



Newsletter



Issue No.30

Headteacher: Mr J Emery

Friday 10 July 2026



	w/b 06.07.26
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	97.6%
Year 6	96.7%
TRJS Overall	97.4%

Super attendance everyone! Mr Emery is going to take an executive decision and round this up to 97.5% which means we all get 5 minutes extra play this week! Yay!

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award** today and will be sharing a treat 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	Nancy G, Isla O
Year 4	Hannah D-K, Alexander C
Year 5	Elsie W, Elsie B
Year 6	Naryan S, Thommas F

RSE Parent Consultation

Thank you to all parents who were able to come to the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy Consultation last week. Key points from the TRJS Policy on RSE were shared, along with examples of planning and resources used with the children in PSHE lessons. We had a good discussion on what and how we teach puberty, and what 'sex education' means at TRJS. This can also be found in our RSE Policy which is on the school website under 'About Our School' → 'Policies' [Thomas Russell Junior School - Policies](#). The powerpoint slides have been shared with all parents and carers. We start teaching the new Relationships and Health Curriculum statutory objectives in September 2026. (Miss Branson)

Friends of TRJS AGM

At our AGM last week, we appointed two new trustees and a committee for our Friends of TRJS. There is a new section of the school website under 'Parents' Information' → 'Friends of TRJS' where you can find the agendas and minutes of our meetings with all the relevant information. Anyone is welcome to attend a Friends meeting and we encourage our school community to consider if you are able to volunteer a few hours to help plan, resource or run events through the year. The date of the next meeting is **Monday 14 September at 5pm**. (Miss Branson)

Y5 Ukulele Performance

Well done to our talented Year 5 pupils! 5M and 5P performed brilliantly to parents and carers and shared the songs they have been learning this year in music lessons. Hothouse music teachers Mr Turner and Miss Hall have been teaching all children in Year 5 the ukulele this year with some outstanding results. Favourites in the class were the songs 'Shake it off' and 'Take me home'. Mr Turner explained that he has never performed 'Take me home' with a group of primary children before because of its difficulty, but our pupils performed it confidently and with skill. They also performed all their pieces from memory. Fantastic work Year 5 – well done! (Miss Marston)



KEEPING SAFE



NSPCC

All children at school have been part of our SpeakOut/Stay Safe learning this term. We have covered this important topic in assemblies (with the help of Ant and Dec!). We have discussed what sort of things constitute abuse, how everyone has the right to stay safe and what do if you are worried. Year 5 and 6 classes have also had further workshops with NSPCC staff who have developed this further in class lessons. The children have responded very well and been very sensible. Well done, everyone!

ROBLOX

Parents may have seen the ITV News report this week about the dangers of Roblox, the world's most popular gaming platform. Alleged Roblox-related incidents across England and Wales are up 87% in a year, with alleged grooming and online exploitation relating to children from 5 years old, with 11-year-olds appearing most frequently. Parents are reminded to monitor your children's time online and be aware of the very real dangers to our young people.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2026-07-08/its-where-predators-get-children-mums-roblox-warning-over-grooming-risks>



Bridge the Gap - support for parents and young people

When we think about confidence, it's easy to focus on things we can see.

- The child who puts their hand up.
- The teenager who seems outgoing.
- The young person who appears fearless.

Confidence isn't always what it looks like on the outside.

Many children grow up believing their self-worth depends on things such as:

- Getting good grades.
- Being popular.
- Winning.
- Looking a certain way.
- Getting praise from others.

The challenge is that these things can change.

When confidence is built entirely on external validation, it can feel fragile so at Bridge the Gap, we encourage children to think about confidence differently. Instead of asking: "What am I good at?"

We might ask:

- "Who am I becoming?"
- "What qualities matter to me?"
- "What strengths do I already have?"

Confidence is built on kindness, determination, bravery, creativity, curiosity and compassion tends to stay with us, even when life feels difficult.

This summer, our More Than Enough workshop invites young people and their adult to explore confidence, self-esteem and identity together. Through gentle conversation and creative activities, we'll explore:

- Strengths and talents
- Values and personal qualities
- Self-esteem and self-worth
- What it means to be enough exactly as you are

Because confidence isn't about becoming someone else, it's about about recognising the value that was already there.

Confidence can be a little like the weather.

Some days it feels strong and easy to find and other days it can disappear when we're trying something new, feeling nervous or facing a challenge.

Self-esteem is different. It's the quieter belief underneath that says:

- I have value.
- I am worthy.
- I am enough.

Even when confidence is having an off day.

That's why we're passionate about helping young people build confidence, but also develop a strong sense of who they are and the qualities that make them uniquely them.

Please see the fliers at the end of the newsletter. Parents can choose what they pay.

Join the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge!

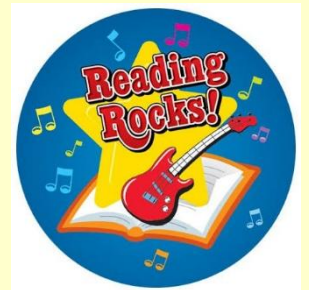
We are excited to announce the launch of this year's Summer Reading Challenge! The theme for 2026 is "**Read to the Beat**", celebrating the brilliant connection between reading, music, and rhythm. Running from **4th July to 30th September 2026**, it challenges pupils to read and explore their favourite books over the summer.

Miss Murfin and our fantastic TRJS Reading Ambassadors officially kicked off the excitement this week with a special school assembly, sharing how pupils can get involved, by either visiting **Barton Library** or signing up **online**.



Why take part?

- **Free and Fun:** It is completely free to sign up and take part.
- **Rewards:** Children can collect special stickers, character cards, and a medal or certificate upon finishing their goals.
- **Boost Brainpower:** Reading regularly over the summer keeps minds active and prevents the "summer dip" in literacy skills.
- **Discover New Worlds:** It is a wonderful way for children to find new authors, genres, and graphic novels.
- **Any Reading Counts:** Whether it is audiobooks, comics, graphic novels, or picture books, it all counts!



How to Enter:

1. **In Person:** Pop into **Barton Library** to sign up, collect your free starter pack, and get ready to earn rewards as you read over the holidays.
2. **Online:** If you cannot visit the library in person, you can still join the adventure by creating an account on the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) website. Log books you've read digitally and unlock virtual badges. Simply scan the QR code opposite to get started!
3. **REMEMBER:** It's important to make sure that you "**check out**" at Barton library or online once you've completed the challenge, to help TRJS top the **local school leaderboard**!



We encourage ALL pupils to get involved and join in the fun!

Happy reading! Miss Murfin 😊



Clubs

Please see below the overview of clubs for the first half of the Autumn Term. The table includes information of how to book places. They will go live on MCAS at 6pm this evening.

Y6 Leavers' Lunch – this will now be on **Wednesday 15 July**.

Staffing Update

We have appointed 2 teachers from September. Mrs Akhtar will be teaching 2 days a week, mostly in Year 4; Mrs Clamp will be teaching a day in Y5 and a day in Y6 each week. They both taught lessons with Year 4 classes this week and the children responded very well and were great ambassadors for TRJS.

We have appointed 2 teaching assistants from September. Mrs Girtchen will be supporting children in Year 5 and Miss Bull will be supporting children in Year 3.

We welcome our new staff to the team at TRJS and look forward to working with them.

Year 6 Residential (21-23 October 2026)

We are aware of the Y7 Open Evening at JTHS on Thursday 22 October and have a plan in place to allow parents to collect their child that evening and then return them to Whitemoor Lakes after the Open Evening.

Term Dates for 2026-2026

Please see the dates at the end of the newsletter. May we remind parents not to take children on family holidays during term time as this has a significant impact on a child's progress.

Night Owls and Early Birds

A reminder that Early Birds will be **£6 per session**; Night Owls will be **£12 per session (£6 on a Friday)**. The price increase will come into effect from 2 September 2026.

Night Owls and Early Birds bookings for the Autumn Term (September-December) is open on MCAS.

Dinner Money

A reminder to parents that the charge for school dinners will be **£3.00** per day from September.

Well done to all staff and pupils for carrying on in the heat this week. Hopefully the weather will be slightly cooler next week!

Have a good weekend everyone.

Come on England!

J Emery

What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
Rugby Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Rugby with Mr Tolley	Mondays 07/09, 14/09, 21/09, 28/09, 05/10, 12/10, 19/10	Y3-6	£7 (only £1 per week)	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 10 th July 2026 Payment item will be on Parentpay W/C 07/09
Football 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	Y3-6	£38.50	www.soccerstarsuk.co.uk Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers. Please check the link for the opening date.
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	Y3-6	£70	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 10 th July 2026 Payment item will be on Parentpay W/C 07/09
Keyboard Club 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	Y3-6	£2 each week	Contact support@hhmusic.co.uk directly to register interest
Cooking 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Cook Stars	Tuesdays 08/09, 15/09, 22/09, 29/09, 06/10, 13/10, 20/10	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 09/09, 16/09, 23/09, 30/09, 07/10, 14/10, 21/10	Y3-6	£7 (£1 each week)	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 10 th July 2026 Payment item will be on Parentpay W/C 07/09
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Mrs Veevers	Thursdays 10/09, 17/09, 24/09, 01/10, 08/10, 15/10, 22/10	Y3-6	£70	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 10 th July 2026 Payment item will be on Parentpay W/C 07/09
3D Printing Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Inclusive Kidz Club	Fridays 11/09, 18/09, 25/09, 02/10, 09/10, 16/10, 23/10	Y3-6	£35	Places limited to 15 children.



Thomas Russell Junior School

Term Dates 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

<i>Inset day</i> (School closed for pupils):	<i>Tuesday 1 September</i>
Term Starts for pupils:	Wednesday 2 September
Half Term:	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October
<i>Inset Day</i> (School closed for pupils):	<i>Monday 2 November</i>
Term Ends:	Friday 18 December
Holiday:	Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January

Spring Term 2027

<i>Inset Day</i> (School closed for pupils):	<i>Monday 4 January</i>
Term Starts for pupils:	Tuesday 5 January
<i>Inset Day</i> (School closed for pupils):	<i>Friday 12 February</i>
Half Term:	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February
Term Ends:	Thursday 25 March
Holiday:	Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April
Easter Sunday:	Sunday 28 March

Summer Term 2027

Term Starts:	Monday 12 April
May Day:	Monday 3 May
Half Term:	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
<i>Inset Day</i> (School closed for pupils):	<i>Friday 2 July</i>
Term Ends:	Wednesday 21 July
Holiday:	Thursday 22 July – Wednesday 1 September

(Thursday 2 September 2027 and Friday 3 September 2027 will be INSET Days, so the Autumn Term 2027 will start for pupils on Monday 6 September 2027.)

BRIDGE THE GAP
Adult & Child

MORE THAN ENOUGH:

GROWING CONFIDENCE TOGETHER
11th August 10:30am-11:30am

Choose what you pay!



A summer workshop for **11-14 year olds** and an adult to support with self-esteem and confidence!

ONLINE BOOKING
JWBRIDGETHEGAP.COM

BRIDGE THE GAP
Adult & Child

TURNING DOWN THE INTERNAL SMOKE ALARM:

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY TOGETHER
28th July 10:30am-11:30am

Choose what you pay!



A summer workshop for **11-14 year olds** and an adult to support with understanding anxiety, worries and coping skills!

ONLINE BOOKING
JWBRIDGETHEGAP.COM

STORYTIME AND CRAFT WORKSHOP



BOOST YOUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE
For children aged 6-11

THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST - PERFECTLY NORMAN
For children who struggle with self-esteem or confidence and feel like they don't "fit in". Learn to celebrate uniqueness.

BOOK ONLINE NOW
JWBRIDGETHEGAP.COM

Choose what you pay

COMPASSIONATE CRAFTS FREE COMMUNITY SESSIONS



AMAZING ME! SELF-ESTEEM SESSION

Amazing Me is a session for children aged 7 - 11 years to get crafty and learn a little about self esteem in a gentle way

Friday 14th August 2pm - 3pm at Bridge the Gap
BOOK ONLINE NOW JWBRIDGETHEGAP.COM

Family Hub Staffordshire

FREE SONG WRITING WORKSHOP

with **Joel Foster**

12TH AUGUST

1ST SESSION 10AM - 12PM AGES 8-12 YEARS	2ND SESSION 1PM - 3PM AGES 13-18 YEARS
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Joel Foster is a 21 yr old singer/song writer from Burton-on-Trent. Join Joel for a creative and inspiring workshop designed to support young people to learn about the music industry and explore song writing.

- Learn about the music industry and song writing from a real artist
- Incorporates aspects of PSHE covering mental health, bullying and healthy relationships
- Build confidence, be creative and connect with others

LOCATION: East Staffordshire Family Hub, Waterloo Street, Burton, DE14 2NJ

TO BOOK:
Call: 01283 233440
Email: eaststaffsfamilyhub@staffordshire.gov.uk