



# Newsletter



Issue No.9

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 28 November

## HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** today and will be sharing hot chocolate and biscuits with Mr Emery next week. Don't forget to be ready to tell us all about your hobbies and interests out of school. Oh, and jokes are always good!

Year 3	Jacob P, Charlotte H
Year 4	Charlie H, Oscar M
Year 5	Elizabeth S, Ella T
Year 6	Sophie B, Niilas W

## KEEPING SAFE

### Collecting from After School 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. We expect ALL children to be escorted by a parent when coming across the car park to the school office. 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.

# OPAL: CAN YOU HELP?

## Sandpit

As part of our OPAL play we are planning on creating a large sandpit on the field.

We will need:

- Large quantities of sand
- A digger to create the sandpit
- Railway sleepers to border the sandpit
- Lining for the sandpit
- Scaffolding netting to cover the sandpit when not in use
- A working party of people to help on the build
- Sand toys



If you feel that you can support us, please get in touch. We are aiming to start as soon as possible so that the children have lots of play opportunities.

## Shed Base

The Tipper family are kindly donating a large shed for the storage of OPAL equipment. Thank you! 😊

However, we need a base for it! We may be able to get the necessary materials including hardcore and concrete. However, if anyone has a digger to help excavate 9m x 4m from an area of grass near the mobile classroom, that would be fantastic. Also, we may be looking for volunteers to help with laying hardcore and concrete. Please email into the office@ if you would be able to help.

Thank you!

## OPAL Donations

- We would like to collect some old tyres (car/bike/tractor) for the children to use during OPAL play. Lots of garages are happy to give these away as it saves them on disposal costs! If you are able to bring some tyres to school, please do get in touch.
- Amazon Wishlist – We have an OPAL wishlist on Amazon. We would be extremely grateful for any of the items on the list, thank you.



## After School Clubs

We are waiting for confirmation from some of our providers, so further information regarding booking for after school clubs (for the Spring Term) will be sent out to parents next Monday 1 December.

# Scholastic Festive Book Fair

17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November

By Joe C, Joe R and Miss Murfin  
(Reading Ambassadors)

On Monday and Wednesday last week, a **Scholastic Book Fair** was held in the hall after school. Books, stationery and refreshments were sold, with the cash desks professionally managed by our wonderful **Reading Ambassadors** (Joe C, Joe R, Eleanor L, Niamh S-D, Iris B, Felix R, Sam M, Santi A, Olivia H, Beth M-J, Oscar M, Madeline J, Gia G, Orla C and Eryn F).



A big thank you to everyone who attended and made a purchase - or two!  
We made approximately **£1700 worth of sales**. WOW!

The sales total now gets translated into rewards points for school to spend on adding new books to our reading scheme and restocking our vending machine.

Congratulations to our **'Design A Bookmark'** competition winners (overall - Aemilia, Y6 - Henry M, Y5 – Jessica B, Y4 – Ben M, Y3 – Jacob P), who all earned themselves a £5 voucher to spend at the Book Fair. We had so many amazing entries, judging was tough! We hope you managed to spot your entry on display.

Thank you also to all our parent/carer volunteers who gave up their time to set up furniture and run the refreshments stall, alongside TRJS staff who helped to supervise and ensure queues flowed smoothly. See you next year! 😊



## 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!

## 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](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk)

The codes for booking are now open and are as follows:

**Night Owls – 2ut5h**

**Early Birds – g36tb**

Bookings will close on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

*Get your party clothes ready for our...*

**Christmas**

**DISCO**

**Where: TRJS School Hall**

**When: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.**

**All money raised will go to school funds.**

**No cameras and no mobile phones.**

**If your child is absent from school on 18<sup>th</sup> December, they unfortunately cannot attend the disco.**

## **Christmas Disco**

Please note that the booking for a place at the disco will close on Monday 1 December at 3.30pm. This is to allow supervision and refreshments to be planned and organised. Many thanks.

# 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.



## 🎄 Festive Fun at Barton Library 🎄

Still time to book your place!

### Event Details

Date: Thursday 4th December 2025

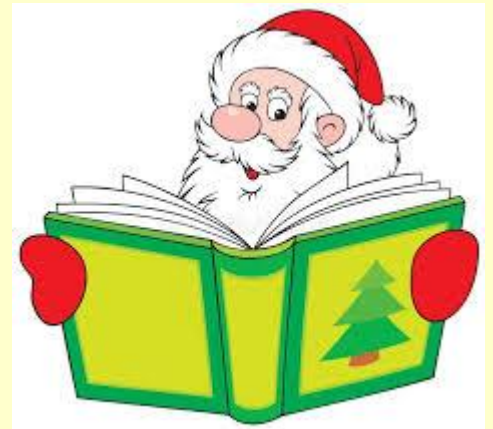
Time: 3:45 PM – 4:45 PM

Location: Barton Library

Places: Limited to 30 (plus an accompanying adult)

[www.schoolinterviews.co.uk](http://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!**

## Dates for the diary

Monday 1 December	Choir of Y5/6 children 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) Tuck Shop at 3.30 in the school hall (£1 per bag!)
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)

*Wishing everyone a good weekend. Advent is nearly here! 😊*

*J Emery*



# Thomas Russell Junior School



## Term Dates 2025-2026

### Autumn Term 2025

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

### Spring Term 2026

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

### Summer Term 2026

<b>Term Starts:</b>	Monday 13 April
<b>May Day:</b>	Monday 4 May
<b>Sports Day:</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Half Term:</b>	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May
<b>Inset Day</b> (School closed for pupils):	Friday 3 July
<b>Term Ends for Pupils:</b>	Friday 17 July
<b>Inset Day</b> (School closed for pupils):	Monday 20 July
<b>Holiday:</b>	Tuesday 21 July – Monday 31 August