



Newsletter



Issue No.24

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 8 May 2026

Staffordshire County Council
HERE EVERY DAY READY ON TIME
Little Heroes Assemble
Find out more SCAN ME
visit staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes

	w/b 27.04.26	w/b 05.06.26
Year 3	96.8%	99.4%
Year 4	98.3%	97.9%
Year 5	97.9%	98.9%
Year 6	96.3%	97.9%
TRJS Overall	97.3%	98.7%

Super attendance this week. The whole school have achieved 98.7% which is AMAZING. 5 minutes extra play for everyone. Keep it up! 😊

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** and shared hot chocolate and cookies with Mr Emery next. We had a lovely time!

Year 3	Paisley W, Alyssa F
Year 4	Ted C, Finley F
Year 5	Francesca M, George B
Year 6	Imogen B, Poppy L

OPAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Tipper family who have very kindly donated a storage shed to the school to support OPAL play. We are extremely grateful for their support in providing the shed as well as the materials needed to construct the base. Thanks must also go to Mrs Rose for her time in digging out the space needed for the base of the shed and to Mr Bradley for all of his work in pulling the project together.



Year 3/4 Tri-Golf at JTHS



Our Year 3 and 4 pupils recently took part in an exciting Tri-Golf event at John Taylor High School and what a fantastic event it was! Throughout the event, the children showed great enthusiasm as they rotated through a range of activities that challenged their aiming, striking and putting skills. It was wonderful to see how quickly they developed their golfing techniques, improving their control, coordination and accuracy with each activity.



Just as importantly, the event provided a brilliant opportunity for the children to build key personal skills. Many pupils demonstrated growing confidence, particularly when trying something new. They also showed fantastic resilience, learning to keep going, adapt their approach and try again when things didn't go to plan.



Best of all, the children had lots of fun! There were smiles, laughter and plenty of memorable moments, making it a truly enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Well done to all of our Year 3 and 4 pupils for representing the school so brilliantly—we are very proud of you! (Miss Hurdman)

OPAL – We Need You!

Our children love OPAL play at lunchtime. We now have a mud kitchen / café, willow arch, willow dome, den building and tyre play to name just a few things. Our next project is to build a large sandpit for the children to play in. We have a kind offer to dig this out for us, but we will need parental help with the final set up. We are asking any parents available on Saturday 6th June to come to school from 9am-12pm to help us with some OPAL projects. Our projects include: **Lining the sandpit, filling the sandpit with sand, painting the storage sheds, planting up the tyres or creating play spaces out of pallets.**

We kindly ask that you do not bring children to school for this session due to the tools and equipment that will be on site. If you are able to help us out, please email Mrs Vardy (lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) so that we can send out further information.



Friends of TRJS

Exciting news! Last week a few interested parents and Miss Branson had a very positive meeting to discuss first steps in re-establishing our 'Friends of TRJS' charity group (**FTRJS**).

Discussion was focused on:

- **gauging initial interest:** we have a small but enthusiastic group who have great fundraising ideas already and are experienced in running these successfully.
- **if a 'Friends' group differs from a PTA:** there is no difference other than the name, and everyone in our school community is welcome (not just parents of children currently at school). This could be other family members or local community support.
- **how FTRJS can support school:** fundraising events, clear objectives for raising money
- **forming a team to fulfil the legal requirements of a charity:** e.g. required roles (trustees/committee members), minuted meetings, accounts and annual returns.

We will be holding our first AGM to set out the constitution, aims and fundraising objectives, and vote in trustees. Every parent and carer, staff member and any interested person in our school community is classed as a member of FTRJS and can attend the meeting. *Watch this space!*

Trustees are the people responsible for controlling the work, management and administration of the charity on behalf of its beneficiaries. Generally trustees are treasurer, chair, committee member etc. A brief overview of the committee roles we are looking for:

Chair (we would also welcome Co-Chairs)



Main purpose of the role

To lead the committee, ensuring it is run in line with its constitution and according to the wishes of all members.

The chair's responsibilities

- Chairs and facilitates meetings
- Sets the date and agenda for meetings and keeps the discussion on track
- Delegates tasks to committee members
- Ensures decisions are implemented
- Ensures FTRJS is registered with regulatory bodies eg, the Charity Commission, and submits reports where necessary.
- Provides the annual report for the AGM

Treasurer



Main purpose of the role

The treasurer controls the funds in line with the committee's decisions as well as charity law. They make sure upcoming events are affordable and profitable and report financial information to the rest of the team.

The treasurer can be a 'work-from-home' type of role and does not need to take part in the nitty-gritty organisation, logistics or running of events beforehand or on the day. This might appeal to someone who has time in evenings to help work on finances, but cannot help at events.

The treasurer's responsibilities

- Keeps a detailed and accurate record of FTRJS financial activity
- Reports on the finances at meetings in a clear, concise way
- Makes Gift Aid claims
- Implements procedures for making payments and claiming expenses

- Completes the Charity Commission annual return
- Gets accounts audited where necessary
- Provides the financial report for the AGM

Secretary (could be supported by a ‘Communications Officer’)



Main purpose of the role

The secretary ensures that the PTA’s activities run smoothly. They use their excellent communication and organisational skills to arrange meetings, take minutes and keep records.

The secretary’s responsibilities

- Assists the chair with planning meetings and circulates the agenda before the meetings
- Takes minutes at meetings, recording the key points, decisions made and relevant action points
- Ensures meetings have enough attendees to form a quorum

Any of these roles could be ‘behind-the-scenes’ roles which are more involved in the managerial or financial side of FTRJS rather than the visible organisational, logistics or hands-on running of events. If you feel you have the expertise we need, or just enthusiasm and a helping hand, please get in touch with Miss Branson or look out for the date of the AGM.

Everyone is welcome 😊 (Miss Branson)

A message from the Science Lead at JTMAT & The Forest Family Schools

‘Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s science subject excellence project. There were some incredible entries for schools’ overall winners, which were passed onto the Director of Operations at EV Battery Solutions (who donated the prizes) for her to judge.

She has selected the following winners, who will win 150 science investigations to take home:

- EYFS: Church Gresley Infants*
- KS1: Fradley Park*
- KS2: Whittington.*

Well done to all the TRJS children who took part. You will all receive certificates. (Mrs Hiatt)

Calling All Musicians

There are a range of opportunities happening in the Midlands over the summer for children who are excited to perform with or hear other musicians perform.

Sing! West Midlands - The National Youth Choir are running their ‘Sing!’ West Midlands events this year in the Black Country. It’s free for children in years 5 to 8 and travel costs can also be claimed where needed. <https://www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk/sing-west-mids>

CSSO: Music from the Movies - The City of Stoke-on-Trent Orchestra have a “Music from the Movies Concert” taking place on Saturday 6th June at the Kings Hall, Stoke. Children can attend for £10.

Please see the posters at the end of the newsletter.



SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember **you're the best!**

SATS!

We do recognise that Y6 SATs can be a source of stress and anxiety for children (and staff!). At TRJS, we make a conscious decision to ensure that we do not narrow the curriculum and continue to give Year 6 the breadth of the curriculum such as extra practices for Sports Day and making WW2 planes in DT. Here is a poem to remind us all that SATs are only a small part of who you really are. Our advice is: just be brave and do your best. Keep going Year 6 – you've got this! (This time next week, SATs will be all done and dusted!) 😊

Clubs

Please see the overview of after school clubs at the end of the newsletter. Please check the various booking details. Any clubs to be booked via MCAS app will be open at 6pm on Friday 15 May.

Keeping Safe

Please see this safety notice about Jelly Cubes.

NEEDOH / Jelly Cube Viral Trend

Children and young people are microwaving squishy silicone toys after seeing online videos claiming this makes the toys softer and more pliable. When the toy is squeezed afterwards, it bursts and sprays boiling material, which reportedly has left children's hands and faces seriously burned. This trend has seriously injured children in the UK and US, most recently in [May 2026 in Bristol, UK](#).

We ask that parents, school staff and professionals avoid searching for this challenge directly on platforms as each search feeds the algorithm and increases the content's reach, making the videos more visible to users. Instead, [refer to our article](#) to understand more and get guidance on responding.



Super Hero Raises £600 for Charity

Imogen (6V) smashed her 2.5k race last Saturday, running in fancy dress too as a Super Hero! She achieved a time of 15mins 11secs and has raised over £600 for Birmingham Children's Hospital - superb results all round!! We are so proud of you, Imogen – amazing work!

Have a great weekend!

J Emery

What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
Football 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 02/06, 09/06, 16/06, 23/06, 30/06, 07/07	Y3-6	£33	www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers. Please check the link for the opening date.
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 02/06, 09/06, 16/06, 23/06, 30/06, 07/07	Y3-6	£42	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026
Keyboard Club 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 02/06, 09/06, 16/06, 23/06, 30/06, 07/07, 14/07	Y3-6	£2 Weekly	Contact support@hhmusic.co.uk directly to register interest
Cooking 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Cook Stars	Tuesdays 02/06, 09/06, 16/06, 23/06, 30/06, 07/07, 14/07	Y3-6		Please visit portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class- overview/3657 for spaces or to be added to the waiting list.
Table Tennis Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 03/06, 10/06, 17/06, 24/06, 01/07, 08/07	Y3-6	£6	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026
Clay Art Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Art Teacher from the Brewhouse	Wednesdays 03/06, 10/06, 17/06, 24/06, 01/07, 08/07	Y3-6	£30	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mrs Veevers	Thursdays 04/06, 11/06, 18/06, 25/06, 02/07, 09/07	Y3-6	£42	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026
Cricket 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Tolley	Thursdays 04/06, 11/06, 18/06, 25/06, 02/07, 09/07	Y3-6	£6	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026.
HAVE SKIED BEFORE Snowdome	Miss Sinclair	Fridays 5pm – 6pm 12/06, 19/06, 26/06, 10/07	Y3-6	£50	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026. Places are limited to 12 (first come first served).
HAVE SNOWBOARDED BEFORE Snowdome	Miss Sinclair	Fridays 5pm – 6pm 12/06, 19/06, 26/06, 10/07	Y3-6	£76	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 15 th May 2026. Places are limited to 6 (first come first served).
3D Printing Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Inclusive Kidz Club	Fridays 05/06, 12/06, 19/06, 26/06, 10/07	Y3-6	£35	More Information on booking to follow. Bookings will be made directly with Kidz Club. Places limited to 15 children.

Sports Day



Tuesday 19th May 2026

Gates Open at 9:10am

Parade at 9:20am

Events Start at 09:35am

Sports Day Events

09:35am-10.10am

Track	Field
Y6 Girls Obstacle 80m - FINALS	Y4 Girls Shot Put - FINALS
Y6 Boys Obstacle 80m - FINALS	Y4 Boys Shot Put - FINALS
Y5 Girls Obstacle 80m - FINALS	
Y5 Boys Obstacle 80m - FINALS	Y3 Girls Shot Put - FINALS
	Y3 Boys Shot Put - FINALS
Y6 Girls Potato 40m - HEATS	
Y6 Boys Potato 40m - HEATS	Y4 Girls Long Jump - FINALS
Y5 Girls Potato 40m - HEATS	Y4 Boys Long Jump - FINALS
Y5 Boys Potato 40m - HEATS	
Y6 Girls Potato 40m - FINALS	
Y6 Boys Potato 40m - FINALS	
Y5 Girls Potato 40m - FINALS	
Y5 Boys Potato 40m - FINALS	

10.10am-11am

Track	Field
Y4 Girls Hurdle 60m - HEATS	Y5 Girls Shot Put - FINALS
Y4 Boys Hurdle 60m - HEATS	Y5 Boys Shot Put - FINALS
Y3 Girls Hurdle 60m - HEATS	
Y3 Boys Hurdle 60m - HEATS	Y6 Girls Shot Put - FINALS
	Y6 Boys Shot Put - FINALS
Y4 Girls Hurdle 60m - FINALS	
Y4 Boys Hurdle 60m - FINALS	Y5 Girls Long Jump - FINALS
Y3 Girls Hurdle 60m - FINALS	Y5 Boys Long Jump - FINALS
Y3 Boys Hurdle 60m - FINALS	
Y4 Girls Potato 30m - HEATS	
Y4 Boys Potato 30m - HEATS	
Y3 Girls Potato 30m - HEATS	
Y3 Boys Potato 30m - HEATS	
Y4 Girls Potato 30m - FINALS	
Y4 Boys Potato 30m - FINALS	
Y3 Girls Potato 30m - FINALS	
Y3 Boys Potato 30m - FINALS	

11am-11.45am

Track	Field
Y5 Girls Hurdles 70m - HEATS	Y3 Girls Tail-ball
Y5 Boys Hurdles 70m - HEATS	Y3 Boys Tail-ball
Y6 Girls Hurdles 70m - HEATS	
Y6 Boys Hurdles 70m - HEATS	Y4 Girls Tail-ball
	Y4 Boys Tail-ball
Y5 Girls Hurdles 70m - FINALS	
Y5 Boys Hurdles 70m - FINALS	Y3 Girls Long Jump
Y6 Girls Hurdles 70m - FINALS	Y3 Boys Long Jump
Y6 Boys Hurdles 70m - FINALS	
Y5 Girls Skipping 60m - HEATS	
Y5 Boys Skipping 60m - HEATS	
Y6 Girls Skipping 60m - HEATS	
Y6 Boys Skipping 60m - HEATS	
Y5 Girls Skipping 60m - FINALS	
Y5 Boys Skipping 60m - FINALS	
Y6 Girls Skipping 60m - FINALS	
Y6 Boys Skipping 60m - FINALS	

11.45am- 12:10pm

Track	Field
Y2 children to school for a team race with Y6 H/V captains	

House Totals and Closing Parade 12:10pm

Gates open 1:15pm

House Parade 1:20pm

1.30pm- 2:10pm

Track	Field
Y4 Girls Obstacle 50m - FINALS	Y5 Girls Javelin – FINALS
Y4 Boys Obstacle 50m - FINALS	Y5 Boys Javelin – FINALS
Y3 Girls Obstacle 50m - FINALS	
Y3 Boys Obstacle 50m - FINALS	
	Y6 Girls Javelin – FINALS
Y4 Girls Skipping 50m – HEATS	Y6 Boys Javelin – FINALS
Y4 Boys Skipping 50m – HEATS	
Y3 Girls Skipping 50m – HEATS	
Y3 Boys Skipping 50m – HEATS	Y6 Girls Long Jump – FINALS
	Y6 Boys Long Jump – FINALS

2:10pm – 2:25pm

Track	Field
Y4 Girls Skipping 50m – FINALS	
Y4 Boys Skipping 50m – FINALS	
Y3 Girls Skipping 50m – FINALS	
Y3 Boys Skipping 50m – FINALS	

2.25-3:15pm

Track	Field
Y3 Girls Sprint (40m) - HEATS	
Y3 Boys Sprint (40m) - HEATS	
Y4 Girls Sprint (50m) - HEATS	
Y4 Boys Sprint (50m) - HEATS	
Y5 Girls Sprint (60m) - HEATS	
Y5 Boys Sprint (60m) - HEATS	
Y6 Girls Sprint (70m) - HEATS	
Y6 Boys Sprint (70m) - HEATS	
Y3 Girls Sprint (40m) - FINALS	
Y3 Boys Sprint (40m) - FINALS	
Y4 Girls Sprint (50m) - FINALS	
Y4 Boys Sprint (50m) - FINALS	
Y5 Girls Sprint (60m) - FINALS	
Y5 Boys Sprint (60m) - FINALS	
Y6 Girls Sprint (70m) - FINALS	
Y6 Boys Sprint (70m) - FINALS	
Y3 Mixed Relay (40m)	Relay teams will consist of the boys and girls who finished 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd in the sprint heats for their House.
Y4 Mixed Relay (50m)	
Y5 Mixed Relay (60m)	
Y6 Mixed Relay (70m)	

Overall Winners announced!

Closing Parade 3:20pm

Please note, as per the newsletter, children will be dismissed from their classrooms at 3:30pm.

Sports Day: Frequently Asked Questions

When is Sports Day?

TUESDAY 19TH May 2026.

Where will it be happening?

On the school field, near to the new mobile.

What do I need to send my child into school with?

Children need to come into school wearing their PE kit (black shorts, House colour t-shirt, trainers and joggers/jumper if the forecast is cold).

Sun hat

A small bag with suncream, water bottle and a snack.

A cushion to sit on, ideally within a plastic bag so it doesn't get damp.

What are the timings?

9:30am: Gates will open for families.

9:45am: Children will parade onto the school field.

10am: Events start.

12pm: Morning session finishes.

Parents are asked to leave school whilst the children have their lunch.

1:15pm: Gates will re-open for families.

1:25pm: Children parade onto the school field.

1:30pm: Events start

3pm: Final scores announced

3:05pm: Children parade back into school.

3:30pm: Children dismissed from school.

Please note, all timings are approximate based on previous years events. We do our best to adhere to these timings but cannot guarantee them.

How many events will my child be in?

We have a number of events throughout the day. All children will compete in the heats for each event. The top three finishers from each heat will compete in a final to earn points for their House. For the field events (javelin, shot put, long jump) and the obstacle race heats will be completed during school time leading up to the event with the finals being held on Sports Day.

What do I need to bring with me?

Something comfortable to sit on!

Am I able to sit with my child?

We ask that all parents stay on the side of the track next to the new mobile.

Am I able to take photographs of my child?

We respectfully ask that if you wish to take photographs, that they contain only your child(ren) and request that photos are not shared to social media platforms.

Will refreshments be available?

A selection of drinks and cakes will be available to purchase from the new mobile. Please bring cash (ideally in change).

Can I help?

Yes please! If you are able to volunteer to run the refreshment stand for part of the day please speak to Mrs Patrick in the office. We will also welcome donations of cakes (homemade or shop bought) to be sold on the day.

Can I take my child home after the last event?

No, children will need to return to the school building. All children will be dismissed from their usual classrooms at 3:30pm.

Am I able to attend for part of the day?

Absolutely. The gates will be open for the duration of the event so please join us when you can.

When will my child be competing?

Check the Sports Day Programme for approximate timings. Events involving heats will include all of the children in that year group. Where the event states finals only (javelin, shot put, long jump and obstacle course) the children have completed the heats during lesson times. Your child will be able to tell you if they are in the final of those events.

Can I bring younger siblings?

Of course. Please make sure that they are supervised at all times to ensure their safety. The Adventure Playground will not be available on this day.

We aim for all children to have fun while doing athletics and enjoy being physically active. While we ensure that all children are included and are able to participate at their level, we also promote a healthy competitive spirit. Therefore, we celebrate winners and show a positive sporting attitude to everyone involved. Success can be measured in many ways; the main aim is for everyone to do their best and have fun.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Vardy (lvardy@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk) or the school office (office@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk).



Thomas Russell Junior School

Summer Term 2026



Y6 SATS Week:	Monday 11-Thursday 14 May
Y6 Trip to the Staffordshire Regiment	Friday 15 May
Meeting for Parents of Y3 (September 2026)	Monday 18 May 6pm
Sports Day:	Tuesday 19 May
Half Term:	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May
OPAL Volunteer Day:	Saturday 6 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

NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR

SING! West Midlands

Join **SING!** near you! Three **FREE** workshops led by expert vocal leaders from National Youth Choir. No experience needed! Come along to improve your singing, learn new songs together and make friends who love to sing.

For young people who are in Year 5 to 8 at state school or homeschooled
Free to take part • We can pay travel costs

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 16 May 2026, 10am-4pm**
Wolverhampton Music Service,
Graiseley Hill
- Saturday 27 June 2026, 10am-4pm**
Walsall Arena and Arts Centre
- Saturday 3 October 2026, 10am-4pm**
Cable Plaza, Brierley Hill
includes auditions for National Youth Choir

“Today made me happy and made me want to sing more”

Sign up for SING!
www.nationalyouthchoir.org.uk/sing-west-mids

CSSO City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra

See reverse for full programme information.

Music From the Movies

From *Indiana Jones* to *Psycho*, the CSSO presents Hollywood's greatest scores live in concert!

Saturday 6 June 2026
7.30pm at the King's Hall, Stoke

Tickets **£22 / £29 / £34**
Students and Children **£10**

www.csso.co.uk
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[CityofStokeSymphony](https://www.facebook.com/CityofStokeSymphony)
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