



Newsletter



Issue No.6 Friday 16 October 2026



	w/b 12.10.26
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	95.8%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	98.3%
TRJS Overall	97.7%

Another week of good attendance at TRJS. A special shout out to Year 5 for achieving over 99%. So far this year, our attendance to date for the whole school is 98.6% which is a great start. Keep going HEORES!

HOT CHOCOLATE WITH MR EMERY

Congratulations to everyone who has received the **TRJS Weekly Values Award**. We hope you enjoy your 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!

Year 3	Theo V, Ayla T, Esme S-D, Oscar B
Year 4	Max P, Hugo B, Hugo S-S, Alice S
Year 5	Svannah H, Arthur G, Josie G, Rory B
Year 6	Thea R, Berivan M, Luca C, Lucy G

KEEPING SAFE

Cycling

We have seen a large increase in children bringing their bikes to school, which is great to see. However, we have received a number of messages from concerned parents about safety as some children are riding their bikes down the pavement without due care for pedestrians. We have a number of younger siblings and toddlers who also come to school to drop off/pick up children, so we ask everyone to take care. If your child bikes to school, please remind them to ride safely and get off their bikes between the crossing on Gilmour Lane and the school gates. Children are then asked to WALK their bike into school. This will help keep everyone safe.

Road Safety

There have been reports of Y5 or Y6 children being silly on Efflinch Lane, wrestling each other and shouting at cars on the way home from school. Please remind the children to stay calm and sensible as they make their way home. There is an increasing amount of traffic on Efflinch Lane, so let's keep safe!



Exciting News: The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming to TRJS!

We are delighted to announce that our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** will be arriving at school next month, bringing a fantastic selection of books for all ages and reading abilities. It is the perfect opportunity to encourage a love of reading and browse a wonderful range of fiction, non-fiction, and activity books just in time for Christmas, all served up by our TRJS Reading Ambassadors! 📖📖📖

To ensure everyone has a comfortable browsing experience, we are splitting the fair across two separate afternoons:

- **Monday 16th November: Year 4 and Year 6**
- **Wednesday 18th November: Year 3 and Year 5**

The fair will open straight after school from **3:30pm to 5:00pm** on both evenings.

Important Information: CASH ONLY

Please note that we will only be accepting **cash payments** at this event. We are unfortunately unable to process card payments or digital vouchers, so please remember to bring change (coins and notes) with you.

After browsing the shelves, we invite you to stay and enjoy some **refreshments and sweet treats**. Unwind with a hot chocolate and a biscuit, crack open those freshly printed pages, and lose yourself in a brand-new world! If you would be willing to volunteer to run our refreshments stall on either (or both) book fair dates, please contact Miss Murfin with your availability:

cmurfin@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk



Every book purchased helps us earn free books and resources for our new school library and reading scheme, so your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the joy of reading! 😊

CLUBS

Please see the list of after-school clubs at the end of the newsletter. A reminder that any club that needs booking via MCAS will go live at 6pm tonight, 16 October 2026.

“Buggingham Hotel” Project



As parents know, each class is having a Forest School afternoon this term. We have a plan to create a bug hotel. Last time it was 3K who had a fantastic time, doing their bit to create “Buggingham Hotel”.

The children enthusiastically drilled holes into logs and carefully tied bundles of sticks together using wool to



create cosy spaces for minibeasts. They worked brilliantly as a team, enjoyed learning about habitats, and were excited to help encourage insects and other small creatures to make our bug hotel their new home. We can't wait to see who checks in to Buggingham Hotel next! 🐞 🐸 🍄 🌿



Harvest Assemblies

Thank you to all our families who joined us for the assemblies today. The children were brilliant and were so excited to see their parents and carers there to support. It is a joy to hear the children perform and sing with such enthusiasm and pride.

We also thank Rev Andy, Miss Branson and John (from Hope) for joining our celebration. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. Harvest time is a great opportunity to remember to be thankful and to share with those in need. The Burton Hope charity does great work - it is important to support them where we can. Thank you everyone!



Take Ten To Read: Guinness World Record Attempt!



On Thursday 8th October, TRJS pupils made reading history by participating in a massive GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ attempt. Organised by the [National Literacy Trust](#), the Take Ten to Read event aimed to set the record for the most people reading online in 12 hours.

The record attempt was a key highlight of the National Year of Reading 2026. Designed to promote the immediate mental health benefits of reading, it celebrated how just 10 minutes of reading a day can significantly boost personal wellbeing and reduce stress.

How Our Key Stage 2 Pupils Took Part

Classes across Key Stage 2 logged onto a live stream broadcast, featuring world-renowned children's author, Frank Cottrell-Boyce. They listened to inspiring stories about identity and creativity, before settling down for their official, uninterrupted 10-minutes of independent reading. Pupils were encouraged to choose their own reading materials and classrooms were filled with a fantastic variety of texts, including:

- Adventure novels and comic books
- Non-fiction books and magazines
- Poetry and sports match reports”

What Happens Next?

By joining the live stream, our school joined thousands of other students across the UK - and partners in 85 countries and territories around the globe - in creating a truly international reading community. All participation evidence has now been officially compiled and submitted to Guinness World Records for verification.

We are keeping our fingers crossed and will let everyone know as soon as the official results are confirmed!



A huge well done to all our Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 readers for their fabulous reading and for being part of this incredible global event!

Calendar Dates

Please see the TRJS Calendar Dates at the end of the Newsletter. Any new dates are in **RED**.

Wishing all our families a pleasant weekend.

J Emery

What	Provider	When	Year Group	Cost	Information
Multi-Skills 3.30-4.30pm	Burton Albion Community Trust	Mondays 9/11, 16/11, 23/11, 30/11, 07/12	Y3-6	£10 (£2 per week)	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 16 th October 2026 Payment item will be on ParentPay W/C 02/11
Football 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Soccerstars	Tuesdays 03/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 01/12, 08/12	Y3-6	£38.50	Thomas Russell Junior School SoccerstarsUK Soccer Stars also accept childcare vouchers. Please check the link for the opening date.
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Mrs Veevers	Tuesdays 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 01/12,	Y3-6	£40	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 16 th October 2026 Payment item will be on Parentpay W/C 02/11 PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE ONLY 4 SESSIONS
Keyboard Club 3:30pm-4:15pm	Hot House Music	Tuesdays 03/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 01/12, 08/12	Y3-6	£12	Please use the QR Code, scroll to the bottom and you will see After School Club 
Cooking 3:30pm – 4:45pm	Cook Stars	Tuesdays 03/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11, 01/12, 08/12, 15/12	Y3-6	£87.50	Please visit https://portal.cookstars.franscape.io/class-overview/5747 for spaces or to be added to the waiting list.
Table Tennis Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Mr Kerr	Wednesdays 04/11, 11/11, 18/11, 25/11, 02/12, 09/12,	Y3-6	£7	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 16 th October 2026 Payment item will be on ParentPay W/C 02/11
Woodland Warriors 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Mrs Veevers	Thursdays 05/11, 12/11, 19/11, 26/11, 03/12, 10/12	Y3-6	£60	Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 16 th October 2026 Payment item will be on ParentPay W/C 02/11
Stop Motion Club 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Inclusive Kidz Club	Thursdays 05/11, 12/11, 19/11, 26/11, 03/12, 10/12	Y3-6	£30	Please visit Home Inclusivekidsclubs Bookings open at 6pm Friday 16 th October 2026
3D Printing Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Inclusive Kidz Club	Fridays 06/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 04/12, 11/12	Y3-6	£30	Please visit Home Inclusivekidsclubs Bookings open at 6pm Friday 16 th October 2026
CHOIR 3.30-4.20pm	Mr Emery (Please note that choir will finish at 4.20pm.)	Fridays 06/11, 13/11 20/11, 04/12	Y3-6	Free	Choir will be rehearsing for these Christmas Performances: TRJS Christmas Fair (Friday 27 November - 4.00pm) Switching on of the Lights (Sunday 29 November - 5pm) Tea and Chat (Monday 7 December - 2.00pm) If your child would like to represent the school at these events, they need to attend rehearsals. 😊 Available to book on the MCAS App from 6pm on Friday 16th October 2026.

October

Wed 21 - Fri 23rd Y6 Whitemoor Lakes

Thurs 22nd JTHS Open Evening for prospective Y7 students. (Please see individual high school websites for dates for other local schools).

Mon 26th - Fri 30th Half term

November

Mon 2nd INSET day – school closed to pupils

Fri 6th Fundraising event to support Miss Hurdman – bring spare trainers.

Mon 9th Y5 Fire station trip + Y6 Library visit

Wed 11th Remembrance Day – House/Vice Captains to the War Memorial.

Fri 13th Children in Need non-uniform day

Mon 16th Y4 Library visit Book Fair Y4/6

Wed 18th Book Fair Y3/5

Fri 20th Non-uniform in exchange for a bottle for the tombola + Flu immunisations

Mon 23rd Y3 Library visit

Fri 27th PTFA Christmas Fair 3:40pm

Mon 30th Y5 Library visit

December

Tues 1st SEND Support Plan reviews Y4/5 1:20pm-3:20pm

Tues 1st Parents Evening – Y3/4/5/6

Thurs 3rd SEND Support plan reviews Y3/6 1:20pm-3:20pm

Thurs 3rd Parents Evening – Y3/4/5/6

Wed 9th Christmas Dinner

Tues 15th Christmas production in church – please note change of date.
+ Christmas Disco 3:30-4:30pm Y3/4 4:45-6pm Y5/6

Fri 18th Cinema trip – all years

January

Mon 4th INSET – school closed to pupils

Tues 5th School opens to pupils

Thurs 21st Full Governing Body Meeting

TBC Library Grand Opening

February

Fri 12th INSET Day – school closed to pupils

Mon 15 – Fri 19th Half term

Thurs 25th Full Governing Body Meeting

February

Mon 22nd Y6 Library Visit

March

Mon 1st Y5 Library visit

Thurs 4th World Book Day

Fri 5th Nurse to visit Y6 for puberty talk + Y5 girls for menstruation talk

Mon 8th Y4 Library visit

Wed 17th – Fri 19th Y5 Laches Wood

Fri 19th Comic Relief non-uniform day

Mon 22nd SEND Support plan reviews Y3/4 1:20-3:20pm

Mon 22nd Y3 Library visit Parents' evening Year 3/4/6

Tues 23rd SEND Support plan reviews Y5/6 1:20-3:20pm

Tues 23rd Parents' evening Y5

Wed 24th Parents' evening all years

Thurs 25th Last day of spring term

Fri 26th - Fri 9th April – Easter holidays

April

Mon 12th School opens to pupils

Thurs 29th Full Governing Body Meeting

May

Mon 3rd May Day - school closed to pupils

Mon 10th - Thurs 13th SATS for Y6 pupils

Fri 14th Y6 Fun Day TBC

Thurs 27th – Sports Day

Mon 31st - Fri 4th June Half term

June

Mon 7th School opens to pupils + Y6 Library visit

Mon 7-18th Y4 MTC window

Mon 14th Y5 library visit Introduction to Y3 parent meeting for prospective Y2 parents

Thurs 17th Reserve Sports Day

Thurs 17th Full Governing Body Meeting

Mon 21st Y4 Library visit

JTHS Induction TBC (28/29/30th June – children to attend on ONE day TBC by JTHS)

Mon 28th Y3 Library visit

July

Fri 2nd INSET – school closed to pupils

Mon 5th Y3/4 SEND Support Plan reviews 1.20-3.20pm

Tues 6th Hot House Y3 Keyboards performance to parents 1:15pm-3:30pm (exact timing for each class TBC).

Wed 7th Hot House Y5 Ukeleles performance to parents 1:15-3:30pm
(exact timing for each class TBC).

Thurs 8th Y5/6 Support Plan reviews 1.20-3.20pm

Thurs 15th Y6 Leavers' Party 2-6pm

Fri 16th Leavers' lunch

July Continued

Fri 16th End of Year Reports

Wed 21st Y6 Performance to parents

Wed 21st Break up for the summer