



Newsletter



Newsletter 1: Friday 4 September 2026



Welcome back everyone!

It has been a joy to see all our children returning or starting school this week with such a positive attitude. Attendance has been very high at 99.1%. Year 3 have made an amazing start, with attendance of 100%. Wow! There will be five minutes extra play for all year groups!

We have reminded everyone that we can all be heroes and be at school every day to achieve our very best. The school understand that there may be days when a child is genuinely poorly. However, there may be times when “a bit of a headache” or “a bit of tummy ache” should not prevent a child from being at school. We aim to work with our parents and will let you know if a child is unwell in school. Please work with us to help your child attend as regularly as possible. You only get one chance at education so let us make sure that every child makes the most of it!

School Values

Our school poem reads:

*“TRJS is the place to be;
Be KIND, be BRAVE and SHOW INTEGRITY.
We all LOVE LEARNING and have fun too;
We EXCEL and give our BEST in all we do.”*

This week in assemblies, we have been thinking about what being kind and brave looks like. We were all quite amazed by the determination and resilience of this baby bear, supported and encouraged by mama bear. What a journey! What an achievement! Maybe we are like the baby bear on occasions and we, too, can persevere, be brave and reach our goal.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=video+of+baby+bear+on+%2countain&mid=43750D04B50E0BB455FA43750D04B50E0BB455FA&FORM=VIRE>



House Captains

This week saw many brave and articulate Year 6 pupils give a speech to their house as part of the election process. Staff were very impressed by the confident, mature and well-prepared candidates. The results of the election are at the end of the newsletter. These are very important roles; we are confident they will all be great ambassadors for TRJS and set a great example to the younger children. Congratulations to our new House and Vice-Captains!

Healthy Snacks

We remind parents about the school's focus on encouraging healthy eating for our pupils. As communicated last term, at TRJS we ask that all children bring a healthy snack to school. Fruit and/or vegetables are an ideal snack for morning break. We do not expect children to bring sweets, chocolate or crisps as a snack. We have also thought about the impact of single-use plastics on the environment, so we encourage re-usable plastic containers as shown in this picture. We have already seen a significant reduction in the amount of litter on the school playground.

Please be assured that we understand that children who bring a packed lunch may have a range of food that parents feel is right for your child. For packed lunches, we encourage healthy options with reduced single-use plastic. However, we will leave those choices up to parents. Thank you for your support.

YES



NO



OPAL Update

As the much-needed rain has fallen this week, we have reminded all children that for the majority of this term, the children will only be allowed to play on the field if they have a pair of wellies to put on. We ask that all wellies (both left and right!) have names in so we know who they belong to. The wellies can be stored in the containers outside each year group and left in school for the duration of the term.



Maths Groups for Y4,5,6

The governors of the school have agreed the school budget to allow each year group to have smaller classes for teaching maths. Mrs Rollins will be taking a maths group in Year 4; Mrs Vardy will be taking a maths group in Year 5 and 6. The maths groups for Y4,5 and 6 will start next week and parents will be informed in a letter to communicate which teacher their child will have for maths moving forward. We will allow Year 3 to settle in before deciding how we group the children for maths.

Choir

Thank you to those children who have volunteered to sing in an informal choir at the Teddy Festival on Saturday. Parents are asked to bring the children to the Tea Tent on the south side of the church by 2pm and remain in the vicinity to keep an eye on your child until we finish singing at about 2.30pm.

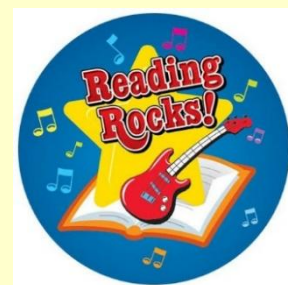
Morning Routine

A reminder that we ask all parent to allow their child to make their own way through the school gates and down the path in the morning. The children will have chance to chat with friends on the playground and then make their own way to the classrooms from 8.45am. Please be assured that there are always staff on the school gate and staff in the playground to help supervise.



The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge

A reminder that it is not too late to enter 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.



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! (Miss Murfin)

Dates for 2026-2027

Please see the term dates at the end of the newsletter. We ask parents to avoid taking family holidays during term time. There are 13 weeks in which to take a holiday. Let's all work together to help our children be the very BEST they can be!

Y3 Friday Assembly

The new Year 3 parents are invited to join us for our assembly on **Friday 18 September at 2.30pm**.

Join our Team!

We have 2 vacancies for lunchtime supervisors at TRJS. Please see the advert at the end of the newsletter. The relevant documentation can be found on the school website under:

About our School>Vacancies at TRJS>Vacancies September 2026

Please do get in touch and speak to Mr Emery or Mrs Vardy if you are interested.

Secondary School Admissions

Letters regarding applications for admission to secondary school will be sent out to all Year 6 on Monday. The letter includes information on how to apply. Parents are reminded that the deadline is 31 October, so we would advise that parents complete the online process well before half term.

Night Owls

A reminder to all parents using Night Owls that we require the contact form which includes a password for when adults collect at the end of Night Owls. This is especially important for the new Y3 parents and when other adults collect a child, so staff can verify the correct adult to keep all children safe.

Medical Needs

The school has revised our approach to allergy awareness and medical needs. To ensure that we have the correct information to keep all our children safe, parents are expected to update any medical needs for their child via MCAS. However, if parents prefer, please email patrick@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Have a good weekend. See you at the Teddy Festival!

J Emery

Anson

Captains:

Penny Mills
Sam Murraywood

Vice-Captains:

Nancy Mills
Santi Allen



Bassett

Captains:

Jess Brown
Ethan Holdcroft

Vice-Captains:

Elizabeth Sylvester
Albie Garner



Clinton

Captains:

Francesca Maiden
Leo

Vice-Captains:

Clara Knight-Dutton
George Broughton



Jervis

Captains:

Thea Robbins
George Walker

Vice-Captains:

Annabel Rooney
James Thompson



Thomas Russell Junior School

Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

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

Spring Term 2027

Inset Day (School closed for pupils):	Monday 4 January
Term Starts for pupils:	Tuesday 5 January
Inset Day (School closed for pupils):	Friday 12 February
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
Inset Day (School closed for pupils):	Friday 2 July
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.)



**Thomas Russell Junior School, Gilmour Lane,
Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire, DE13 8EU**



**Lunchtime Supervisors
Part-time (6.25 hours per week)
1 Permanent and 1 Temporary**

Grade 2 £22,737 per annum (Pro Rata) Term-Time Only
Start date: ASAP

We are looking to appoint 2 **enthusiastic** and **highly motivated** lunchtime supervisors to join our successful school on a permanent and temporary basis.

6.25 hours per week – 12:05-1:20 - Monday - Friday - Term time only.

The positions will involve working as part of a team under the direction and support of the Senior Lunchtime Supervisor and the rest of the school team.

Responsibilities include monitoring and ensuring the safety and good behaviour of children during the lunch break, supporting pupils into lunchtime play activities and administering first aid.

We are keen to appoint people to our team who are willing to support the ethos of the school and have the energy and enthusiasm to work well with our lovely children.

To apply for this post, please download the application form below or contact the school office to collect a paper application form.

All completed applications must be returned to the school by 28 September 2026

Tel: 01283 247505

headteacher@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Additional Information

This position is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

This Authority and school are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

If a candidate is short-listed any relevant issue arising from his or her references will be taken up at interview. Please be aware that social media checks will be carried out on short-listed candidates.

**J Emery
Headteacher**