



Newsletter



Issue No. 20

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 20 March



	w/b 16.03.26
Year 3	99.4%
Year 4	99.6%
Year 5	97.7%
Year 6	94.6%
TRJS Overall	97.9%

This week we have smashed the TRJS target of 97.5%. Well done, team TRJS - we will have 5 minutes extra play next week! Keep it up, guys. 😊

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

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

What did the drummer call his twin daughters? Anna 1, Anna 2!

Year 3	Josh T, Georgie D, Alyssa F
Year 4	Ethan P, Orla C, Madeline J, Alice H
Year 5	Ivy G, Evie-Mae W
Year 6	Evelyn D, Thomas G, Sammy N, Ted B



Chocolate Bingo



It was great to see so many of our school families at 'Chocolate Bingo' on Monday. The hall was full, there was a wonderful buzz of excitement in the room, and we all had a lot of fun. Mrs Alcock was our bingo caller extraordinaire...

my personal favourite call was "2 little ducks – 22 - quack quack" but I think the children's favourite was "6 and 7 – 67 – '6,7'" (+

hand gestures and the '6,7' voice)! Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event, buy refreshments, and contribute to the really joyful atmosphere, as well as the staff who helped organise and run the event, including Mrs Sam Owen for donating the prizes. We raised over £300 for school funds.

We currently have no PTA so school staff have to organise and run these events, on top of their teaching and leadership commitments. If you can commit some time to lead on future school community events please email Miss Branson: cbranson@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk. (Miss Branson)



Easter Egg Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Egg Raffle next week
with many Easter Egg prizes to be won!

Tickets are £1.

Please bring £1 in on Friday 27 March (the last day of term)



Loom Bands Sale

3 girls in Year 6 have made some loom bands and would like to sell them at school to raise money for Cancer Research. They will be on sale during morning break on the last day of term (Friday 27 March) for £1 each. Thank you girls, it is great to show our school value of kindness towards other people.

Conflict and War - *a message of support for parents and carers from Staffordshire PSHE Education*

With events in the Middle East remaining uncertain, it's understandable that parents and carers may feel anxious about how to support children and young people. Many adults are unsure how to explain what's happening without causing fear, or how to help children and young people make sense of the world while still protecting their sense of safety.

The Children's Commissioner for England has written a letter to all children and their families in England about the war in the Middle East.

Children and young people often notice more than we expect, through snippets of conversation, news headlines, social media, or simply the emotions of the adults around them. It's natural for them to feel confused, worried, or to ask big questions. It's equally natural for adults to feel unsure about the best way to respond.

Right now, offering support doesn't mean having all the answers. Sometimes the most important thing is to stay calm, listen, and be present. We have collated some resources that might help you have these conversations:

- [How to Talk to Your Children About War - UNICEF](#)
- [Middle East and Regional Escalation: 5 Ways to Talk to Children About Conflict](#)
- [How to Talk to Your Children about War and Conflict BBC \(video\)](#)
- [Talking to Children and Young People about War and Conflict - Place2Be](#)
- [How to Talk to Young Children about War - Teach Early Years](#)

You may also find that watching news updates designed specifically for children and young people might be a helpful starting point for conversations. Outlets like:

- [Newsround](#)
- [First News](#)
- [Children United Today](#)

(Miss Branson)

Online Safety

The Department for Education launched a [new website](#) to support families and encourage regular conversations about what children and young people are seeing online, asking simple questions like “who shared this?” and “why”. The website has been designed based on the main concerns and needs raised by parents and carers and includes:

- Tips for parents’/carers’ conversations with their children
- Actions to support each stage of their child’s life
- Parental control information
- Signposting to other trusted resources from charities and third parties, where parents/carers can access other forms of support, like speaking to an expert.

As part of the government consultation to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change, they want to hear from parents and carers. The consultation will consider how children use digital technology as well as potential age restrictions on social media and other services such as gaming sites and AI chatbots, restrictions on addictive design features and risky functionalities, and better support for parents and families. We encourage you to share your [views and experiences](#) and also encourage children and young people aged 10-21 to get involved too. (Miss Branson)

Many of our children tell staff that they are on Roblox. Please see this guide for parents to help keep our children safe. Please check the age restrictions. Children under 13 can only chat with their own friends within the game they are playing. We urge parents to talk to your children about what they are playing and who they are connecting with. Of course, the school advice would always be: **DELAY THE USE OF SMART PHONES** until your child is at secondary school.

The infographic is titled "What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX". It features a central illustration of a Roblox character and various game elements. The infographic is divided into several sections:

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**: Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.
- A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME**: Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.
- MATURE CONTENT**: With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.
- IN-GAME SPENDING**: Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.
- RISK OF ADDICTION**: Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.
- COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS**: Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**: Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.
- PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE**: Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.
- CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT**: Although Roblox is introducing lighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**: Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.



Dove Valley Football League

On Tuesday 3rd March, TRJS took part in the second round of the Dove Valley Football league. During the evening, TRJS played Rangemore, Richard Wakefield and Alrewas. The team played well and worked together as a team showing grit and determination. Well done to all those who took part.

Y5 at Laches Wood



Last week, Year 5 went on their residential visit to Laches Wood. We were all very excited to arrive and check out our dormitories (and even managed to make our beds, showing excellent teamwork skills!) After lunch, we began our first activity; we didn't stop until we came home! During our action-packed



adventure, we took part in high ropes activities, indoor climbing,



bouldering, axe throwing, archery and bush craft. Evenings were equally as active with the children taking part in two orienteering tasks: scavenger hunt and picture trail. All of Year 5 really threw themselves into every activity, showing



excellent teamwork skills, resilience and determination as well as pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. They were a credit to themselves and to TRJS. A



huge thank you to all the staff who helped to plan and supervise this visit: Mrs Preston (Group Leader), Miss Marston, Mrs Owen, Miss Hurdman, Mrs Graves and Mrs Windsor. Thank you also to Mrs Patrick who works so hard behind the scenes planning and preparing risk assessments to ensure that everyone stays safe.





What an amazing few days we had! Year 5, we are very proud of the way you demonstrated all the TRJS values and gave your BEST!



Y3/4 Gymnastics

We are incredibly proud of our Year 3/4 gymnastics team for their outstanding achievement in the East Staffordshire Competition. On Friday 13th March, the team secured an impressive second place overall. Throughout the three-hour event, our squad of five: Eliza, Leo, Orla, Thea and Violette, demonstrated remarkable



determination, passion, and skill, truly excelling across all disciplines. Their teamwork was exceptional, with each gymnast supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way while representing TRJS beautifully. A special

mention goes to Eliza for her fantastic individual success—placing 1st on vault and 3rd on floor. Congratulations to all involved for such a brilliant performance!

(Miss Sinclair)



Science Quiz Club Competition

On Tuesday 10th March, Milo M, Elsie W, Joe N and Will Ma took part in the National Science Championship for Year 5 and 6. The online heat was hosted live by the Quizmaster, with our school competing against teams from across the country. Working brilliantly together, the children tackled 30 multiple-choice science questions.



JTMAT PRIMARY SUBJECT EXCELLENCE SCIENCE PROJECT

REPAIR, REPURPOSE, RECYCLE.

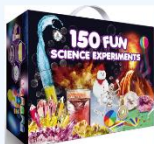
YOUR TASK: CREATE A POSTER THAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO REDUCE WASTE BY REPAIRING, REPURPOSING OR RECYCLING ITEMS.

LET'S PROTECT OUR PLANET!



SUBMIT YOUR POSTER TO YOUR TEACHER
BY 17TH APRIL.

OVERALL WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN BY THE
OPERATIONS MANAGER OF EV BATTERY
SOLUTIONS, WHO HAVE ALSO DONATED PRIZES.



Although they didn't make it through to the semi-finals, they performed very well, had a great time, and all agreed they would love to take part again next year. Well done to all four children, you were brilliant!

A reminder to have a go at the JTMAT Science Competition. (Mrs Hiatt)

A poster for the Trent Duck Race Fundraiser. The background is dark blue with a large yellow duck wearing a blue cap and a blue vest with 'TREN ROWING C' on it. The duck is holding a blue oar. The text on the poster includes: 'Trent Rowing Club Fundraiser', 'TRENT DUCK RACE', 'Saturday 4th April at 10am', 'Starting at Stapenhill Gardens Ferry Bridge, finishing at Trent Clubhouse', 'Come along to a fantastic community event as we raise money for our NEW Boat Barn', 'FASTEST 3 DUCKS WIN A BOAT TRIP DOWN THE RIVER TRENT!', 'PLUS: All ducks are entered into a raffle to win a £100 Amazon voucher and many more special prizes', 'Hot refreshments and cake sale', 'Special local guests', 'SPONSOR YOUR DUCK TODAY', 'visit trentrc.org or crowdunder.co.uk/ducks-in-a-row', 'SPORT ENGLAND', and a QR code. A price tag in the top right corner says '£25 Per Duck!'.

Barton Rugby Club

Barton Under Needwood Rugby Club are looking for Girls and Boys to join their super friendly club to make new friends and enjoy rugby. From Rugby Tots (age 3-5) and Mini-Juniors (all age groups from under 6s to under 12s) all the way up to high school and Seniors level.

Practice and matches are held on Sunday mornings at Holland Sports Club in Barton Under Needwood, which is just about to go through a huge rebuild and exciting relaunch with brand new facilities.

The Club has a wonderful and supportive family atmosphere, with a well-run committee and support from the RFU. This includes regular events, end of year parties, award ceremonies and Christmas parties with visits and gifts from Santa as well festive carol singing. For more information please email:

bartonrufc@yahoo.co.uk

Wishing everyone a pleasant weekend. Enjoy the weather; get outside and be active! 😊

J Emery



Thomas Russell Junior School



Term Dates 2025-2026

Next Week

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) – tickets via PPay.
Friday 27 March	LAST DAY OF TERM
	Easter Egg Raffle (£1 per ticket)
	Loom Band Sale for Cancer Research (£1)

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
OPAL Stay and Play Yrs3-5	Monday 8 th June
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