



# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



PAGE 2

### A NOTE FROM MS BROOKS

Headteacher's Update

PAGE 3

### SCHOOL INFO

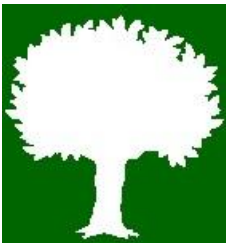
PAGE 4

### CLASS UPDATES

A round up of the week

PAGE 9

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



## Headteacher's Update:

Dear families,

And just like that, our first half term comes to a close – and we have so many positives to reflect upon. The children have settled into their new classrooms, built new friendships and developed new skills. We have welcomed parents and carers into school for workshops, parents/carers' eves, coffee mornings and a Year 6 assembly. As a whole school, we have spent lots of time thinking about the values of kindness and responsibility. We have been out and about on trips. We have welcomed visitors into our assemblies. We have presented a fabulous music concert. And last but not least, we have really enjoyed getting to know our new families and we are all very grateful to all families for their engagement, support and advice.

Thank you to all of you who attended our first parents / carers' eve of the academic year. If you didn't make it, we will be in touch to see if we can set up an alternative meeting as it is such a valuable experience. As promised, we will invite families back in to look at books next half term. Further details are below.

Our community Music Concert last Sunday was a huge success. We had such a range of performers and repertoire. There really was something for everyone and as ever, this joyous event showcased so many facets of our community. Thank you so much to those of you who volunteered your time, talent, baking skills and more. And of course, a huge special thanks to Mrs Thomas, Manon and Parry, whose energy and enthusiasm drove the performance from beginning to end. The event has raised over £2000, which will go towards further-enriching and enhancing our outstanding music provision. We have included some more details and photo highlights below.

After half term, your children will be moving on to new topics and areas of learning. Do talk to your children about their learning highlights of the first half term. On **Monday 11th November at 3.15pm, Yr 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6** families will have the opportunity to see some of these highlights in books. Please come in to your children's classrooms at the end of the day and your children will share their learning with you. If you have children in a number of classes, you are welcome to move around as you need to. **Please note-Year 5 families will have this book sharing opportunity on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November after watching the class assembly.**

As you know, school attendance is of significant national importance, with updated guidance given to schools. The school's overall attendance for the first half of the autumn term is below the national average, which is disappointing. Of course, some of this is due to illness but some is due to term-time unauthorised holidays. I have included our updated attendance policy with this newsletter and as I shared with you all at the beginning of term, please be aware that there is now a national threshold for considering a penalty notice. **The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. One school day counts as two sessions.** As a school, we will be considering penalty notices from the start of the Autumn 2 term. Nevertheless, we will continue to consider individual circumstances and will always try to find ways to support families and children around attendance in order to avoid penalties.

At some point in the next half term, we will hold a 'stay inside' (lockdown) drill in school. We will talk to the children first, before we action this, ensuring this is managed carefully so as not to cause upset. We will use the example of a deer from Richmond Park getting on to the school site, meaning we all have to stay inside.

Thank you to all of you, as ever, for supporting the school. We have had a great first half-term and I look forward to the next half. But first, I hope you all have an opportunity to enjoy some rest, relaxation and family time and to all our families celebrating Diwali, I hope you have a wonderful time with your families.

*L Brooks*

# A Musical Masterpiece!



A few highlights from Sunday's concert. A joyous afternoon of music, community and friendship involving 47 children from Years 2 – 6 who took part in solos, ensembles, choirs and the orchestra. Huge thanks to everyone who made the event possible – it was a real team effort and over £2000 was raised!

There was a musical fair in the interval, advertising some of our instrumental teachers. We have a prospective new harp teacher and if you would like more information about learning, please get in touch with Mrs Thomas ([e.thomas@russell.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:e.thomas@russell.richmond.sch.uk)). Lessons could start after half term; there are several other instruments on offer – so please do enquire.



# Diwali Celebration



In today's assembly, we listened to the story of Rama and Sita and Mrs Srinivasan shared some objects and books that her family use to celebrate Diwali. For our families who celebrate Diwali, we wish you a happy time, full of light.

# Look What We Have Been Learning...

## Nursery

We have enjoyed welcoming new children to the Nursery this term and all the children have settled really well. We have enjoyed learning about school routines and learning to become more independent at putting on our coats, shoes and organising our things.

This week we have been carving pumpkins and exploring what's inside.

We have been reading the story of 'Room on the Broom' and making spells.

The children have been learning new vocabulary in cooking and this week we 'melted' chocolate to make chocolate marshmallow bats. They were delicious!



## Reception

Reception have had a fantastic first term, learning through our topic, **This is Me! Here I am!** We started by looking at ourselves and our families, and then moved on to talk about our class family. We explored all our similarities and differences and started thinking about how we work together to make sure our classroom is a place where we can all flourish. We ended the term by exploring our namesake, Yoko Ono. We loved learning more about her country of birth, Japan, and learning about some of the traditions and language there. We also listened to her experimental and often improvised compositions and had a go at singing along! We look forward to learning more about all the other sides to Yoko Ono, including her work as an artist and as a peace activist.





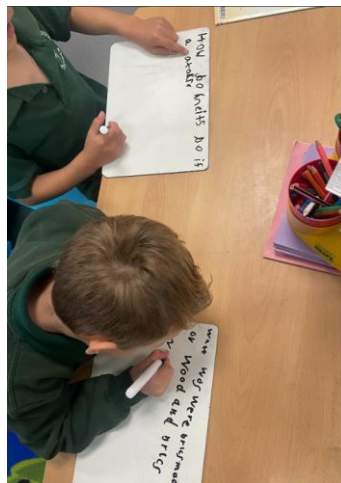
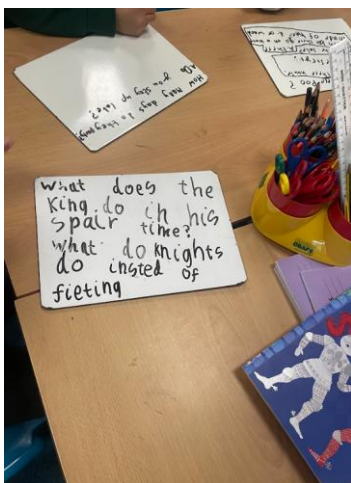
# Year 1

May class have settled incredibly well into Year 1. The children have been learning about all the different traditional tales as we have explored different characters, settings and themes. Unfortunately, all our characters around the classroom went missing so we have been busy creating posters to put up around the school to try and find them! In history, our topic has been *school days* and children have been looking into their own family tree as well as the history of the school and how schools have changed over time. To help the children's learning we teamed up with Year 6 who helped teach the children what school life was like in the Victorian era. The children even had an immersive experience in the year 6 classroom with Miss Morgan turning into Mam! I am incredibly proud of how hard work the children have worked and I wish you all a great half term!



# Year 2

Year 2 have had a great first half term. The term started with the discovery of a dragon's egg, prompting lots of descriptive writing and this week we have been looking at the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts. We asked questions and then we researched the answers, using the non-fiction texts we had available. We have been exploring different materials in science, which helped us to construct houses. The children have gone to great lengths to construct their own castles and they are all on display outside our classroom.



## Year 3

Wow! What a fantastic first half term we have had in Year 3! It has been wonderful getting to know all the students, and I'm excited to continue our journey throughout the year. The class has completed some amazing writing inspired by the book, *Stone Age Boy*. Their creativity and enthusiasm have truly shone through! We also kicked off the year with our first school trip to Richmond Museum, where we learned more about the Stone Age and even created some fabulous Stone Age jewellery. As we head into the half term break, I hope everyone enjoys a relaxing and restful time.

Important note: After half term, our PE day will change from Thursday to Wednesday. Please remember to bring in PE kits! See you all after the break!



## Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic half term learning all about the Anglo-Saxons in history, and electricity in science. This week, we visited Richmond Museum to learn more about Anglo-Saxon life through crafts and different workshops. The children really enjoyed this and were perfect representatives of our school! It has also been lovely to see all of the children's progress and enjoyment in their swimming lessons over the last few weeks. Thank you for all your hard work year 4!



# Year 5

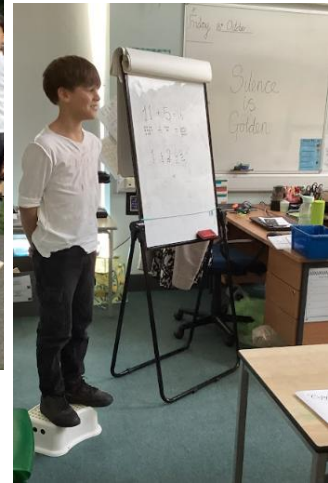
It is incredible to think that we are one sixth of the way through the year already! We have been so busy...time really does fly when you're having fun. We celebrated National Poetry Day and harvest and we have been spending lots of time exploring parts of our school that we don't get to look at very often, to help us with our setting descriptions and to see the autumnal changes around us. In science, we have been using our *working scientifically* skills to observe changes over time, whilst discovering the hidden places bacteria like to live! We have seen some amazing and very creative ancient journals – it seems a shame to actually use them, but we have written, in the character of our class novel, to see if we have some of the same character traits! Hopefully these journals will be special keepsakes for a few years to come! As part of our history topic, we have been learning all about the difficult decisions the peasants had to make during The Peasants' Revolt. In maths, we have been continuing to understand the role of each digit in numbers less than 1 and adding and subtracting decimals to 2 decimal places (using money). Thank you for all your support this half term and we look forward to a fun filled build up to the festive season when we return!





# Year 6

What an end to our very first half term. We have completed our first assembly, first trip, and taken on our new roles. We organised a Victorian dress up day, and experienced an afternoon as children in a Victorian school. Year 1 and 6 spent an afternoon together completing various schooling activities, including handwriting, arithmetic, rules and drills. This day helped the year 6 cohort develop their communication and leadership skills and they have continued to develop these within their whole-school roles. Sports captains have started organising and leading their own KS1 drill group to support the younger children, whilst learning mentors are supporting all year groups.



ARTS RICHMOND 2024

# Young Writers' Festival

Please visit our website for more information and to submit your work: [ArtsRichmond.org.uk](https://ArtsRichmond.org.uk)



**Submissions close Friday 6th December 2024**

**Anthony Horowitz writes:**

I am very happy to be working with Arts Richmond and their Young Writers' Festival. I have recently moved to Richmond and love the area... in fact my recent book is set here.

More to the point, I'm always keen to encourage young people to develop their creative skills and if they're living in this area, there's plenty to inspire them. Just walking along the river, in the park or on the green, we're surrounded by history and enchantment and there are stories everywhere. Good luck. And get writing!



Arts Richmond, Room 21, ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR.  
Registered Charity in England and Wales No 251359

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## ‘Helping children with...’ Webinars for parents 2024/25

Achieving for Children's Mental Health Support Teams are delivering a series of webinars for parents of primary-aged children. The ‘Helping Children with ...’ series of webinars will cover a range of common difficulties experienced by children and will aim to share evidence-based strategies to help parents and carers support their children with these difficulties. Below is a list of webinars on offer over the coming months.

Helping children with ...	Overview of webinar	Morning 9am	Evening 6pm
<b>Worries</b>	The ‘Helping children with worries’ webinar will help you learn ways to support your child in dealing with their big feelings, worries and fears. This webinar will give you practical ideas on how to help your child to think more positively and develop their self confidence. You will also be introduced to some helpful cognitive behavioural therapy concepts.	Tuesday 12th November 2024  AND Friday 25th April 2025	Friday 24th January 2025
<b>Resilience</b>	The ‘Helping children with resilience’ webinar will support you in understanding how children develop resilience, while exploring a variety of helpful coping skills, and what you can do as a parent or carer to help them be their most confident self.	Friday 31st January 2025	Monday 14th October 2024  AND Thursday 20th March 2025
<b>Friendships</b>	In this webinar we will learn how to support our children develop their friendship skills: learning to communicate better, repair difficulties, and negotiate solutions when relationships between peers are tricky.	Friday 28th February 2025	Monday 18th November 2024  AND Tuesday 29th April 2025
<b>Challenging behaviours</b>	Children often communicate their needs through their behaviours. The ‘Helping children with challenging behaviours’ webinar will help you to learn about the different factors that can impact children’s behaviours, build or strengthen positive relationships by reinforcing the importance of giving positive attention. You will also learn strategies to establish home rules and	Friday 6th December 2024	Tuesday 24th September 2024  AND Monday 3rd March 2025



	boundaries to create a safe and structured environment for your children.		
<b>Screen time</b>	In this webinar we discuss the positive and negative impact of screen time and gaming on a child's mental wellbeing. We will share the recommendations for screen time based on age, how to have this conversation with your child in a positive and effective manner and a simple and effective way to manage the use of screens in your home.	Friday 14th February 2025	Wednesday 2nd October 2024  AND  Friday 2nd May 2025
<b>Sleep</b>	The <b>'Helping children with sleep'</b> webinar introduces a number of key concepts and strategies to support you in creating a healthy bedtime routine for your child. This webinar focuses on the importance of sleep due to its impact on child development and wellbeing, and explores key components in enhancing sleep quality.	Friday 9th May 2025	Wednesday 27th November 2024  AND  Tuesday 8th July 2025
<b>Transition to Secondary</b>	In this webinar we will explore the main worries children may experience when moving from primary to secondary school. We will help parents/carers think about the different ways to help to support and get their children prepared for the transition.	Thursday 22nd May 2025	Tuesday 20th May 2025  AND  Tuesday 10th June 2025

\*All Webinars are 60 minutes long, with 15 minutes at the end for questions and answers.

*\*Please have a pen and paper handy for the webinar.*

### How to sign up

Parents and carers can sign up to the webinars by scanning the QR code or using the link below:



[https://afc-self.achieveservice.com/service/MHST\\_Helping\\_Children\\_Webinars\\_Primary](https://afc-self.achieveservice.com/service/MHST_Helping_Children_Webinars_Primary)

You can choose the date you would like to attend, and will need to provide your email address, the school your child attends, and their year group.

### Who to contact

If you have any questions, please contact the school Mental Health Lead, who will direct queries to the allocated MHST practitioner.



# Half Term at MUSEUM of RICHMOND

## **FAMILY WORKSHOP: SPOOKY STAINED GLASS**

Tuesday 29 October to Friday 1 November, 10am to 12noon  
Discover the stories of the Ghosts that haunt the remains of Richmond Palace... Join us on a ghost walk around the Palace's remains, then head back to the Museum to create spooky stained glass, inspired by the Tudor stained glass we have from the Palace! £6 per child - adults are FREE  
To book scan the QR code or visit: <https://museum-of-richmond.arttickets.org.uk/the-museum-of-richmond/2024-10-29-family-workshop-spooky-stained-glass>

## **FREE CRAFTS: SPOOKY PUMPKINS**

Need to get the kids out of the house for a few hours? Pop in to the Museum for our FREE crafts and get creative as a family! Available from 1pm each weekday and Saturday the Museum is open. No need to book, just drop in. Everything you need will be set out for you, including instruction sheets and materials.  
In October: make your own simple, but spooky pumpkin decorations to get your home Halloween ready!  
Please note: these activities are self-led and children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

## **FREE TRAIL: SOMETHING SPOOKY...**

Explore the museum with mascots Lizzie and Harry, and see if you can find all 9 spooky objects and their stories! Tick them off as you find them and see if you can spell out the special message! Once you are done, claim your prize! Just drop in any time the Museum is open in October.

## **Museum Opening Hours**

Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm and Saturdays 10am to 4pm  
CLOSED Mondays and Sundays



Museum of Richmond, Second floor, Old Town Hall,  
Whittaker Avenue, Richmond, TW9 1TP  
[www.museumofrichmond.com/families](http://www.museumofrichmond.com/families)  
[learning@museumofrichmond.com](mailto:learning@museumofrichmond.com)  
020 8332 1141





# INTENSIVE HOLIDAY COURSE

Monday 28th Oct - Friday 1st Nov 2025

St Richard's School, Ham

5 x 30-Minute Sessions

AM Sessions between 9am & 11.30am

PM Sessions between 4pm & 6pm

Group Sessions £95 per swimmer

1:1 Sessions £195 per swimmer

[www.springboardswimmers.com](http://www.springboardswimmers.com)  
[admin@springboardswimmers.com](mailto:admin@springboardswimmers.com)  
 020 8998 0001

## Santa Fun Run 2024



**Help us care this Christmas**  
 Festive fun with family and friends

**10% discount for groups over 6!**

Run, jog or walk 5K and raise money for your local Hospice.  
**Sunday 8 December at Bushy Park.**  
**Sunday 15 December at Sandown Park Racecourse followed by a Christmas Market.**  
 9.30am for a 10.00am start.



Scan the QR code or visit [pah.org.uk/santafunrun](http://pah.org.uk/santafunrun)










Princess Alice Hospice

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## NOTICEBOARD

4.11.24	Children return to school Year 3 Safer Walking Week
11.11.24	Yr 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 parent/carer drop in for book look, 3.15pm Anti-bullying week
12.11.24	Year 6 Kew Gardens Trip Yr 4 Community Tea
13.11.24	Year 5 to Sayers Croft
14.11.24	New to nursery stay and play session – morning
15.11.24	Year 5 return from Sayers Croft
18.11.24	Year 2 – local area walk
22.11.24	9.00am Year 5 assembly followed by Yr 5 book look
6.12.24	Winter Fair 3.30pm in school hall
11.12.24	Yrs 1-6 Panto trip
13.12.24	Hanukkah assembly School Christmas Lunch
17.12.14	Yrs 4-6 Carol festival at St Peter's Church am
18.12.24	Nursery and Reception singalong am Yr 1-3 Winter Production am
19.12.24	Yr 1-3 Winter production pm
20.12.24	Class parties Early closure for end of term – 1.45
7.1.25	Tuesday – children return to school

Breakfast Club
<p><b>Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am – 8.30am. Please book online with ScoPay AT LEAST 4 days prior to the session/s required.</b></p> <p><b>Active Club is also available from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Please contact Active Club directly.</b></p> <p><b>Both are such a valuable resource for the school – please use them!</b></p>