



Newsletter



Issue No.4

Friday 10 October 2025



	w/b 29.09.25	w/b 06.10.25
Year 3	99.7%	98.9%
Year 4	96.8%	97.6%
Year 5	95.9%	97.8%
Year 6	98%	97.5%
TRJS Overall	97.6%	98%

Wow! We have hit the school target for 2 weeks running! 5 minutes extra play for each week! A special well done for this week, when **EVERY** year group in the school has achieved 97.5% or higher! TRJS are **Heroes** indeed!

Hot Chocolate

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** and has shared hot chocolate and biscuits with Mr Emery. It has been lovely to hear all about your hobbies and interests out of school. Thank you for your jokes!

Knock knock. Who's there? Cows go. Cows go who? No, cows go moo!

Year 3	Summer R, Maggie T, Charlie Ha, Freddie G
Year 4	Logan R, Harry S, Margot T, Marcie G,
Year 5	Beatrice S, Albie G, Charlie F, Georgie F
Year 6	Florence T, William M

Thank you for supporting us in Hello Yellow this week. We had an assembly about 'What is Mental Health?', used the Wellness Walk to link physical health with mental health, and took part in other classroom activities.

With your support we raised **£169** for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. Thank you for your support.

YoungMinds offer support to parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children. This includes:

- online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/)

#HelloYellow

Online Safety: Social Media Use

We have been made aware of some unkind behaviour on a WhatsApp group involving some children in upper school. Parents are reminded that the school strongly recommend parents not to allow children under the age of 13 to access social media unsupervised. Young children lack the developmental understanding and resilience to cope with these types of interactions. We strongly encourage our parents and carers to **sign our Smart Phone Free Childhood Pact** by following this link: [Parent Pact Results](#)

The more families that delay smartphone use, the easier it is for children not to feel that they are missing out on social media chats, and spend more time in high-quality, in-person interactions which are vital for their age and developmental stage.



The Princess of Wales has published an essay entitled: "The Power of Human Connection in a Distracted World" in which she warns that an overload of smartphones and computer screens is creating an "epidemic of disconnection" that disrupts family life. Catherine says smartphones and gadgets have become a "constant distraction, fragmenting our focus" and undermining the time that families spend together.

"We're physically present but mentally absent, unable to fully engage with the people right in front of us," writes the princess, in an essay that's part of her early years' education campaign.

Evidence shows the importance of creating healthy and warm relationships within families and between people, with lifelong benefits for physical and mental health. But she warns that social trends are going in the opposite direction and that there are more lonely, isolated people and that families are not giving each other adequate attention. Find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgk62l6pzo>

Homework reminder

The weekly homework sheet is our main way of communicating to parents and carers what is coming up the following week in your child's class. It is uploaded to the school website every Friday in the year group tabs in 'Our Learning' then click the tab for the relevant Year Group

[Thomas Russell Junior School - Homework 2025-2026](#) (Year 3)

[Thomas Russell Junior School - Homework 2025-26](#) (Year 4)

[Thomas Russell Junior School - Homework Sheet 2025-26](#) (Year 5)

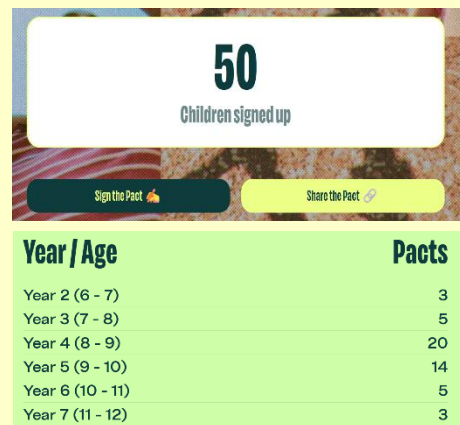
[Thomas Russell Junior School - Homework 2025-2026](#) (Year 6)

The weekly homework sheet gives details of:

- the list of spellings to learn
- reading homework
- times tables homework
- what topics are coming up next week, including the key understanding and skills children will be learning and the key vocabulary we will be using. This is really useful for any pre-teaching you may wish to do with your child at home in preparation for the week ahead.
- any other messages or ad-hoc events e.g. food tasting, reminders about trips out, change of PE day, specific things to be brought in.

Please support school by checking or downloading the homework sheet on a weekly basis so that you and your child are kept well-informed and prepared for the week ahead. We will also be sending out the year group homework sheet as an email / notification through SZapp to make it easier to access.

Thank you for your support. Miss Branson



Important Safeguarding Notice: “Spy” Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children’s books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author’s website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

Inspirational Assembly



Last week we welcomed Tom Mills from the DSAUK. He had the children spellbound; they listened beautifully and asked lots of interesting questions. The theme of the assembly was:

“Do Something Amazing”



One of the messages was: “People with dwarfism can do just about anything an average height person can, just sometimes in a different way.”

He told us all about the Sports Association and the success of all the young people involved. The photos included a star in Year 3 at TRJS, Jacob. You might spot him receiving an award with a very famous paralympic swimmer? Thank you, Tom and Jacob; a truly brilliant assembly!



Skipping Mania Sweeps TRJS!

Following the skipping workshops today, every child in the school was given their very own skipping rope. It has been wonderful to see so many children engaged with the skipping activities and challenging themselves to try new skills and techniques. Skipping is such a fantastic activity, so why not have a go this weekend? Get active, be healthy, have fun – start skipping! Mrs Vardy will be sharing the photos and the story of the day in the next newsletter. Thank you, Mrs Vardy for organising this brilliant day. 😊

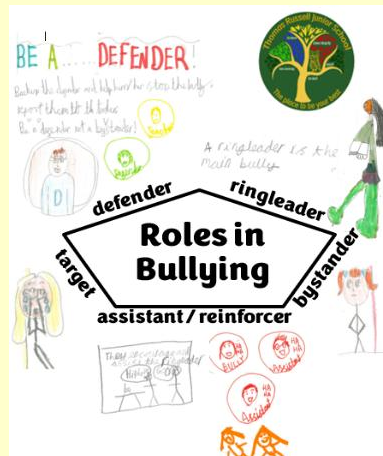
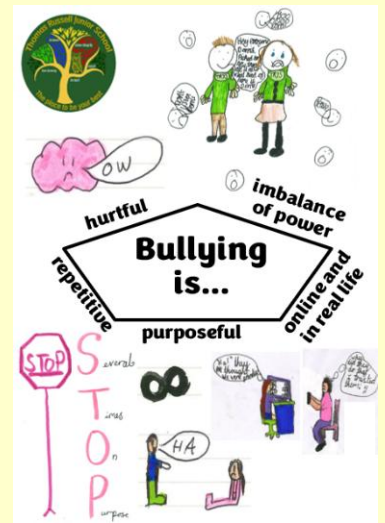
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Thank you to everyone who applied for the role of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. I was so pleased to see so many applications from children who want to make a difference at TRJS and help stop bullying.

Congratulations to these children who will be our TRJS Anti-Bullying Ambassadors:

Y4: Violette O, Leo W, Savannah H, Oliver C, Charlie B

Y5: Toby B, Ivy G, Annabel R (plus continuing in the role: Elsie W, Poppy G, Max J, Violet D)



Y6: Annabelle O, Jess E (plus continuing in the role: Harley P, Florence T, Yusuf H, Joseph N, Isla B)

Our first task as a new team will be to plan and deliver the activities for Anti-Bullying Week after half term.

Miss Branson



Litter Legends!

A wonderful group of Year 5 children have volunteered to help with litter at lunchtime. They have prepared and will be delivering a very informative and powerful assembly to the whole school! They work tirelessly to pick up litter around the school grounds. They are demonstrating the value of INTEGRITY and are making a HUGE difference to our school environment. Thank Year 5 team; you are AMAZING!

Dates for the Diary

Harvest Assembly (all parents welcome)

Thursday 23 October 9.10am

Inset Day (school closed for pupils):

Friday 24 October

Half Term:

Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October

Dove Valley Football

On Tuesday 7th October, one of the Thomas Russell football teams took part in the Dove Valley league first round. During the tournament, TRJS played teams from Mosley School, Rykneld and Shobnall. The evening got off to a great start with TRJS beating Mosely 3-0. The second game was very tough, but TRJS took the lead with a super goal from Thomas G. Although Rykneld tried hard to equalise, Finley A made some excellent saves



to ensure that we won the match 1-0. Our final match was against Shobnall. Unfortunately, we lost the match 2-1. The team played excellently throughout the night and were incredibly supportive of each other showing that they excellent role models for TRJS.

Miss Marston

Family Workshops

Bridge the Gap are an organisation who support the wellbeing of young people and help families navigate tricky times. Please see the flier below for a workshop in December which is for adults and children to help families build emotional literacy and understanding. There are many other sessions advertised on their website, so why not have a look?

EXPRESS YOUR EMOTIONS: INSIDE OUT

Adult & Child Workshop



Weds 10th Dec
5:30pm - 6:30pm

In-person

£20

Using the characters from Inside Out 2, this session blends creativity and connection to help families build emotional literacy and understanding.

ONLINE BOOKING
JWBRIDGETHEGAP.COM

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **EA SPORTS FC 26**

PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players - and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence.

VOICE CHAT

EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence.

SCANNERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence. EA Sports FC 26 will be the first EA Sports FC game with the FIFA licence.

ULTIMATE TEAM

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Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

LIMIT SPENDING

BE VIGILANT

Meet Our Expert

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

@wakeup_weds | #wakeupwednesday | @wakeupwednesday | @wakeup_weds

Online Safety Advice for Parents

Please have a read of this useful article. The National College are a great resource for online safety tips.

Year 4 Trip to Packington Farm



Year 4 had two fantastic days visiting Packington Farm, where they enjoyed a range of hands-on learning experiences linked to science, geography and DT.



The children learned about the animals on the farm, including sheep and pigs, and discovered how they are cared for.



They explored the surrounding woodland habitat and were taught about the different animals that live there. The children learned how birds build nests and even had the chance to work in groups to build a nest big enough for them to sit in—an activity that brought lots of smiles!



As part of their learning about food and farming, the children followed the journey of wheat from field to bread. They learned how farmers plough the fields, scatter seeds, harvest using a combine, grind the wheat, and finally make bread. It was a brilliant way to see how food goes from farm to table.



A big thank you to Packington Farm for hosting us and to everyone who came along and helped make the days so successful!



Miss Sinclair and Mrs Hiatt



Year 4 Design and Technology

Year 4 had a fantastic time exploring clay techniques this week. They practised making thumb pots and coil pots, learning how to shape and build with clay.



A key skill they mastered was the 'slip and score' method—an essential technique for securely attaching pieces of clay together.



The children were fully engaged, showing great enthusiasm and creativity throughout.

We are looking forward to seeing their final pots in the next few weeks.

**Miss Sinclair and
Mrs Hiatt**



Thank you to all those parents who avoid taking children out of school for family holidays. Please do check the dates below for the year ahead. TRJS really appreciate your support for your child's education. It does make a difference to ensure that they attend regularly and avoid absence where possible.

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend.

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