



# Newsletter

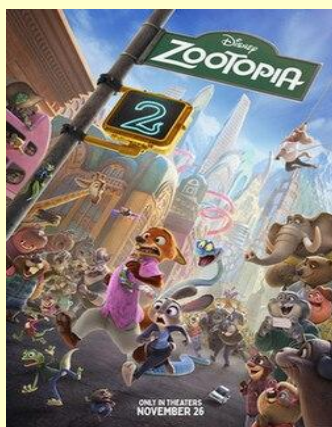


Issue No.12

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Thursday 18 December

The final newsletter of 2025!



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

Children are invited to “wear something Christmassy” with their uniform. Year 5 are asked to wear your usual PE kit, for your DANCE OFF 😊.

Children will **NOT** need the usual **bags** – just bring your lunch box and a water bottle.

## Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 10 December, Mrs Brammer and the catering team served over 250 dinners to children and staff. And what a feast it was! Everyone enjoyed a very happy lunchtime; the dinner was as delicious as ever. We really are very lucky at TRJS as Mrs Brammer serves the best school Christmas dinners in the whole country – and that is a fact! A huge thank you to the catering team who do an amazing job and still find time to send meals to some elderly people in our community.

## Christmas Discos

Thank you to everyone for your support. The children certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. (Staff needed paracetamol!) Miss Branson’s playlist, created from the ideas of the children, went down very well. The hot dogs vanished in no time and the children (and some staff!) demonstrated their best moves. At one stage we had just about everyone in the hall doing the Macarena (the old ones are the best!). We raised over £1000 for school funds and plan to use the funds to pay for some interesting and engaging activities for the whole school in 2026.

## Christmas Concerts

Thank you to Miss Branson for planning and organising the concerts, together with all the staff who played their part. The children did brilliantly: Y6 read with clarity and confidence, the choir sang beautifully, Y3 performed the Nativity scenes very well and all the children in every house were proud to speak or sing their parts. A special mention to the band: Otis(piano) and Leo (guitar) for leading the accompaniment with skill well beyond their years. It was a lovely morning; we trust that all our families enjoyed it. Thank you once again for all the help to walk with the children to keep them safe on the journey to church. Our first carol was “Joy to the World” and I think the children of TRJS brought joy to everyone’s heart that morning.

## Christmas Quiz

We had our first Christmas House Quiz this week with questions on Christmas traditions, the nativity, carols, Christmas riddles and anagrams, and how Christmas is celebrated around the world. There were bonus points for the funniest joke, paper crafts and Christmas jumper designs. In a very closely fought contest (there were only 3 points between last and first place), the winners were ANSON! We all had a lot of fun! The children showed integrity when answering and honestly marking their scores, bravery to stand up and have a go, and kindness to cheer each other on. Well done everyone.

## Rudolf Run Day

On Friday 12 December, the school council planned and organised the Rudolf Run Day in support of St Giles Hospice. They delivered an informative assembly outlining the work of St Giles Hospice and explained what the fund-raising day would include. Thank you to everyone who supported and brought in their 50 pence pieces or donated online. A huge thank you to Mrs Brammer and the catering team who baked 250 Rudolf biscuits on the day! We raised over £350 for a very deserving charity who care for cancer patients and their families and support them through a very difficult journey. Any more reindeer colouring competitions and design your own reindeer to the office by 9am tomorrow and the school council will judge for a prize in each year group. Thank you, everyone!

## Woodland Warriors

A message from Jane Veevers who runs our Woodlad Warriors club on a Tuesday after school:

*Woodland Warriors have been busy using the skills they have learnt at Forest School to whittle, weave and create woodland Christmas decorations. Come along to the St Stephen's Christmas Tree Festival in Fradley to see their beautifully decorated tree.*

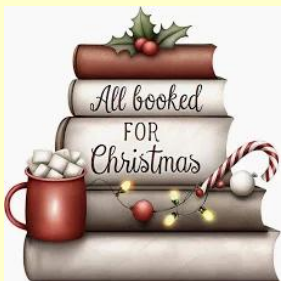


## Winter Reading Challenge

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

THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Winter Mini Challenge



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](http://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?

## Fundraising Update

So, with the brilliant work from Oliver and all at the Middle Bell (£674), a donation from the WI (£200) and the grant from Staffs County Council (£587) we have raised the funds need to purchase a new defibrillator for TRJS. The recent Tuck Shop raised £130 for school funds and Mrs Baker has raised £180 so far with the uniform sale. Thank you for all your support!

What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
<b>Dodgeball</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Mondays 05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Y3-6	£33	<a href="http://www.soccerstars.co.uk">www.soccerstars.co.uk</a> Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers
<b>Rugby</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Tolley	Mondays 05/01, 12/01, 19/01, 26/01, 02/02, 09/02	Y3-6	£12	<a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk">www.schoolinterviews.co.uk</a> Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please. (The school is subsidising this from our Sport Budget.)
<b>Football</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£33	<a href="http://www.soccerstars.co.uk">www.soccerstars.co.uk</a> Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers.
<b>Woodland Warriors</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£42	<a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk">www.schoolinterviews.co.uk</a> Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please.
<b>Keyboard Club</b> 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 06/01, 13/01, 20/01, 27/01, 03/02, 10/02	Y3-6	£3 Weekly	<a href="https://hhmusic.co.uk/school/burton/">https://hhmusic.co.uk/school/burton/</a> Scroll to the bottom and click on TRJS Extra Curricular. (The school is subsidising this from our music budget.)
<b>Cooking</b> 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.
<b>Table Tennis Club</b> 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 07/01, 14/01, 21/01, 28/01, 04/02, 11/02	Y3-6	£12	<a href="http://www.schoolinterviews.co.uk">www.schoolinterviews.co.uk</a> Code:ekj8u Pay on parent pay please. (The school is subsidising this from our sport budget.)
<b>Drama Club</b> 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.
<b>Choir</b> 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 2026

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

# MCAS App Reminder

From January 2025, we will be using My Child At School (MCAS) as our method of communication with parents and carers. Schoolzine is no longer in use and can be deleted from your devices.

Thank you to parents and carers who have already signed in to your MCAS account and downloaded the app.

If you have not already done so, please follow the steps and links in the email you have received from Bromcom with information about how to log in to MCAS.

Actions to be completed by parents and carers by Friday 19th December:

- follow the links in the email to make an account with MCAS
- download the MCAS app onto a device at home so you are able to receive push notifications.
- delete Schoolzine app off your devices
- inform school if you are not able to complete this for any reason

Thank you

## 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**

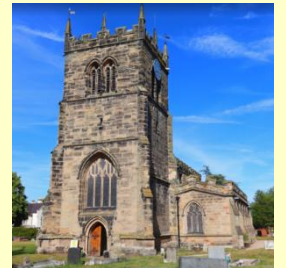
**Bookings will close on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

## 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.



**Thank you to all our parents, carers and families for your support during this very busy and successful term. We look forward to seeing everyone, refreshed and ready for another exciting episode of learning at TRJS, on Monday 5 January 2026. Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy 2026!**

*J Emery*



**COOK STARS CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP**  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:cat@cookstars.co.uk)

Book Online: <https://www.cookstars.co.uk/cooking-classes/burton-and-sw-derby>



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making cooking really fun!



# 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