



Newsletter



Issue No.1

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 5 September



TRJS are HEROES

It has been great to see all our Heroes back at TRJS this week. Attendance has been really high; all the children seem genuinely happy and enthusiastic to start the new school year. Thank you to all those parents who ensure that their child is at school before 8.50 and ready to crack on with their learning for the day. Our target is to see all children in every class settled to their morning learning tasks at 8.55 at the latest. Many classes have achieved that this week. Keep it up, heroes!

Overall attendance this week was **99.1%**, which is AMAZING!

Keeping Safe at the End of the Day

A reminder that all children in Y3 and 4 must be collected by an adult on the playground at 3.30pm. From Monday 8 September, the Y5 who have signed permission from parents may leave the school premises at 3.30pm without an adult. A reminder that, for the new Year 6 children, we will carry forward the permissions from last year, so they are able to walk home without an adult, unless parents inform us otherwise. A reminder to Year 3 parents that we ask you to leave your little darlings with us at the school gate in the mornings. We will look after them on the playground after which they will make their way into class at 8.45 to get ready for another great day of learning.



Helmets

Children who ride a bike or scooter to school should all be following the school rules on safety. Any child wishing to bring a bike/scooter to school needs to have a bike/scooter permit (available from the school office), which includes wearing a safety helmet. We ask that **all children** wear a helmet to keep them safe.

Nut Free School

A reminder that we have some children who do have a severe allergy to nuts, therefore, we are a Nut-Free School. Thank you for your continued support.

After School Clubs

Please find the updated list of after school clubs below. Please note that all clubs finish at 4.30pm unless stated otherwise. Please collect children from the school office. Please note that the Choir will rehearse on a Tuesday lunchtime. The children will have lunch first (we know how hungry some children are by 12.15 😊). This club will include practising the music for Young Voices, while also learning some songs for Christmas performances.

After School Clubs Autumn 1

Club	Provider	When	Year	Cost	Booking and Information
Dodgeball	Soccerstars	Mondays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	Y3-6	£38.50	www.soccerstars.co.uk Soccerstars also accept childcare vouchers
Rugby	Mr Tolley	Mondays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	Y4-6	£21	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv Pay on parent pay please.
Football	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 09/09, 16/09, 23/09, 30/09, 07/10, 14/10, 21/10	Y3-6	£38.50	www.soccerstars.co.uk Soccerstars also accept childcare vouchers.
Woodland Warriors	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 09/09, 16/09, 23/09, 30/09, 07/10, 14/10,	Y3-6	£36	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv <i>This is now full.</i>
Keyboard Club	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 09/09, 16/09, 23/09, 30/09, 07/10, 14/10, 21/10	Y3-6	£3 Weekly	https://hhmusic.co.uk/school/burton/ Scroll to the bottom and click on TRJS Extra Curricular <i>Finishes at 4.15pm</i>
Table Tennis Club	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 10/09, 17/09, 24/09, 01/10, 08/10, 15/10, 22/10	Y3-6	£17.50	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv <i>This is now full.</i>
Drama Club "Annie"	Mrs Thompson	Thursdays 11/09, 18/09, 25/09, 02/10, 9/10, 16/10,23/10	Y4-Y6	£14	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv Pay on parent pay please. (Performance planned for Easter 2026). <i>This is now full.</i>
Book Club	Mrs Vardy	Mondays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10,	Y6	£8 to (Cost of book)	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv
Choir	Mr Emery	Tuesday Lunchtimes	Y4-6	Free	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code: f9jwv

JTMAT

Over the last 12 months, the governors of TRJS have discussed the benefits of joining JTMAT. We have been working more collaboratively, both with colleagues from other schools and other headteachers, and the governors have decided to begin the due diligence process with a view to join the JTMAT in the summer term of 2026. The governors will keep parents informed along that journey. We believe that this will help the school continue performing highly in the years to come and ensure that all children can be their very BEST.

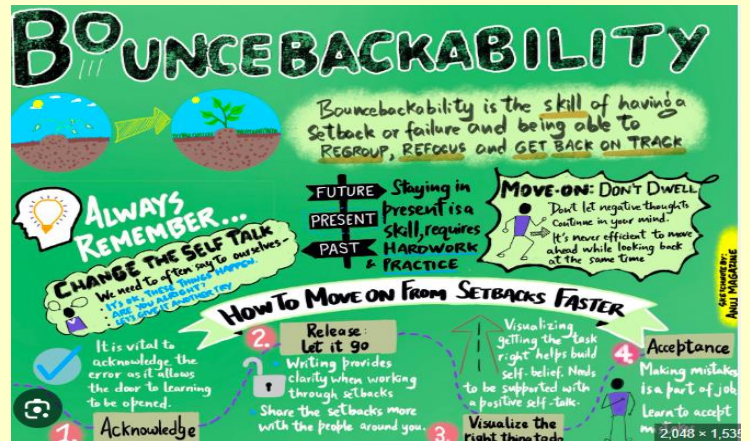
Wrap Around Policy

All parents who use Early Birds or Night Owls will receive the Wrap Around Policy on Monday 8 September. This includes a Contact Permission Form and a Home/School agreement which will come home with the children for those parents to sign and return. The policy is on the school website under About our School > Policies. Thank you for your support as we aim to provide the best quality care and have clear procedures to keep all our children safe before and after school. A reminder that Night Owls finishes at 4.30pm on a Friday evening.

Resilience

At the start of term and in the next few weeks in assemblies, we will help the children reflect on what it means to be resilient.

“Bouncebackability” is a good way to help children understand this important attitude. Life often throws challenges in our path. If we are to achieve our dreams in life, we all need to face our fears, be brave, take risks and have a positive “I can do it” attitude. Bounce back, guys!




School Communication


With regard to parental communication with school, parents are reminded of the following:

- If you have an urgent concern about the safety/wellbeing of your child that needs a resolution on the same day, then please ring the school office and speak to a member of staff who can then help to discuss a way forward or to arrange a prompt meeting.
- If you have a question or concern that is not urgent, then please email the school office. We will endeavour to reply to emails within 2 school days.
- Please remember that Mr Emery and the teaching staff are often timetabled all day in contact with children and we may not be able to reply to emails on the same day. The learning and activities with the children will always take priority and we know parents understand that.

Delay Smart Phones



TRJS Delay Smartphones Pact



At TRJS we strongly encourage parents to delay buying a smartphone for their children. We are supporters of the Smartphone Free Childhood parent pact and ask parents to learn more about this virtual pact and consider signing it for TRJS.

Our position on smartphones is based on the mounting evidence of the detrimental impacts on children of owning a smartphone, and our own experience of working with parents to safeguard children following smartphone-related incidents that happen outside of school.

Thank you to all those parents who have signed up to the pact. We currently have 43 children signed up, but we are looking to encourage more than half the school to support this initiative. Thank you for your support.

Thomas Russell Junior School

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Children signed up

It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact – and you can see how many others in your child’s class, school and county have signed on the live leaderboards.



Scan here and sign up today:

Or visit: parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Together We’re Powerful

Reading Plus Summer Challenge

Last year, TRJS were one of the winners in the **Reading Plus Summer Challenge**. We did an amazing job! So, if you have completed the challenge over the summer holidays, please tell your teacher and make sure that you have checked out of the challenge to receive your certificate.



Rugby Star

Sophia H (Y6) played for the U12 West Wildcats in the touch rugby Junior Nationals in Nottingham. It is a 2-day competition involving the 6 regions of England. Sophia trialled for the team back in the spring and has trained with them a few times ready for the competition. Her team played brilliantly, won all their pool games, but unfortunately lost in the final, finishing runners up in their age category. England Women's Rugby – watch out!



Dancing Queen

Thea R (Y5) competed in the Global Dance Competition in Birmingham at the end of July. She had a wonderful 5 days of competition. Thea made new friends, was taught by leading industry professionals, supported her team-mates with gusto and danced her heart out on a beautiful stage. She finished 9th in the world. Not a bad day at the office! Well done, Thea; we are very proud of your amazing achievements!

Operation Encompass

Please see the information below regarding this scheme which facilitates police and school sharing information whenever domestic abuse has taken place. All staff at school have received the relevant training as part of the INSET at the start of term.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right! ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

Healthy Snacks

Last year, the TRJS School Council led assemblies on the importance of eating the right foods and reducing the single-use plastic waste that is polluting our planet. Parents are reminded that, from this term, we expect children to bring healthy snacks for break times such as fruit, vegetables or a healthy cereal bar. At TRJS, we discourage crisps, chocolate or sweets for a snack at break time in the morning. However, if children have sandwiches at lunchtime, they may bring crisps/chocolate bar for lunchtime as part of a balanced diet. TRJS will not be the “lunch box police”. Thank you for your support.

Year 3 Parents

As discussed at the New Parents’ Meeting in June, Year 3 parents are warmly invited to the Friday Celebration Assembly on Friday 12 September at 1.30pm. We expect the assembly to last about 30 minutes. Please note the change of time (as this was originally advertised at 2.30pm).

Reading Ambassadors

Miss Murfin will be recruiting a merry band of enthusiastic readers to be “Reading Ambassadors”. The children involved will be informed by an individual letter and they will meet with Miss Murfin on some occasions on a Friday after school. More information will follow in due course.

Maths Groups

In Y4,5 and 6 we plan to have an extra teaching group for Maths in the mornings. This means that we can provide smaller groups with more adult support for those that need it, while allowing some children the opportunity to work at a faster pace with a greater degree of challenge. Most children will stay with their base class teacher for Maths, but those children who will be in the group with either Miss Branson or Mrs Rollins will be given a letter to keep parents informed.

Amazing Fund-Raising

Luna H in Year 4 and her brother Milo completed 10 challenges over the holidays to raise money for the drama club at school. The fun challenges included swimming, kindness, cartwheels, performing, singing and much, much more. Luna and her brother have raised an incredible **£500** for school. Thank you, Luna for your efforts. This is truly remarkable!



Have a lovely weekend.

J Emery



House Captain Elections



	House Captains	Vice-Captains
Anson	Florence T and Sammy N	Isabel M and Joe R
Bassett	Oscar O, Millie C	Jack E and Sophia H
Clinton	Eleanor L and Joe C	Thommas F and Isla B
Jervis	Sophie W and William M	Naryan S and Lily B

Congratulations to all. Democracy at TRJS has spoken! This year has seen an unprecedented number of Year 6 children putting their name forward and being brave enough to deliver a speech to their house (over 60 children). The successful candidates were voted for by everyone in their house from Y3-Y6. The children should feel very proud of themselves; we look forward to them being great ambassadors for TRJS by showing kindness, bravery and integrity in the year ahead. What a lovely bunch!



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