



Newsletter



Issue No.8

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 21 November



	w/b 10.11.25	w/b 17.11.25
Year 3	97.4%	96.8%
Year 4	94.1%	98%
Year 5	95.8%	96.7%
Year 6	98.4%	94.7%
TRJS Overall	96.4%	96.6%

Well done to all the heroes in Year 6 (last week) and Year 4 (this week) for hitting our attendance target. Let's see if we can achieve 97.5% next week. 😊

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** and will be sharing hot chocolate and biscuits with Mr Emery. Thank you for telling us all about your hobbies and interests out of school. Oh, and jokes are always good!

Year 3	Penelope S, Eliza M, Christopher I, Daisy S-D
Year 4	Rory B, Savannah H, Jaxson B, Eryn F
Year 5	Nathaniel R, Rhys H, Lucy G, Phoebe W
Year 6	Ada H, Emelia P, Sophia H, Sophie W

KEEPING SAFE

Collecting from Clubs

Having reviewed how the children are collected from after-school clubs, we are concerned that the little school gate is open for a length of time, which compromises the security of the premises. Could we ask that parents wait at the little gate and a member of staff will walk the children down to the gate, handover the children to parents and then lock the school gate. The main aim here is to avoid children and parents walking through the car park. Thank you.

Early Birds and Night Owls

Parents are reminded that we ask all children to be brought to the office by a parent for Early Birds in the morning. In line with our Wrap Around Policy, we can only allow siblings to collect after Night Owls if they are 16 or over. May we also ask parents NOT to drive cars into the school car park when collecting from Night Owls. This is to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

Remembrance

On Tuesday 11 November, the House and Vice Captains from Y6 walked to the Memorial in Barton to lay a wreath and join the local community in remembering those who have died in world wars and more recent conflicts. The children read two famous poems: In Flanders Fields and The Fallen. Y6 spoke with confidence and respect and read the poems beautifully. They are great ambassadors for our school. Well done, everyone!



OPAL Stay and Play



Thank you so much to the parents who were able to attend our first OPAL Stay and Play on Tuesday 11th November. We were joined by Amy Masini (our OPAL mentor) who explained the ethos behind OPAL play and why it is so important for our children. Mrs Graves and Mrs Vardy then

explained how OPAL play runs at TRJS and the benefits we have seen for our children. Parents were then invited to join in with the children outside and get first-hand experience of OPAL. Thank you so much for visiting, our children loved sharing OPAL with you!

Tuck Shop (Friday 12 December)

A very kind parent of Year 3 has offered to organise a Tuck Shop sale to raise money for school funds. Sweets will be sold in bags at a cost of £1 a bag. The sale will be on Friday 12 December at 3.30-4.00pm in the school hall. Come on down!

Water Bottles

We are seeing a variety of water bottles in school, some of which are spilling out and causing a health safety hazard due to slipping etc. May we ask all parents to ensure that their child comes to school with a water bottle with a sports cap as shown on the picture. These caps do not spill when knocked over. We ask for sports caps to be in place as soon as possible and certainly by January. Thank you.



Dove Valley Football Cup

On Tuesday 11th November, one of the TRJS football teams took part in the Dove Valley 6-a-side football cup. In the group stages, TRJS played John of Rolleston A, Rangemore and Needwood, winning all three matches 1-0, 1-0 and 2-0. We then moved on to the semi-final stage where we played William Shrewsbury B. The children played exceptionally well and won the match 2-0 with Jack S scoring some great goals. The final was played between TRJS and William Shrewsbury A. Both teams played well and had chances to win but at the final whistle the match ended 0-0. Rather than finish the night with penalties, it was decided that both teams would be declared winners of the tournament. Well done to all those who took part, it was an excellent evening of football.



Woodland Warriors

Barton Lions came to school last week to present a cheque for £50 to the Woodlad warriors. I think the children were quite surprised to see a real lion! 😊

Second-Hand Uniform Sale

Mrs Baker has done a fantastic job to take bags of lost property, filled with school uniform and wash it ready for a second-hand uniform sale. What a kind parent! The sale is due to take place next **Friday 28 November** in the school hall from **3.30-4.00pm** The prices are as follows (please bring cash only): £5 for jumpers/cardigans/PE hoodies; £3 for trousers and skirts; £2 for shirts

Religious Education

In our RE lessons we are learning to:

- a) engage with a variety of people about their beliefs and values and ask questions about the way commitment affects their lives
- b) investigate ceremonies associated with joining or belonging to a community and talk about the meaning of commitment

In our assembly on **Monday 24th November**, we

invite children to tell us about a ceremony they have taken part in personally or watched, that shows belonging to a group or commitment to a faith or community e.g. Scout's promise, baptism, naming ceremony, wedding, bar mitzvah, awarding of a sports team shirt / cap / badge. We would like to learn about what they did to show commitment e.g. make a promise, say a vow, go through a ritual. Children can bring in pictures, props or presentations.



Year 5 Fire Station Visit

On Thursday 13th November, Year 5 visited Burton Fire Station to take part in their 'Safe and Sound' event. During the morning, the children learned a range of skills ranging from fire safety, water safety, money safety and discussed how to be a good citizen with a PCSO. Year 5 had lots of fun during the morning and learned some important skills. Thank you to everyone at Burton Fire Station for a great visit.



Night Owls/Early Birds

Please note there is **NO** Night Owls on Friday 19th December. Places for before and after school care for the Spring Term (Monday 5 January – Thursday 26 March 2026) can be booked via

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

The codes for booking will be open at 6pm on Monday 24th November and are as follows:

Night Owls – 2ut5h

Early Birds – g36tb

Bookings will close on Friday 2nd January 2026

Tremendous teamwork in 3H

On Wednesday, 3H were introduced to Barton's newest superheroes! Working in groups, they gave the heroes a helping hand by creating costumes all ready for their big mission.

We had so much fun making outfits for Mighty Monkey, Heroic Hippo, Daring Dog, Electric Elephant and Brainy Bear, and the children's creativity was fantastic to see.

The finished costumes looked brilliant, and the collaboration and teamwork demonstrated by all of the children was outstanding. Great work, 3H!



Thank you for your generosity. The TRJS non-uniform day raised £292.61



Get your party clothes ready for our...

Christmas

DISCO

Where: TRJS School Hall

When: Monday 15th December

Year 3 and Year 4 – 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Year 5 and Year 6 – 4:45pm to 6:15pm

Cost: £5

Hot dog and drink included.

Payment made through Parent Pay by 3rd Dec.

All money raised will go to school funds.

No cameras and no mobile phones.

If your child is absent from school on 18th December, they unfortunately cannot attend the disco.

twinkl.com

🎄 Festive Fun at Barton Library 🎄

Spark the Joy of Stories This Season!

Event Details

Date: Thursday 4th December 2025

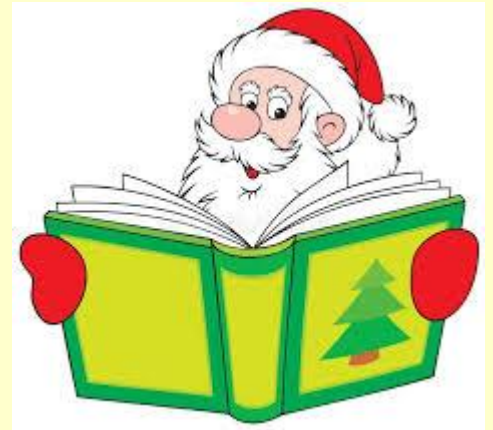
Time: 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Location: Barton Library

Places: Limited to 30 (plus an accompanying adult)

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Code: hd2kr



Activities

- **Christmas Storytelling** – Cozy up and enjoy magical seasonal tales.
- **Scavenger Hunt** – Explore the library and uncover hidden festive surprises!
- **Book-Themed Crafts & Activities** – Get creative with some reading, writing and crafts inspired by your favourite stories.
- **Refreshments:** Hot drinks and tasty treats will be available!



The event will be led by Miss Murfin and some of our TRJS Reading Ambassadors. Places are limited to 30 children (plus an accompanying parent/carer). Please book your place via School Interviews (see code above). Please note: parents/carers are responsible for walking children to and from the Library.

Spread the love of reading this Christmas!

A message from Rev Andy

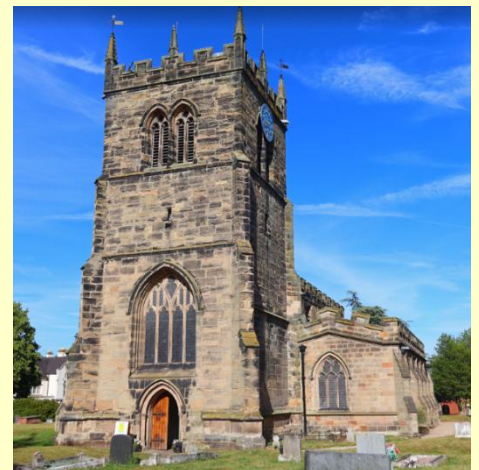
Christingle Service at St James' - 5pm Sunday 7th Dec

(In aid of The Children's Society)

Christmas Eve Crib Services at St James' - 10.30am and 4pm.

(Due to High numbers at previous Crib services, we are trying a 2nd earlier service this year. Church will be open and service drinks and toast, play and chat from 9.15am - WOW - Come dressed as a nativity character of your choice)

Our **WOW** (Worship on Wednesday) Group continues throughout the year (Except 31st Dec) all are very welcome from 9.15am for tea, toast, play and chat with a short informal worship.



Oliver invites you to his...

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS

at The Middle Bell



Animated Light Show



Visit Santa in the Snow Globe



Christmas Tree Switch-On

& SO MUCH MORE!

Performance by TRJS Headteacher Mr Emery & other singer

4th December
5 - 7pm
Free Entry



Delicious Hot Food & Drinks

Donate here!



All proceeds support Thomas Russell Junior School

Defibrillator Fund-Raising

A huge thank you to Oliver and the team at The Middle Bell for organising this event and providing food and drinks so that parents and the local community can donate to enable us to site a new defibrillator at school. We have applied for a Staffordshire Community Fund Grant for 50% of the cost and we still have £585 to find. This new equipment could save lives in the future; we really appreciate your support, so come on down! You might need to bring ear plugs as Mr E is singing a few songs! The QR code is a £5 minimum donation. If 117 people donate, then we hit our target! Simple!

Dates for the diary

Thursday 27 November	Support Plan Meetings (Y5/6)
Friday 28 November	Second-Hand Uniform Sale (3.30)
Saturday 29 November	Choir to sing at switch on of lights (5pm)
Monday 1 December	Y5/6 Choir to sing at Tea and Chat (2pm)
Tuesday 2 December	Parents' Evening 1
Thursday 4 December	Defibrillator Fundraiser at Middle Bell (5-7pm)
Thursday 4 December	Festive Fun at the Library (3.30-4.30)
Tuesday 9 December	Parents' Evening 2
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 11 December	Y3/4 Support Plan Meetings
Friday 12 December	Christmas Jumper Day (organised by School Council)
Monday 15 December	Christmas Discos (for the children!)
Thursday 16 December	Christmas Concerts in Church (10am - Anson and Bassett; 11am – Clinton and Jervis)
Friday 19 December –	Cinema Trip (Everyone please bring a packed lunch)

After School Clubs

Information regarding booking for after school clubs (for the Spring Term) will be sent out to parents next week.



Swimming Success

Well done to Ethan and Charlotte. We are very proud of you.



Communication

A reminder to all parents what if you wish to communicate a message to the school that really needs to be received on the day (such as regarding collection arrangements for the end of school) then please phone the school office. Other staff, including Mr E and the teaching staff may be teaching or on duty working with children all day so may not be able to respond on the same day. Our communication policy is that we will respond to parents within 2 working days.

Is it Christmas yet? Have a good 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
Sports Day:	Tuesday 19 th 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