! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out. We are looking into how we can spend this money on some exciting experiences in and out of school over the next few terms. Watch this space for an Easter fundraising event.

Term Dates

We have worked with our partner schools, Thomas Russell Infants and John Taylor High School, to plan common INSET Days where we can. Please find the dates for 2025-2026 at the end of this newsletter. Again, we ask all our parents to plan family holidays during the holiday times and avoid absence during term times.

Y6 Virtual Author Visit



Y6 were delighted to welcome Ellie Jackson to our English lesson on Monday morning. Ellie is the author of seven books all based on environmental issues. She talked to the classes about her journey to becoming an author as well as the process involved in producing books.

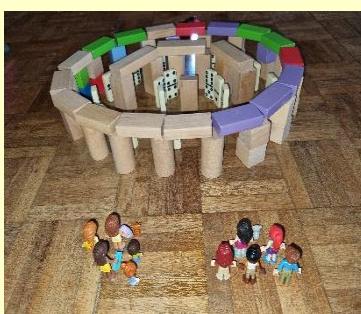


Ellie spoke to us specifically about 'Hunter's Icy Adventures' which is a story all about a polar bear. This links in perfectly with our current unit 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. All of the information from Ellie will help us with our own writing this half term.



Y3 "Biscuithenge"

Y3 have been learning all about Stonehenge in their history and art lessons. As part of their homework, they got to make their own versions of Stonehenge out of biscuits, Lego, Jenga or anything they could find at home! Well done Year 3, we LOVE LEARNING!



Smart Phone Survey

You may remember the survey that was sent out to parents last term? The results 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 have been shared in a separate email to all parents today.



The key findings are:

- Of those surveyed, **81%** stated that their children had no smartphone of any sort
- The age at which most parents surveyed expected to buy their child a phone was Year 7
- Of those surveyed, **68%** stated that they would or may consider getting their child a simple 'brick' phone if enough other parents did the same
- **68%** of those surveyed stated that they would consider signing a pact to delay buying a smartphone for their child until Year 9, or would be interested in finding out more about this idea

A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Tipper for leading this initiative and for designing and analysing the survey. The use of smart phones is a very important issue for our young people today. Further information will follow in due course.

Headlice

There are a few cases of headlice in lower school. We do appreciate that this can be somewhat embarrassing, but we do try to reassure the children not to worry about this. I thought parents would like to be made aware so they can check their own child's hair and treat if needed. Thank you.

J Emery



Thomas Russell Junior School



Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025

Inset day (School closed for pupils):	Monday 1 September
Inset day (School closed for pupils):	Tuesday 2 September
Term Starts for pupils:	Wednesday 3 September
Inset Day (School Closed for pupils):	Friday 24 October
Half Term:	Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October
Term Ends:	Friday 19 December
Holiday:	Monday 22 December – Friday 2 January

Spring Term 2026

Term Starts:	Monday 5 January
Half Term:	Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February
Term Ends:	Friday 27 March
Holiday:	Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April
Easter Sunday:	Sunday 5 April

Summer Term 2026

Term Starts:	Monday 13 April
May Day:	Monday 4 May
Half Term:	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May
Inset Day (School closed for pupils):	Friday 3 July
Term Ends for Pupils:	Friday 17 July
Inset Day (School closed for pupils):	Monday 20 July
Holiday:	Tuesday 21 July – Monday 31 August