



# Newsletter



Issue No. 19

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 6 March

Staffordshire County Council

HERE EVERY DAY READY ON TIME

Little Heroes Assemble

Find out more SCAN ME

visit [staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes](http://staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes)

	w/b 02.03.26
Year 3	97.5%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	99.1%
Year 6	97.9%
TRJS Overall	97.7%

We have achieved the school target of 97.5% this week. Great work, everyone! 5 minutes extra play for all. 😊

## 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	Josh T, Georgie D
Year 4	Ethan P
Year 5	Evie-Mae W, Ivy G
Year 6	Thomas G, Evelyn D

## Parents' Evenings

As outlined in previous newsletters, Parents' Evenings are planned for Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 March. Please note that booking for appointments will go live at 6pm tonight. We look forward to seeing all our parents so we can work together to help your child be the best they can be.

Thank you for your support.



## Boxing for Fitness

Well done to the six children from Years 5 & 6 who went to John Taylor High School on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The children worked with a boxing coach to complete a range of different fitness activities.



Next week in PSHE, children will be exploring the world of work: skills, personal attributes, aspirations, types of jobs and careers, and stereotypes in the workplace. We will be taking part in **Step into the NHS Day 2026** with live online workshops with NHS ambassadors. Children will start work on their entry for the 'Step into the NHS' competition, which they will be bringing home at the end of the week to finish and return to Miss Branson in school if they would like to enter the competition.

## Competition information:

- **The challenge:** Pupils need to choose up to three different NHS jobs that really stand out and creatively explain what they've learnt about them in their entry.
- **The brief:** Pupils should explore the range of NHS jobs using the [online resources](#). The resources will help them choose the job(s) they want to focus on as part of their competition entry.
- **What they need to produce:**
  - a piece of artwork (for example, a painting, drawing, model or video)
  - writing (for example a poem, story or song)
- **We are looking for the following in their entry:**
  - What their chosen job(s) do
  - The key qualities or skills needed for the job(s)
  - Their favourite thing about the job(s) It is not part of the judging criteria, but your pupils may want to choose NHS job(s) that they haven't heard of. With more than 350 jobs, there are lots to choose from. Pupils can explore our [Careers A-Z](#) page to discover just some of the jobs in more detail.
  - For full competition rules please visit [stepintothens.nhs.uk/primary-schools](http://stepintothens.nhs.uk/primary-schools)
- **How to enter:** give your entry to Miss Branson in school. **Deadline Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April.**
- **Judging criteria:**
  - 50% Understanding of NHS careers: Are the pupils aware of what their chosen job(s) do and the key qualities they have?
  - 50% Creativity: Is the entry creative and inspiring? Anything that demonstrates that they have gone the extra mile with their work.
  - Online gallery: The [online gallery](#) shows previous winning entries that can be explored for inspiration. Please note, the competition challenge is different from previous years, so entries here are a guide only!

We were very successful in this competition the last time we entered it: 4 years ago, we had a successful entry that was awarded 'Regional Winner'. Let's go one better this year and aim for a National Winner!

## Night Owls and Early Birds

The bookings for the whole of the Summer Term (from April – July 2026) will open on MCAS on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. Please note that the booking will close on the last Friday of the Easter holidays (Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026).

## After School Clubs

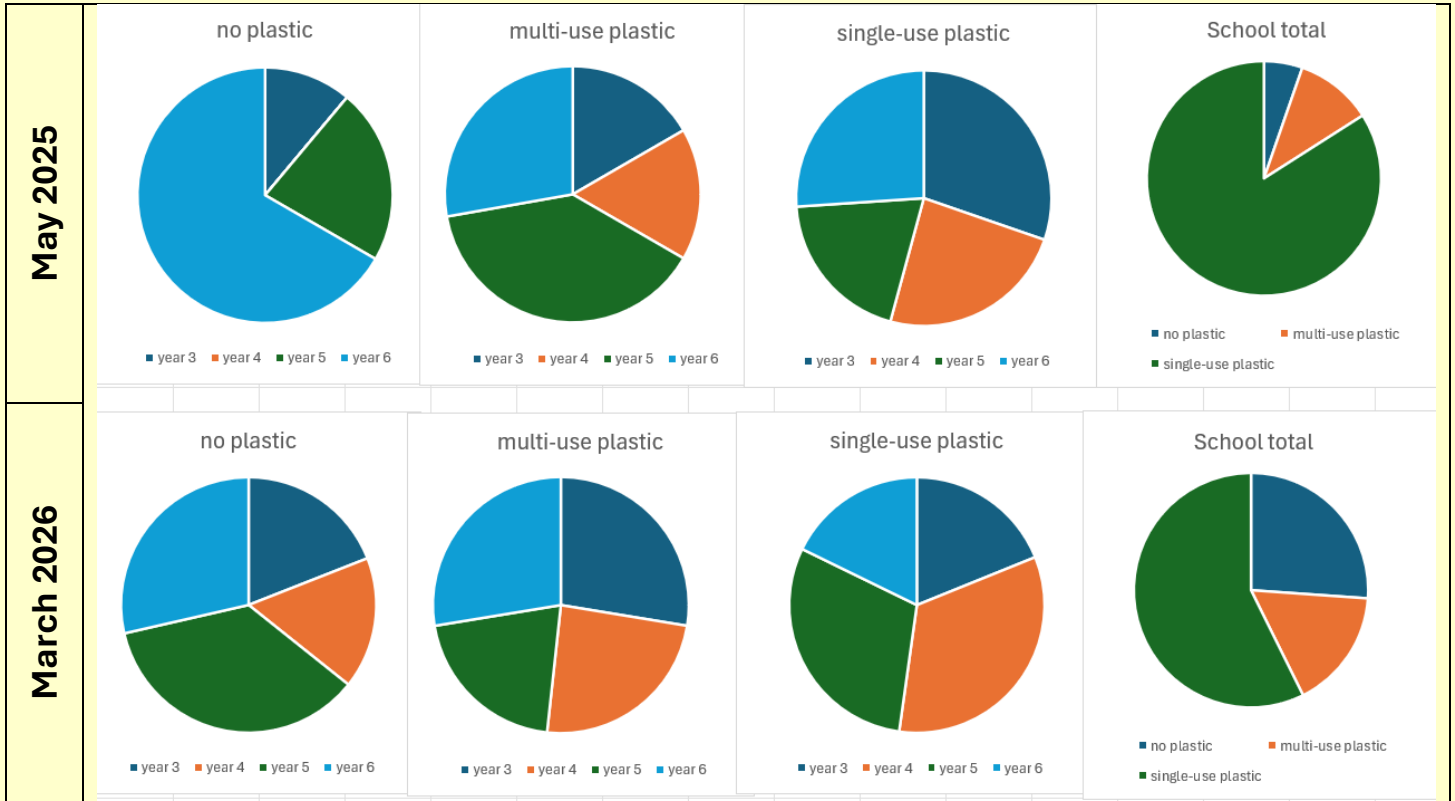
Please see the outline of after school clubs for after Easter at the end of the newsletter. As a school, we aim to see as many children as possible showcasing their talents and learning new skills during after school clubs. We are able to subsidise cricket, table tennis and keyboards to keep the cost down for parents.

# Plastic-free healthy snacks

We encourage our school family to provide children with a healthy snack to bring in to school for their morning playtime snack. Ideally, this would be a piece of fruit or vegetable such as an apple, banana, grapes, carrot sticks. We also encourage children to bring it to school either on its own or in a multi-use plastic tub. We are trying to limit the amount of single-use plastic brought into school.



We did our first snack survey in May 2025 to find the baseline amount of plastic being used. We did a follow-up survey this week, with these results:



- ✓ Big reduction in amount of single-use plastic packaging
- ✓ Lots more children bringing in pieces of fruit and vegetables
- ✓ A few more children using multi-use plastic tubs

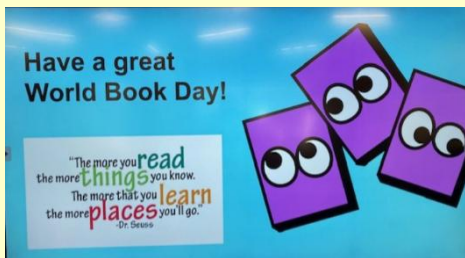
...but we still have more work to be done, as **single-use plastic still makes up over 50% of snacks** brought in to school. We will do this survey again in the summer term and it would be great to get this below 50% or even get the 'no plastic' snack close to 50%.

## Maths Champs!

The Year 6 Maths team have done amazingly well to qualify for the National Finals! The event will take place at Oxford University in June 2026. There were nearly 300 schools that took part in the Maths Championships, including many well-known private schools. Tom F, Callum W, Sammy N and Sophia H are all set for the big day. We can't wait to see how you get on in the finals. Whatever happens, you have all done the school proud! A big thank you to Mrs Preston for organising the team and inspiring the children not only in Maths, but also in how to be competitive! 😊

## Swimming

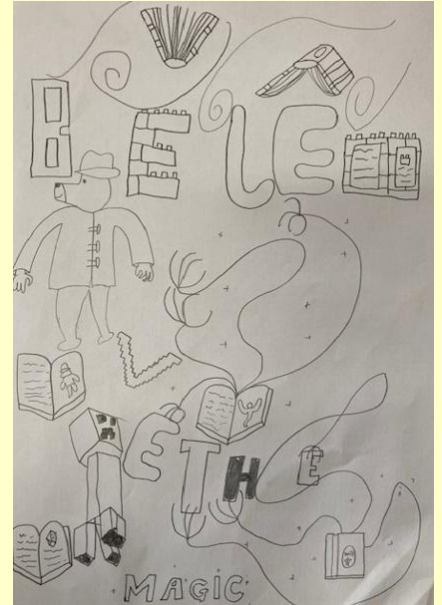
A reminder that, as Mrs Owen has volunteered to help supervise the Year 5 children on their residential next week, there will be no swimming for Year 4 next Thursday, 12 March.



## World Book Day 2026

What a great day! Miss Murfin organised a super range of inspiring activities. It was a joy to see different ages of children all working together in different classes on activities designed to inspire the love of reading. The day was kicked off by an excellent assembly delivered by our very own reading

ambassadors. Ryan in Y6 was totally immersed in the project and designed a poster to say: "Believe in the magic". Reading is indeed magical and it is the golden thread that helps children to succeed in all their learning. Thank you, Miss Murfin.



## Ten Word Tiny Tales Challenge!

We ran out of time today to complete this challenge, so it is over to you! Why not have a go at home? Inspired by the book "Ten Word Tiny Tales of Love" by Joseph Coelho, children are invited to compose their own ten-word tiny tale and draw an accompanying illustration on the worksheet. The closing date for the competition will be **FRIDAY 20 MARCH**.

Watch the 'School of Kindness' challenge video to introduce the task (0.20s – 1.33min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6FG8hqOkio&t=89s>

## Eyes down, look in... it's Bingo time!

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March TRJS School Hall**  
**3.45pm to 5pm**  
**Families welcome**  
 (and Night Owls children welcome)  
**£3 entry per person** payable on **ParentPay** - all money raised will go towards our new school library.  
 Refreshments available for a donation.  
 Chocolate and Easter prizes for a line, two lines and full house!

Everyone is welcome to join in with Chocolate Bingo.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** in TRJS School Hall

**3.45pm to 5pm**

**Families welcome** (and Night Owls children welcome)

**£3 entry per person** - payable on **ParentPay**. Please pay by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

All money raised will go towards our new school library.

Refreshments available for a donation.

Chocolate and Easter prizes for a line, two lines and full house!

**Has the rain finally stopped?**

**Have a lovely weekend.**

*J Emery*



What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
Dodgeball 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Mondays 13/04, 20/04, 27/04, 11/05, 18/05	Y3-6	£27.50	<a href="http://www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk">www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk</a> Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers. Please check the link for the opening date.
Cricket 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Tolley	Tuesdays 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05	Y3-6	£6	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026. The school is subsidising this from our Sport Premium budget.
Football 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05	Y3-6	£33	<a href="http://www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk">www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk</a> Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers. Please check the link for the opening date.
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05	Y3-6	£35	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Keyboard Club 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05	Y3-6	£2 Weekly	Contact <a href="mailto:support@hhmusic.co.uk">support@hhmusic.co.uk</a> directly to register interest. The school is subsidising this from our music budget.
Cooking 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Cook Stars	Tuesdays 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05	Y3-6		Places to be offered to pupils on the waiting list. Please visit <a href="https://portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class-overview/3657">portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class-overview/3657</a> for spaces or to be added to the waiting list.
Table Tennis Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 15/04, 22/04, 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05	Y3-6	£6	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 The school is subsidising this from our Sport Premium budget.
Art Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Art Teacher from the Brewhouse	Wednesdays 15/04, 22/04, 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05	Y3-6	£30	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Thursdays 16/04, 23/04, 30/04, 07/05, 14/05	Y3-6	£35	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
BEGINNERS Ski Club Tamworth Snowdome	Miss Sinclair	Fridays 01/05, 08/05, 15/05, 22/05 5pm – 6pm	Y3-6	£50	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026. Places are limited to 12 (first come first served).
BEGINNERS Snowboard Tamworth Snowdome	Miss Sinclair	Fridays 01/05, 08/05, 15/05, 22/05 5pm – 6pm	Y3-6	£76	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026. Places are limited to 6 (first come first served).



# Thomas Russell Junior School



## Term Dates 2025-2026

### Spring Term: Dates for the Diary

Monday 9 March	TRJS Governors visit school
Wednesday 11-Friday 13 March	Y5 Residential to Laches Wood
Monday 16 March	Y3 Library Visit
Monday 16 March	Community Fundraiser event (Chocolate Bingo at 3.45pm)
Friday 20 March	Reading Ambassadors meet (3.30pm)
Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 March	Parents' Evenings (4pm-6.45pm)
Wednesday 25 March	ALL DAY rehearsal for Annie (in school)
Thursday 26 March	Annie - Performance to the school (10am)
	Annie - Performance to parents (6pm)
Friday 27 March	LAST DAY OF TERM

### Summer Term: Dates for the Diary

<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