



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



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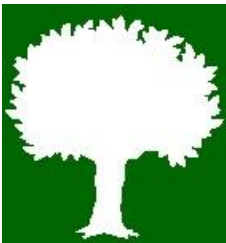
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Headteacher's Update:

Dear families,

I can't believe that we are heading towards the end of our first half term!

Next week, you will all have the chance to talk to your children's teachers about their learning to date at our parents and carers' meetings. You will also have the opportunity to look at the impressive range of work the children have completed in their books already.

We will be holding our annual harvest assembly on Monday, supported by Rev. Kate Daymond and a representative from our fantastic PTA-run gardening club. If you are able to make a food donation to our local food bank as part of this work, please do give to your children to bring into school on Monday.

We held our annual PTA AGM on Wednesday of this week. A huge thank you to the committee and parents and carers who came along or joined remotely. The PTA is a huge part of our community and in addition to the 'big' things that the PTA leads fundraising for such as the reading hut, the stage or the gardening project, every year, it is thanks to the PTA that we can offer band tech and Year 4 vocal sessions as part of our music offer. These opportunities ensure our children experience a rich curriculum offer as part of their primary school journey. Thank you to everyone who supports the PTA in any way.

Don't forget that the PTA are hosting a Hallowe'en Family Disco children and parents and carers next Friday 6-8pm in the school hall. Tickets available at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/therussellschool/?event=event&eventId=104028> It's sure to be a spooktacular event!

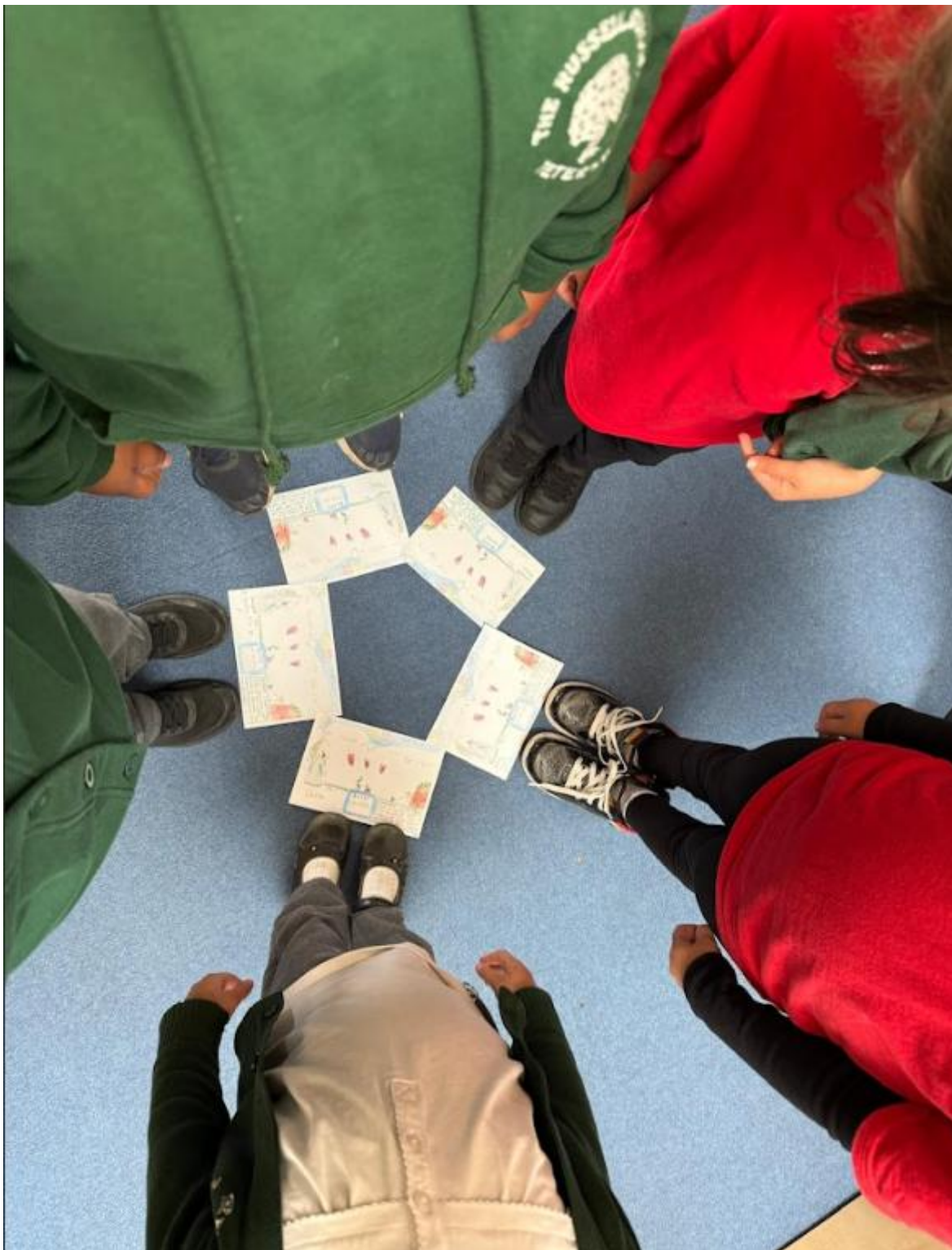
We may only have been back in school for six weeks, but already we have been in receipt of so much support from families. From support with music, to amazon wish list purchases, expert curriculum advice, assembly expertise, advertising help, volunteering with trips and visits, PTA time and helping with the library in school. We are so lucky to be part of such a supportive community so thank you everyone.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Headteacher

Golden Scroll Certificate Recipients

A huge well done to Maaike, Yousef, Uzay, Melisa and Dasha who were worthy recipients of today's golden scroll award for being great community role models as upstanders and not bystanders.





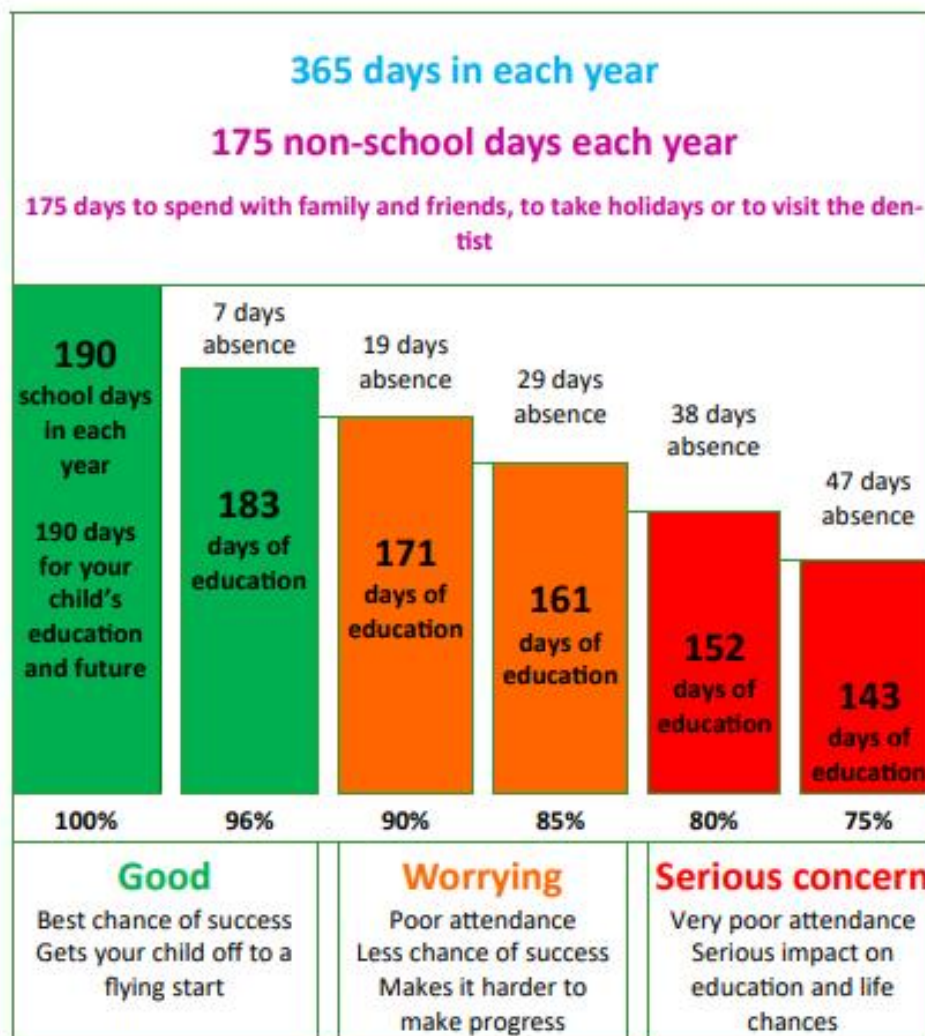
The Russell School

Attendance

At The Russell School we are always working hard to further improve our attendance levels. We aim to ensure that all children are able to take advantage of the opportunities available to them in order to reach their full potential by promoting regular attendance and punctuality.

Good Attendance Means...

Being in school at least 96% of the time or at least 183 days



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS



The Russell School

Hints and Tips for Good Attendance

Did you know that whilst children are in school they can:

- Make new friends
- Learn and enjoy new experiences
- Feel safe and listened to
- Grow in confidence
- Take part in school trips, special events, teams and clubs
- Keep up with their class work and homework
- Achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Be made to feel special when they do well
- Meet and help people in their community

As a parent you can help by:

- Telling your child how important school is
- Praising your child's achievements and celebrating their success
- Arranging non-urgent medical appointments after school
- Establishing clear routines at bedtimes and breakfast times - early bedtimes make for early mornings and a better start to the school day
- Encouraging healthy eating and exercise
- Encouraging your child to organise their equipment the night before school
- Ensuring your child completes their homework
- Taking time to talk to your child about what they have learnt and enjoyed at school
- Providing a nutritious breakfast to give your child the energy they need for the rest of the day — don't forget about the benefits of attending Breakfast Club

Help us to continue to thrive:

The Russell School Education Fund (RSEF)

The Russell School receives its funding from the government on a per-pupil basis, but student numbers are much lower across the UK than they have been in the past - and Ham is an area which is particularly affected by this issue. **We currently have 25 spaces across the school which accounts for over £100,000 of funding.**

School budgets are being stretched to cover increasing overheads, meaning the school must make difficult decisions on what can be prioritised.

The RSEF is allocated at the discretion of our amazing headteacher Ms Brooks to invest in the future of our school, and to ensure we can continue to provide a creative, exciting curriculum for our children.

We really appreciate the contributions of existing donors, and we understand that some families are not able to donate to this voluntary fund.

Each year we will update parents and carers on how the money is spent.

As a guide, a donation of £1 or £2 a day per child would make a huge difference. Anyone who is unable to make this level of donation is of course welcome to contribute a smaller amount, and larger donations are greatly received if your circumstances allow.

Together, we can achieve great things.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows us to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate, **at no extra cost to you.** If you are a taxpayer, you can opt to add Gift Aid to your donations.

If it's easier, simply scan the QR code below:



However you choose to contribute, your help is always gratefully received.

Warm regards,

Friends of The Russell School

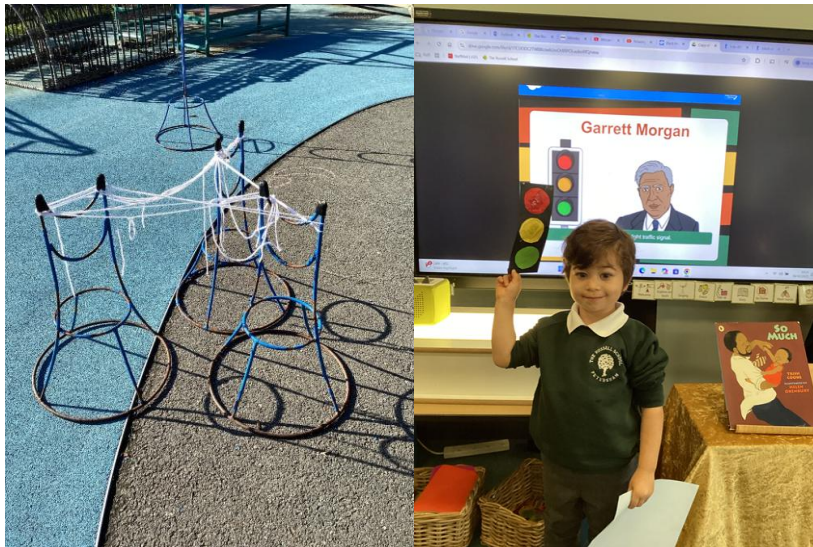
Nursery

It's been a busy and exciting week in Nursery. The children have been exploring our outdoor environment and were fascinated to discover some beautiful spider webs glistening in the autumn sunshine. Inspired by what they found, they worked together to create their own versions of spider webs, using imagination, teamwork and creativity.

As part of Black History Month, the children learned about Garrett Morgan, the inventor of the traffic lights. They enjoyed making their own traffic lights and talking about how inventions can keep people safe. Nursery children enjoyed playing the Stop, Get Ready and Go movement game.

We also shared the story *So Much*, by Trish Cooke, celebrating Caribbean culture and the importance of family. The children loved joining in with the story's rhythm and recognising the love and warmth between the characters.

It has been a wonderful week of creating, exploring and celebrating in Nursery!



Reception

Reception have had yet another busy week. We have been steadily building our phonic sounds and we are becoming excellent blenders! We have also started to see relationships with numbers up to 4 and we can think of different ways which they can be made. We have also loved our book of the week, *So Much* by Trish Cooke. We enjoyed finding out who was about to join the family with every 'Ding Dong' and talked about our family members and what they are like and how they like to squeeze and hug us! We also drew our own family portraits.



Year 1

Year 1 have had had fantastic couple of weeks. They are now completely settled and are flourishing in their new routines. We have been emerging ourselves into traditional tales but unfortunately all of our traditional tale characters went missing! The children have been working extremely hard on their writing and have all written a missing person's poster to help us try and find the missing characters. In maths, the children are working on developing their fluency with numbers up to 5 and are becoming more confident with their subitising. We also had a special visit this week from a drama company which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The children went home with a flyer for the company if they are interested in doing it further outside of school.

Year 2

What a great fortnight we have had in Year 2. We have taken part in a fantastic drama workshop where we really got to put our expressions to the test with lots of fun games. In our English, we have been looking at different traditional tales from around the world in preparation for writing our own stories. I am so impressed with everyone's maths so far this year and we have had a productive few weeks looking at place value in two digit numbers. We have also been focusing on how we can be good friends to each other and support each other in our learning. Well done for a fantastic fortnight of learning.

Year 3

In Year 3 we have been writing about settings and using adjectives in expanded noun phrases to describe them. We went on a senses walk through the playground to see what we could hear and smell and we described how it made us feel. In our history topic, we have been learning all about early civilisation and how humans have developed over millions of years. We are looking forward to our trip to the Richmond Museum next week.

Year 4

We have had a wonderful two weeks in Year 4! The children completed their first published piece of writing in their orange books, which was a historical narrative based on the Anglo-Saxons. Their writing is imaginative, full of historical information, and very enjoyable to read. In maths, we have continued learning about place value and rounding four-digit numbers and in science we have begun to think about how we could transfer our knowledge of electricity and circuits into our DT project. Year 4 are looking forward to visiting Richmond Museum on Monday, where they will participate in workshops to learn more about Anglo-Saxon life!

Year 5

It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 5!

In history, we have continued exploring the Viking era. The highlight of the week was a special visit from our very own history expert guest speaker, Eleanor Barraclough, who brought to life the Viking myth *The Tree of Yggdrasil*. The children were thoroughly engaged and demonstrated excellent teamwork as they created amazing models of the mythical creatures believed to live within the great tree. These are going to live on our Yggdrasil moveable library!

In English, the children completed their drafts for our first "Big Write" - a Viking myth of their own- and they have now started writing their final versions in their books. We are very impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm!

Well done to all children for their hard work and positive attitude this week!



Year 6

The past fortnight in Year 6 has included: experiments in science, sawing in DT and discussions about our upcoming trip to Holly Lodge. Dibb Class have shown huge enthusiasm for our Victorian topic resulting in brilliant pieces of writing across English and history lessons. The children have continued to show curiosity and enthusiasm and they will continue to deepen their understanding of this time period when they take part in their real-life workshop experience.

ESOL

With creche

Fridays (term time only)

10.30am to 12.30pm

If you are interested in free English classes with a crèche and would like more information, please call Banres Children's Centre on 07904 556423. This group is for learners at Level 1, requiring a basic understanding of English.

**67b Lower Richmond
Road, Mortlake
SW14 7HJ**



Petersham Horticultural Society



Fungi Walk in Richmond Park

We have the pleasure of offering a Fungi Walk to the members of the PHS. The walk will be guided by Janet Bostock of Friends of Richmond Park, lasting approximately 2 hours.

The date is Thursday 16th October 2025, meeting by the main Pembroke Lodge Gates in Richmond Park at 3.50pm for a 4.00pm start.

Please come weather equipped and with sensible shoes.

The cost of the walk is £10.00 per PHS member and membership is £5.00 pp.

If you are interested, please contact - Catherine Rounce at membership@horti.org.uk who will then book you on the walk and send you the bank details for payment

More PHS information can be found at www.horti.org.uk

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NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming dates for Autumn term

13.10.25	NSPCC 'Talk PANTS week'
14.11.25 16.11.25	Parent / Carers' eves
17.11.25	Spooky Disco 6-8pm
23.10.25	Individual photos
24.10.25	Year 6 class assembly – Parents and Carers welcome 9.00am in the hall
27.10.25	Half term week
3.11.25	Children return to school
10.11.25	Anti-Bullying Week
12.11.25	Yr 5 Sayers Croft. Return on Friday
17.11.25	Road Safety Week
5.12.25	Christmas Fair in the hall from 3.30pm
10.12.25	YR 3 – 6 Panto trip
12.12.25	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch day EYFS Singalong
16.12.25	Carol Concert at St Peter's (TBC)
17.12.25	KS1 Festive production (timings TBC)
18.12.25	KS1 Festive production (timings TBC)
19.12.25	Final day of term. Finish at 1.45pm
5.1.26	INSET day – school closed for children
6.1.26	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am – 8.30am. Please book online with ScoPay AT LEAST 4 days prior to the session/s required.

Active Club is also available from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Please contact Active Club directly.

Both are such a valuable resource for the school – please use them!