



Newsletter



Issue No.11

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 12 December 2025

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 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	Josh B, Eliza M, Francesca T, Theo R
Year 4	Thomas P, Iga P, Oliver C, William R
Year 5	Tove W, Poppy G, Mark F, Penny M
Year 6	Bertie F, Isla B, Thommas F, Jessica E

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 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.



A **Grinchtastic** time was had by all who attended our **“Festive Fun” at Barton Library** last Thursday evening (4th December).

Well done and a big thank you to all our **TRJS Reading Ambassadors** who enjoyed entertaining everyone with a festive storytelling of **“How The Grinch Stole Christmas”**, as well as hosting a library scavenger hunt, Christmas card craft and a popular game of “Pin the Heart on the Grinch!” (*seen opposite*).

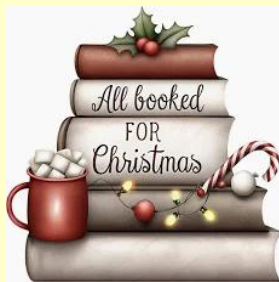
😊 A special shout-out goes to our new Y4 Reading Ambassador, Oscar M, who took the time and initiative to create an amazing Grinch pinata at home. It was certainly a “hit” with the children, who had a great time destroying it in pursuit of a lolly or bag of Haribos!

Look out for more reading related events coming up at TRJS in 2026. Until then, Happy Grinchmas!

From Miss Murfin and the TRJS Reading Ambassadors Team

Winter Reading Challenge

Keep yourselves entertained on these cold, dark nights by snuggling up with a good book! Children can now sign up and take part in the Reading Agency's **“Winter Mini Challenge”** - a fun online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading across December to February.



It's a great confidence boost and even better, it's free to take part! Simply visit and register at wintermini.org.uk, where children can collect rewards for logging and reviewing books. Whatever your interest, it all counts. Unlock special badges and earn a certificate of achievement once you meet your reading goal! Why not give it a go?

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. (If there are any current choir who would like to come, even if you are not going to YV, you are most welcome.) 😊

After-School Clubs for Spring Term 1

For clubs booked via School Interviews, bookings are now open.

Christmas Tree Lights



Thank you to all those in the TRJS school choir who joined the local community on Saturday 29 November for the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. They sang 2 carols and we received so many lovely comments from many people. Their singing was beautiful! Well done, you singers!

We received a very complimentary letter from Ed Sharkey from the Parish Council:

It was a wonderfully atmospheric time and a real joy to hear your choir singing so confidently, especially in front of the hundreds of people who came along to support the event.

Many people have spoken to me to say how lovely it was to hear young voices singing in public and that it made the evening special for them.

Would you please pass our thanks on to the young people involved and tell them they have done themselves, you, and the school proud.

Tea and Chat

The choir from Y5 and 6 were invited to perform at Tea and Chat at St James' Church Hall on Monday 1 December. They performed many carols and songs with great enthusiasm, melodious singing and energetic actions. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. One of the elder members of tea and chat said: "The children's singing has made my Christmas!" How wonderful to hear! I would like to thank the choir for bringing such joy to those around them and for all the hard work with extra rehearsals this term. You are all stars! Bring on Young Voices in February. 😊



Fundraising at Middle Bell

On Thursday 4 December, Oliver (Y4), Terri and Dan, hosted a fundraising event for TRJS to raise funds for a Defibrillator at school. Oliver and his friends sold sweets and collected donations, while hot dogs and chips were sold outside. We had songs from a guest singer and the Bar-Tones sang some Christmas carols.



Overall, we raised £450 on the night and have also received £225 from online donations, making a grand total of £675! So...with the grant of £587 from the Council and a donation of £200 from the local WI, we have raised a grand total of £1462!!

This means we have the funds to purchase the Defib, which will be sited at the front of school and may help to save lives in the future. Thank you to everyone who supported or donated. Amazing work!

Opal Update

The children love playing with the pushchair and the static exercise bike, which were recent donations to our OPAL lunchtimes.



If you have an unused pushchair, it will be gratefully accepted to enhance lunchtime play.

Year 4 Art

Our budding artists in year 4 explored the beauty of nature through creative printmaking!

The children began by investigating the designs found in leaves, noticing patterns and textures up close. They then used string to experiment with



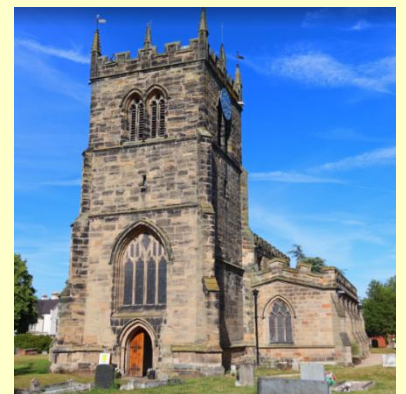
creating their own leaf prints, developing skills in composition and design. Finally, the children brought their ideas to life by producing their own print designs using paint. The results were fantastic—everyone did brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience! Well done year 4. 😊

A message from Rev Andy

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.



Well done!



Adham was trainer of the week for 2 weeks running at Barton Rovers. Amazing!



Caitlin has achieved her level 6 in swimming. Keep it up 😊

Ben passed his grade 1 drumming exam with flying colours!



Wishing everyone a great weekend!

J Emery

www.cookstars.co.uk  @cookstarsburtonandswderby

COOK STARS CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP
Monday 22nd December 10.00-12.00
Potters Yard Cafe @ Holland Sports Club
Barton-under Needwood

 All ingredients included!

£22.00 per child
plus FREE tea / coffee & mince pie for parents!

Make Reindeer cupcakes!
Decorate a Christmas mug!
Make your own Reindeer hot chocolate kit!

Booking Essential
Call / Text Cat: 07395447884
Email: cat@cookstars.co.uk
Book Online: <https://www.cookstars.co.uk/cooking-classes/burton-and-sw-derby>

 **Cook stars**
safety cooking and play



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