



# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER



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Dear Families

As we move into March and the weather begins to brighten, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some wonderful highlights from recent weeks.

What a fantastic World Book Day we had last week! It was wonderful to see so many creative costumes and the enthusiasm our pupils showed for reading. The excitement continues with our ongoing Readathon, which we know is being so well-supported by children and families alike. Reading opens up new worlds for our pupils, and your encouragement at home helps to strengthen that message.

Our Year 6 children had an incredible experience performing at Young Voices at The O2 Arena. They all represented the school with such pride and professionalism. It was a memorable evening that our young performers will treasure for years to come. Thank you to all the staff, parents and carers who supported this wonderful opportunity.

Our debating team continue to excel! On Tuesday, Francis, Kira, Romek, Thea and Thaddeus won first place in the Richmond Bridge Shield debating competition. This is a very impressive achievement, given that this is their first year of debating, and also their first experience of debating against other schools - schools who all have been debating for much longer. Well done to all our Russell School debaters!

On Wednesday, our Year 3 children ventured up to the Royal Festival Hall and enjoyed a day of music and creativity. Thank you to parents and carers who supported with this trip.

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome lots of you in to join your children in Nursery and Reception. We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to work and play alongside your children.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our PTA film night showing of Zootropolis 2 last night – we were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout! The children had a wonderful time settling in with their cosy pillows and blankets, creating a real cinema atmosphere as they enjoyed the film together. A special mention goes to our wonderful PTA volunteers who organised the event and made it such an enjoyable evening for our children and families.

We look forward to seeing lots of you next week at our Year 1 – 6 Parent and Carer meetings. If you are unable to attend for whatever reason, please do let us know – and please do remember that we will have the visiting Scholastic Book Fair open during these sessions, offering a great selection of books and reading-themed bits and bobs at very competitive prices.

As the weather warms up, I want to remind families that school uniform must still be worn. It plays a vital role in creating a sense of belonging and community. When children wear their uniform with pride, it helps them feel part of our school family and removes unnecessary distractions from learning. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform each day - including appropriate footwear. Whilst trainers are appropriate for PE lessons, children should wear school shoes for everyday wear. This is part of our uniform policy and helps maintain our high standards.

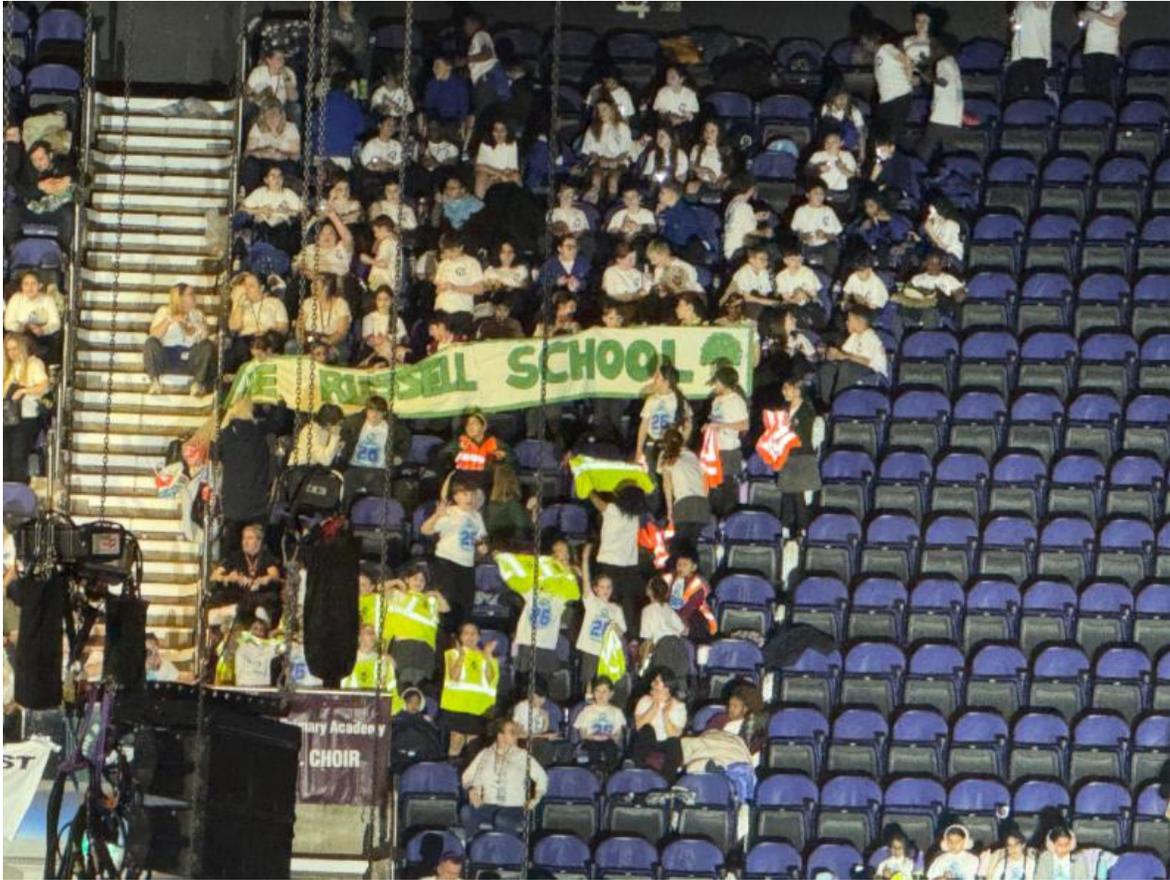
Please note that the Easter raffle will not be taking place this year due to the busy schedule of events planned for the coming weeks. We look forward to bringing this back in the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing lots of you next week to celebrate your children's work. Wishing you all a restful weekend.

*Laura Brooks*

# Young Voices

Have a look at our children waving our banner with pride at the O2! Thank you to all parents and carers who supported with this experience.



# What we are learning

## Nursery

In the past few weeks, we have been working on our new topic “What’s Underneath?”. We have been busy investigating, singing, measuring and counting.

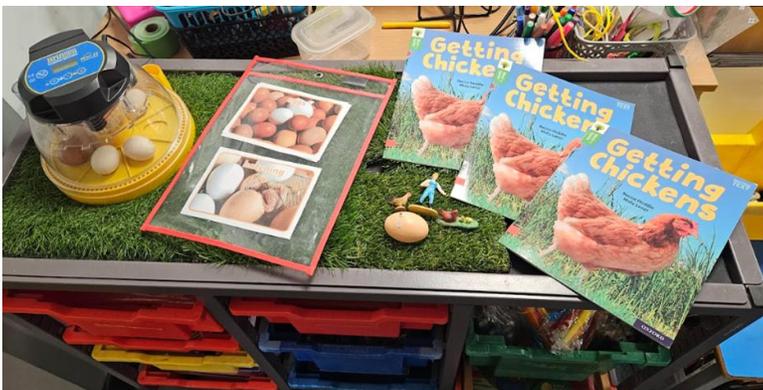
Our new outdoor space has been a great place to spot and observe mini beasts. We found worms, woodlice, ladybirds and ants. After listening to the story “Superworm” by Julia Donaldson, we set up a wormery in a classroom. It has been a great seeing the children get inspired, investigate and ask questions about worms. We compared lengths, measured and counted in abundance. The children also enjoyed acting out the story, using simple movements of making themselves big and small, whilst practising good listening and quick reactions to commands.

Nursery have been also learning about the life cycle of butterflies. Our children found and adopted a tiny caterpillar which grew and grew and now it is fast asleep in a cosy cocoon in our classroom. The children chose a name (Colin, of course) and looked after it by making a new home for it. We are all very excited about all the changes we have observed so far. After reading the story “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”, we continued our conversations about healthy eating.



## Reception

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Stay and Play on Thursday. It was so lovely to share our classroom with you and we are glad you had the chance to see all the changes in our playground first hand. We appreciated all your help with making our blossom collages and spring clay pressings. Reception were also lucky enough to visit Faldo, the therapy dog for the first time this week. They enjoyed asking questions and giving Faldo lots of cuddles. There is more big news in Reception, we have eggs! We were very happy to receive the special donation from a parent and are now in Week 2 of Incubator Watch. After much speculation, it has been confirmed that they are chicken eggs (Bantam chicken eggs to be precise). Although there was a little disappointment that we won't be getting crocodiles in the classroom, the children are now motivated to give the chickens the best start when they hatch. We are incubating the eggs for our friend Matilda, who will be keeping them with her other chickens in her chicken coop.



# Year 1

What a great start to the half term we have had. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck in with their new topic 'Enchanted Woodland'. To kick start our topic we took a visit down to our school pond to go hunting for magical creatures and found five Bog Babies! We have since been reading the story of the Bog Baby and have been busy creating our own magical creatures. In maths, we have continued to investigate numbers to 20 and have been focusing on using our number bonds to 10 to help us with our number bonds to 20. In science, it has been an exciting week as we have been planting our own seeds. We are going to observe them over the upcoming weeks and watch them grow!

# Year 2

What a wonderful fortnight it has been in Year 2! We have been very busy, beginning with preparations for our fantastic Living Museum assembly all about significant individuals from the past, which took place last week. Thank you to all the parents who came to watch and support our class, and for providing such fabulous costumes.

In English, we have been working hard to create beautiful poems about flowers. The children took great care in writing them and presenting their work neatly and creatively.

We were also very lucky to go on our first trip of the year – a lovely walk to Richmond Hill. There, we enjoyed the stunning views over the river and even had the opportunity to sketch the landscape. In maths, we have been focusing on column addition and subtraction, as well as learning to choose our own methods to solve arithmetic questions independently. Well done Year 2 for a fantastic fortnight! It has been a busy time, but you have all done an amazing job.

## Year 3

Another fun filled couple of weeks in Year 3! In English we have been using our debating skills to develop a balanced argument on topics that are important to us, including wearing school uniform and whether homework should be given - some very interesting discussions! World Book Day was great fun but the highlight of the week was our trip to the Royal Festival Hall. It was lovely to see the children singing and following along with the story of Stan and Mabel and the Race for Space. It was a great event. Thank you, as always, to all our parent and carer volunteers (including those who attend our regular swimming excursions), and a special thank you to Mrs Thomas for organising the event. We hope you all have an enjoyable and restful weekend.



## Year 4

What a wonderful few weeks Year 4 have had! We have been looking at the book Flotsam, which is about a vintage camera washing up on a beach and the amazing, fantastical things its photographs reveal about the sea. Year 4 took a film camera outside in order to better understand how they work, and we can't wait to see what the photographs look like! In maths, we have begun working on the 7 times tables and using this to problem solve. In geography, we have continued to explore the causes and impact of climate change and how we can encourage people to take action.

## Year 5

This week, the children completed their Big Write in English: an explanation text about how to survive in the Amazon rainforest. Our writing has been inspired by the book *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson, which we are currently reading in class. Through the story, the children have been learning about the Amazon rainforest and the challenges of surviving in such a complex environment. They used this knowledge to include facts about survival strategies, the climate and the wildlife of the rainforest in their writing.

The class has also begun exploring volcanoes in geography, learning how they form and where they are found around the world.

In maths, the children started a new topic on volume, investigating how to measure the amount of space inside 3D shapes.

During art, the children experimented with watercolour techniques to create landscape paintings inspired by the artist J. M. W. Turner, practising how to layer colours and add foreground and background detail.

## Year 6

Year 6 have shown great focus during the spring term, particularly through their morning revision tasks and the way they challenge their understanding in maths and reading. The children have continued to show great curiosity in our class texts *Holes* and *Rose Blanche*. This curiosity is clearly reflected in their written work, growing inference skills and thoughtful responses to comprehension questions.

It has also been wonderful to see pupils confidently challenge their own ideas and those of their peers, supporting one another to edit and improve their work. Finally, their enthusiasm during World Book Day was a real joy to see. The children thoroughly enjoyed working with different year groups and teachers, while continuing to support one another and demonstrate the excellent role models they are.



National Online Safety

# 7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WakeUpWednesday



1



### Which apps/games are you using at the moment?

THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THEIR DEVICES, ALONG WITH THEIR INTERESTS. REMEMBER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY ARE USING, SO IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO ASK THEM TO SHOW YOU THEIR DEVICE, BECAUSE NEW APPS AND GAMES ARE RELEASED REGULARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

### Which websites do you enjoy using and why?



2

AS IN THE TIP ABOVE, ASKING THIS QUESTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE, AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY. ASK THEM HOW THEY USE THE WEBSITES, AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY CAN USE THEM IN A POSITIVE WAY. ALSO ASKING THEM TO SHOW YOU IF POSSIBLE.

3



### How does this game/app work? Can I play?

SHOW A GENUINE INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING. WHILST YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME OR USING AN APP WITH THEM, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IS A DANGER TO THEM. IF THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH YOU, QUESTION WHY.

### Do you have any online friends?



4

CHILDREN CAN FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE ONLINE, AND THIS HAS BECOME MORE COMMON THANKS TO ONLINE MULTI-PLAYER OPTIONS, BUT THEY MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND A STRANGER. YOU COULD MAKE THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHILD. FOR EXAMPLE: "HAVE YOU MET ANYONE ONLINE THAT YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WITH?" THEY MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU, SO ENSURE YOU TEACH THEM ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.

5



### Do you know where to go for help?

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE THE ADULT THEY TRUST THE MOST, SOME CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE DUE TO CONFUSION OR EMBARRASSMENT. BECAUSE OF THIS THEY MAY STRUGGLE TO APPROACH THE NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD HELP, SUCH AS YOURSELF OR A TEACHER. HAVE A CHAT TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP, AND HOW THEY CAN REPORT ANY ACTIVITY THAT THEY BELIEVE IS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE.

### Do you know what your personal information is?

YOUR CHILD MAY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS BUT THEY MIGHT NOT THINK ABOUT HOW IT CAN BE SHARED. HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THEM IF IT IS SHARED BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE DANGERS OF SHARING CONTACT DETAILS OR PHOTOS, AS INFORMATION SUCH AS THIS CAN SPREAD QUICKLY ONLINE.



6

7



### Do you know your limits?

CHILDREN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVICE OR GAME ADDICTION. TALK TO THEM OPENLY ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND ASK WHETHER OR NOT THEM SPENDING TIME ONLINE OR PLAYING A GAME IS AFFECTING THEIR SLEEP, PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL, OR IF THEY ARE GENERALLY LOSING INTEREST IN OTHER ACTIVITIES. YOU MAY LEAD ON TO ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSING THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMITS WHEN AT HOME.

# Setting parental safeguards on your child's devices

If you're viewing this on a screen, tap (or click) the appropriate icon below.

If you're looking at this on paper, point your phone's camera at the appropriate QR code and tap the link that appears.

Follow the instructions on the website exactly, in particular setting the age of the child.

We recommend you set the device not to allow *any* apps or games to be installed without your permission.

Protect your settings with a strong password that is not known to the child.





**FOOTY FUN  
4 KIDS**

# EASTER FOOTBALL SPORTS & ACTIVITY CAMP



**The Russell School**

Petersham Road, TW10 7AH

**30 March - 10 April**

Football Tournaments ✓

Multi-Sport Challenges ✓

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**FOOTY FUN**  
4 KIDS

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

**7:45 AM - 8:45 AM**

- **Early drop-off from 7:15 AM**
- **Porridge**
- **Fruit and cereals**
- **Toast and spreads**
- **Fruit smoothies**
- **Fun activities**

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**3:15 PM - 6:15 PM**

- **Late pick-up till 6:45 PM**
- **Sports**
- **Creative arts and crafts**
- **Dance**
- **Outdoor activities**
- **Themed rewards**
- **Cooking and baking**
- **Healthy meals**
- **Gardening**
- **Snacks and drinks**

☎ 0330 229 0566   ✉ [gary@footyfun4kids.com](mailto:gary@footyfun4kids.com)   🌐 [www.footyfun4kids.com](http://www.footyfun4kids.com)

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR  
**JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

# Easter 2026 at St Peter's, Petersham



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## **Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30am Parish Communion, with dramatised reading of The Passion and Distribution of Palm crosses

## **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7pm Compline, a simple meditative evening prayer

## **Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Communion services** recalling Christ's last meal, his washing disciples' feet and his praying in anguish in Gethsemane

7pm at **St Peter's, Petersham TW107AX**

## **Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**10.30am Good Friday Family Trail**, a 30-minute children and family trail recalling the story of Good Friday with hot cross buns and activities

**12 noon 'The Cross of Christ'**, an hour's reflection, readings, song and prayers

## **Easter Day Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**6am Outdoor Dawn service** with Easter Candles and followed by a celebratory breakfast; meet outside church, please dress for the cold start and muddy uneven paths.

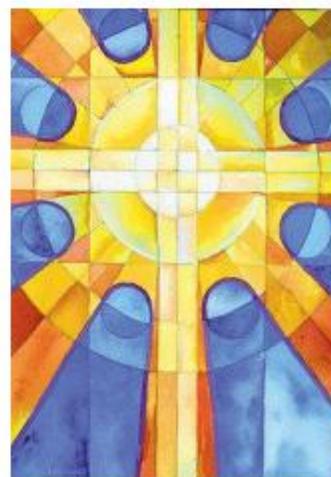
**9.30am All Age Communion** service followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard and hot cross buns. All ages welcome



Instagram @ [st.peters\\_petersham](#)  
Facebook - St Peter's Petersham Richmond UK  
Email - [st.peters.petersham@googlemail.com](mailto:st.peters.petersham@googlemail.com)

Priest - Rev Kate Daymond - [revdaymond@outlook.com](mailto:revdaymond@outlook.com)  
[www.stpeterschurchpetersham.com](http://www.stpeterschurchpetersham.com) 0208 940 8435

St Peter's, Church Lane, Petersham TW10 7AX



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# CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

A FAMILY CONCERT FOR ALL AGES

2:00PM SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

St Mary Magdalene  
Church Walk, Richmond  
TW9 1SN

TIX: [www.bit.ly/richmondcarnival](http://www.bit.ly/richmondcarnival)



EVENTBRITE  
TICKETS





## NOTICEBOARD

### Upcoming dates for Spring term

16.3.26	Regional Singing Workshop (Year 5) at school
17.3.26	Parents / Carers' eve 3.30 – 5.00
18.3.26	Year 6 Junior Citizens Holly Lodge
19.3.26	Parents / Carers' eve 3.30 – 7.00
22.3.26	Science Week
23.3.26	End of term KS2 piano concert
27.3.26	Last day of term. School closes at 1.45pm
13.4.26	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am
15.4.26	Rescheduled Isle of Wight Info eve for Year 6 families. 5.30pm