



# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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Nursery have been learning to choose their fruit at snack time and pour their own milk!



# Headteacher's Update



Here we are half way through the school year and as always time is flying by! The past two weeks have been busy ones, from 'Storytelling Week' to 'Mental Health Week' the children have been having lots of fun and learning a lot about themselves and their friends. This Tuesday saw the return of the PTA movie night, the children (and parents) thoroughly enjoyed the popcorn and hotdogs whilst watching 'Sing' on the big screen. One of the children commented on the way out; 'that was the best cinema I've ever been to!' Thank you to the parents of the children in year two who organised the event adding more towards our fabulous future reading den!



Well done to our choir! We are very proud of everyone who sang at this month's Sacred Space during the evening of Sunday 5th February at St Andrew's Church. Our children joined adults to form a bigger choir to sing four songs around the theme of 'Hope'. In between singing, they all made the most of St Andrew's warm welcome which included refreshments, arts and crafts and cake! Thank you to all our choir families for supporting this event.

Last week year six finally got to head off to Lavender Hill Court (third time lucky!) They had a great time finding out all about the inner workings of a court room, some returning inspired to seek a legal career when they are older. On Monday passengers from the Titanic turned up at school and had a day pretending they were passengers of the doomed cruise liner. Luckily all of our passengers survived! It's been a busy week for adventures, on Thursday year 2 headed off to Windsor Castle. They had an amazing time and crammed so much into their day from sight seeing to workshops and of course the best part of any trip, lunch! A big thank you to all of the parent volunteers for our trips. We would love to have more parents DBS checked for our school trips, please go to the school office if you would like to get yours done.

I am really pleased that the Winter illnesses seem to be subsiding and attendance figures for all classes last week were over 97% which is brilliant and where we would love them to stay to ensure that everyone is making the most of their school days this year. The shiny attendance trophy made its way to Reception this week for their 99% attendance!

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and see you all bright and early on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Miss James**



## HEADTEACHERS AWARDS



What fantastic writing from Valentine this week. He wrote all about the human life cycle and all of the different things humans can do at each stage.



Maizey wrote a fantastic story based on 'The Three Little Pigs'. She then read it beautifully to me!



Tabitha, Wallis, Hamish, Aris, Sham and Isla had all written fantastic descriptive pieces of writing. They had been concentrating on how to use the grammar rules they have learnt in their writing.



Charlie, Harry and Matei have all been putting a lot of effort into their reading and have made a lot of progress with their fluency and comprehension.



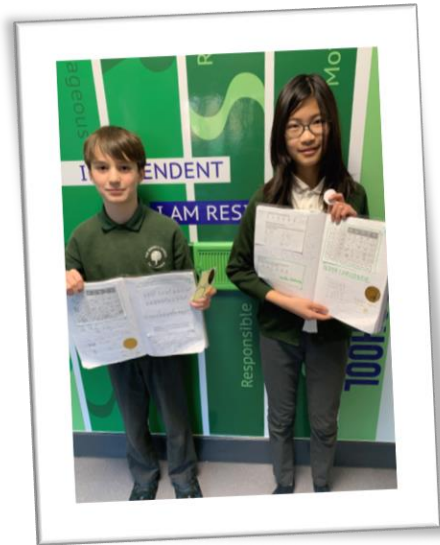
Philipp was so proud of his reading, he has also shown a lot of progress with his phonic skills and comprehension.

Freddie, Isabelle, Samunnat and Toby used pastels to draw portraits of themselves and their friends what fantastic pictures.





Albert and Pui Sze have been working really hard on a complex maths challenge. It took them a while to complete but they didn't give up and kept going back to it to finish it.



Last but not least, Nora and Oliver had been listening very carefully to the story of 'Farmer Duck'. They ordered pictures to plan their story and then wrote it up in their own words. They both wrote fantastic pieces.

So many Headteachers Awards this week! I'm looking forward to next half term's hard-working bunch.



## SPORTS NEWS

This term our Year 5 and 6 netball team had a netball match against Deer Park School. The score was 16-0 to us and our start shooter was Brenton in year 5 who scored 8 goals in just the first quarter. The Russell won through team work. The player of the match was Olivia.

31st Jan Girls Football match--Russell 1 St Richard's 0

17th Jan Boys Football Match -Russell 1 St Richard's 4

23rd Jan Netball match-Russell 16 Deer Park 0



26th January - Girls Year 3 Football tournament - We were joint winners unbeaten in the whole tournament!

7th February - Swimming Gala - Congratulations to the team who had many individual achievements. Nathan and Millie won their butterfly races and we were first place in our heat for the Boys Medley Relay. Once the results have been completed we will be sent any medals or trophies. Well done to the team from Years 4,5 and 6

# Look What We Have Been Learning This Week...

## Donaldson Class (Nursery)

During the school 'Storytelling' Week we listened to the stories 'Click Clack Crocodile' and 'We're going on a Croc Hunt'. We practised retelling the stories and made a class crocodile. We enjoyed a 'Stay and Play' session when all our parents were able to visit the nursery and stay with us for an hour to explore our favourite activities. This week is 'Children's Mental Health Week' and we have been exploring acts of kindness through the story 'Kindness Makes us Strong'. We have been thinking about sharing and taking turns in our play. We have also been thinking about our 'Colour Monster' story and exploring our feelings of happiness, sadness, fear, anger and calm. We enjoyed playing with the colour monsters in the nursery and talking about what makes us feel this way. We have also been learning to choose our fruit at snack time and pour our own milk!



## Brownlee Class (Reception)

It was storytelling week last week and we used all the skills we have been learning to tell our own fairy tales which we all helped to act out. We loved having our parents come and learn with us on Tuesday and shared our learning with the whole school on Friday. That's not the only reason to celebrate, last week we were finally the class with the highest attendance so we won the attendance cup, we are so excited to have the shiny silver cup in our class all week and have been sharing stories of times that we have won trophies outside of school too. This week we have been working on our maths skills, finding out about one more and one less and using our mathematical words to explain our reasoning. As well as learning all about the connections we have with others for our Emotional Wellbeing week.

## Singer Class (Year One)

This week is children's mental health week. In order to take part in this, the children learnt a fun dance which the whole school performed in a class assembly on Friday. They also enjoyed learning the song 'We're All in This Together' which they also performed as a whole school. It was so nice to see the school come together to perform with big smiles on their faces. As spending time outdoors has also proven to have a positive impact on mental health, Singer Class have spent lots of time outside this week. Some of the activities that they did included visiting the school pond and digging our class allotment so it is ready for them to plant some seeds! Singer class have loved this term's topic; Paws Claws and Whiskers. The children can now explain the characteristics of a mammal, what an omnivore eats and many more interesting facts! Thank you for all of your support this term and please continue to read regularly with your children over the holidays- it really does have a big impact on their development in reading. Have a lovely half term.



## Goodfellow Class (Year Two)



Goodfellow Class have thoroughly enjoyed this project on castles and worked so hard all term, we are very proud of all of them. The last two weeks have also had a focus on 'storytelling' and 'mental health'. We had a fun time telling each other stories and learning what makes a good storyteller. They were amazed at how many stories they already know off by heart, which is a great testament to your story reading at home and love of books here at school too. We have also written our own castle adventure stories using all our new knowledge about castles and structure of story writing. The theme 'Let's connect' has been explored this week in mental health week with many activities involving group challenges and learning how to work with others. Partners worked very well together on amazing woven birds. It was lovely to see them listening to and helping each other. There has also been lots of discussion on looking after our well-being, ask your children to tell you all about it. As you read this we should have completed our wonderful trip to Windsor Castle which is a well-deserved treat for all their hard work and interest shown in the project. Well done Year Two!

## Zephaniah Class (Year Three)

Year three became super story tellers last week! As it was National Storytelling week, the children had daily activities focusing on key skills of becoming a great story teller. They played lots of fun games to help with speaking out loud confidently and using expression and different character voices. They made visual story maps to help re-tell the story, 'The Pearl in the Dragon's Mouth' before performing it to each other. In art the children went back to their ammonite motif designs and chose their best one for some ink printing. They made some beautiful print patterns! In science we conducted an experiment to see if we could make our own dinosaur fossils, using bread as the layers of sedimentary rock and plastic toy dinosaurs squashed between the layers to create a dinosaur imprint! The children have also been enjoying our class novel this term, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', it has been a great adventure and the children are looking forward to finding out how it ends!



## Angelou Class (Year Four)



"Cook pot! Cook pot! Make me porridge, nice and hot!" For story-telling week we revisited the classic tale of the Magic Porridge Pot and shared our ideas about what makes an effective and exciting story-teller. We then created a story-telling toolkit to apply to our own re-tellings. The story of the Magic Porridge Pot came alive with varying tone of voice, brilliant actions, animated expressions, and choral repetition for emphasis. I think we have some future story-tellers in our midst! We have also been learning about perimeter and how to measure around a shape or object. The real challenge came when we had to measure parts of the playground using trundle wheels, meter sticks, and our own footsteps. Who knows the perimeter of the treehouse? We do! We finished off our spring half-term by investigating the relationship between different materials and their insulating properties against noise. We had to consider how sound travels through a medium to our ear, as well as how it may change over a distance. Next time you have a noisy neighbour or someone is blasting terrible music we can help you out by suggesting materials to block out the noise!



## Nicholas Class (Year Five)

All aboard for a rather busy end to our half term! Last week we enjoyed reading lots of different stories and retelling them orally. We have been thinking about the skills involved and developing a toolkit, which we have tried to use when retelling our own Titanic tales! We drew a 'bare bones' story map and created an engaging story to practise and tell during our school assembly. This week, we have been thinking about internet and online safety, which fits nicely with our Wellbeing activities during the Children's Mental Health Week. We have been dancing, singing and sharing ways in which we can truly connect with others. We cannot forget our amazing Titanic Tea! Lots of panic when we felt the cold and realised that we might not make it onto the lifeboat. We used our science investigation skills to build our own lifeboats and tested how many passengers they would hold. Finally, at the end of a very eventful day, we found different ways to rescue our frozen friends from the ice! The costumes were incredible and some of the food items looked very interesting indeed – a memorable day indeed! Thank you for all your support this half term and I hope you all enjoy a lovely break.



## Coelho Class (Year Six)

On Monday last week, we went to Lavender Hill Magistrates Court and enjoyed acting out and solving a theft case. After, we went to see the old cells where people would have been kept whilst waiting to go into the courtroom. In maths we have been learning how to multiply fractions. At the beginning some of us found it a little challenging, but in the end we all got the hang of it. This week, we finished our science reports on adaptation. We managed to use all the grammar we have been learning, colons, semicolons, apostrophes, subjunctive form and modal verbs. This week is also storytelling week and our story was Rumpelstiltskin! In assembly, we acted it out in front of the school. They thought it was very funny. Last week we also had a learning look day, where our parents came to see our books. It was nice to share all of our hard work with them.



# NOTICEBOARD

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13-17 /2/23	<b>HALF TERM</b>
20/2/23	Back to school
24/2/23	Reception hearing tests
7/3/23	Parents evening Face to face
9/3/23	Parents evening Face to face and virtual
13-17 /3/23	Science week
17/3/23	Year 4 Class Assembly

## BREAKFAST CLUB & ACTIVE CLUB

**Breakfast Club** is available from **7.45am – 8.30am**. Please book online with **ScoPay**.

**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!

## MUSICAL MADNESS

**Musical Madness**  
**-FEB HALF TERM EVENT-**

Our Half Term event is based on amazing Musicals.  
*This event includes Acting, Dancing & Singing workshops with a little sharing of work on the final day.*

Your child can choose to attend 1 day, 2 days or the full 3 days.

**DATES:** Mon 13<sup>th</sup>, Tues 14<sup>th</sup> & Wed 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**TIME:** 10am – 2pm (doors open at 9.50am)  
*Early drop off and Late Pick Up available from 9am-4pm*

**AGES:** 4 - 14 years of age  
*(Split into groups depending on age)*

**VENUE:** Teddington Methodist Church, Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8TP

**PRICE:** 1Day - £25, 2-Days- £45 or 3Days- £60

**TO SIGN UP:** Please visit [www.boundlessarts.co.uk](http://www.boundlessarts.co.uk) and visit our [Holiday Events link](#)

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

**ACTIVE CLUB**

Providing exciting and stimulating care for children after school in a safe and friendly environment managed by professional staff.

We provide a range of healthy snacks and lots of fun activities and games ranging from arts and crafts to football on a rainy day.

The Russell School, Mountview Rd, Richmond, TW9 1DU

For more information please call: 07940 292279 or email: [activeclub@recoaching.co.uk](mailto:activeclub@recoaching.co.uk) or visit [www.activeclubrecoaching.co.uk](http://www.activeclubrecoaching.co.uk)

**FOR CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 6**

**Sports Active Coaching**  
TW9 1DU Tel: 07940 292279

**WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY**  
3.15PM - 4PM  
1000-1000

**Big Active Sports Night - 8th April**  
4.30pm - 6.00pm  
1000-1000

## HOLIDAY CAMP

**KNIGHTS NATIONS HOLIDAY CAMP**

**AGES**  
5 to 12

**DATES**  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**VENUE**  
Waldegrave School  
Twickenham

**TIME**  
10.00 AM to 3.00 PM  
(Early drop-off available from 8.45 AM)

Knights Nations basketball jersey included with every 5-day booking.

Scan here for further info and bookings

## RICHMOND MUSIC ACADEMY

**RICHMOND MUSIC ACADEMY**  
PRESENTS

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN WEST LONDON!**

**JAZZ ORCHESTRA CHOIR**

**31ST MARCH - 6TH APRIL**

Calling all young musicians, join us for a week of cowboy music!  
This Easter, starting on Friday 31st March and from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April 2023 from 9am to 4pm at King's House School, Richmond TW10 6ES.