



Welcome Back

Tuesday 2 September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

The hottest summer on record is gone and new school year awaits! I hope all our families are well and have enjoyed a great break over the holidays. Staff have been in school at various points during the break and we have just completed 2 days of INSET training, to get ready for the new term. We are all very much looking forward to seeing all the children tomorrow to hear about their news and help them to make the best start to the new year. I thought a few reminders might be useful for parents:

Keeping Safe at 3.30pm

A reminder that all children in Y3 and 4 must be collected by an adult on the playground at 3.30. For the first week back in September, we ask that the new Y5 are collected as normal by adults at 3.30. We will then clarify those children in Y5 who have permission for their child to leave the school premises at 3.30 without an adult, effective from Monday 8 September. For the new Year 6 children, we will carry forward the permissions from last year, to walk home without an adult, unless parents inform us otherwise.



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 permit, 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

School Dinners

Please find the menu attached. Please note that this week is actually "Week 2" of the menu. 😊 The first day back is Wednesday, so that means the main meal is roast pork. The cost of a school dinner is now £2.90 per day. The menus are on the school website under Parents' Information>Dinner Menus.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital. Please see the information below about the recent changes with regard to unauthorised absence due to holidays, together with the term dates for the academic year. We ask that all parents prioritise the education of your children and plan family holidays out of term time. 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.

First Day

We all know that children can feel a bit wobbly approaching the first day of school. We all feel a bit nervous about the start of term, so do not worry! We can do this together! See you all tomorrow, Wednesday 3 September, with big smiles and ready to do your best. 😊

J Emery

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

School Attendance

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 are:

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.



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

School Dinner Menu (Week 2)

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN DISH	Margherita pizza with potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast pork with mashed potatoes, roasts and gravy	Chicken burger with crispy potatoes	Fish fingers and chips
VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH	Vegetable nuggets with potato wedges	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Quorn fillets with mashed potato, roasts and gravy	Veg burger with crispy potatoes	Quorn dippers with chips
ACCOMPANIMENTS	Sweetcorn or garden peas Salad bar	Baked beans or mushrooms, plum tomatoes Salad bar	Green cabbage and carrot batons Salad bar	Corn on the cobs or coleslaw Salad bar	Baked beans or garden peas Salad bar
DESSERTS	Cookies	Blueberry sponge	Arctic roll	Fruit crumble and custard	Chocolate mousse and fruit
FRESH FRUIT OR YOGHURT	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt
JACKET POTATO	Jacket potato	Jacket potato	Jacket potato	Jacket potato	Jacket potato