



Newsletter



Issue No.10

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 5 December

Dear parents and carers, a brief newsletter to keep everyone updated about the events in the last two weeks of this busy term. 😊

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** at any time, including when collecting from Night Owls. This is to restrict traffic and keep everyone safe.

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 are now open and are as follows:

Night Owls – 2ut5h

Early Birds – g36tb

Bookings will close on Friday 2nd January 2026

“Christmas Jumpers”

There are 3 days before the end of term when we will allow children to “wear something Christmassy”. Children MAY wear a Christmas jumper but please note that we do not expect parents to go out and buy anything new! On the following days, children may wear normal school uniform with either a Christmas jumper, or something like tinsel in your hair or a Rudolf hairband (please note that this does not mean jeans and football shirts). The dates are: Wednesday 10 December (for Christmas lunch), Friday 12 December (Rudolf Day) and Friday 19 December (cinema trip). We ask that children wear the usual school uniform on all other days. Thank you.

Rudolf Day (for St Giles' Hospice)

This year, the School Council are organising a fund-raising day on Friday 12 December. This will include children wearing something Christmassy, doing a sponsored "Rudolf Run" around the school wellness walk (please bring your wellies!), buying a Rudolf biscuit for 50p and entering a Rudolf competition for 50p. All children will be given Rudolf antlers on the day. The children from the School Council have informed everyone in assembly today. All children are asked to bring 2 or 3 x 50 pence pieces on the day. All children will bring a sponsor form next week to fill in at home, then parents are invited to make a donation to the TRJS page of St Giles Rudolf Run if you wish. Please note there is no expectation that children bring the sponsor form back to school. To donate to St Giles Hospice, please do so via the following link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/laura-patrick-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Tuck Shop (Friday 12 December)

Some kind parents have 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!

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 next sales are due to take place during the Parents' Evening on **Tuesday 9 December** and after school on **Friday 12 December**, alongside the Tuck Shop. The uniform is all clean and in great condition. All proceeds to school funds.

Prices are as follows (please bring cash only):

£5 for jumpers/cardigans/PE hoodies; £3 for trousers and skirts; £2 for shirts

Christmas Discos (Monday 15 December)

A reminder that admission will be by **ticket only**.

The **Y3/4 disco is at 3.30-4.30pm** (children can come straight from their class to the disco). Children are asked to bring disco clothes to school, they will have chance to change before the end of the day. Parents are asked to come to the school hall via reception to collect your child at **4.30pm**.

The **Y5/6 disco is at 4.45-6.15pm**. Children are asked to come to the **little gate at 4.45pm**. Parents are then asked to collect your child from the school hall via reception at **6.15pm**.

Christmas Concerts (Tuesday 16 December)

Thank you for all the offers of help to supervise the children as we walk from the school to the church on this day. Your support is very much appreciated! Mrs Patrick will contact everyone to confirm. For the 10am performance, we will leave school at 9.30am and for the 11am performance, we will leave school at 10.30am. We are doing two performances again this year, so that we meet the risk assessment criteria for the total number of people in the church. We are within our numbers, so if there is an extra family member who now wishes to attend then we are sure we can accommodate them.

Cinema Trip (Friday 19 December)

Please note that all Year 3 and Year 4 children will need to be at school by **8.40am** at the latest, as they will be the first group to walk to the cinema and will leave school by 8.50am. The school gates will open at **8.35am** on that day.

ALL children are asked to bring a **packed lunch** on that day.

What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
Dodgeball 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Mondays 05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Y3-6	£33	www.soccerstars.co.uk Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers
Rugby 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Tolley	Mondays 05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Y3-6	£12	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please. (The school is subsidising this from our Sport Budget.)
Football 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£33	www.soccerstars.co.uk Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers.
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£42	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please.
Keyboard Club 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£3 Weekly	https://hhmusic.co.uk/school/burton/ Scroll to the bottom and click on TRJS Extra Curricular. (The school is subsidising this from our music budget.)
Cooking 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Cook Stars	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6		Places to be offered to children already on the waiting list.
Table Tennis Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	Y3-6	£12	www.schoolinterviews.co.uk Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please. (The school is subsidising this from our sport budget.)
Drama Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Thompson	Thursdays 08/01, 15/01, 22/01, 29/01, 05/02, 12/02		£6	Children have already signed up for this. Payment of £6 for this half term to be paid on ParentPay.
Choir 3:30pm – 4:20pm	Mr Emery	Fridays 09/01, 16/01, 23/01, 30/01, 06/02	YV Children only	No cost	Only for children who have already registered for Young Voices.

After-School Clubs for Spring Term 1

For clubs booked via School Interviews, booking will open on Monday 8 December at 6pm.

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.



Headlice

There have been one or two cases of headlice in Y3/4. Parents may want to check their child's hair and treat if needed.

Christmas Post Box

The Christmas post box at school will be open on Monday 8 December. If your child has cards for people in school that they would like to post, bring them in! Please remember to put the child's first name and second name and the class/year group if possible. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 9 December	Parents/Evening (including Second-Hand Uniform Sale)
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 11 December	Y3/4 Support Plan Meetings
Friday 12 December	Rudolf Day (organised by School Council) Tuck Shop at 3.30pm in the school hall (£1 per bag!) Second-Hand Uniform Sale at 3.30pm in the hall
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) Year 3 and 4 at school by 8.40am, to leave at 8.50am

How many get-ups until Santa is here?

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