



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



PAGE 2
A NOTE FROM MISS JAMES

Welcome to 2023 at The Russell!

PAGE 3
HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Who is in the news this week?

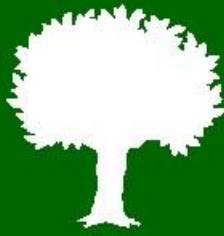
PAGE 5
WHAT HAVE THE CHILDREN BEEN LEARNING?

PAGE 7
NOTICEBOARD



IN OTHER NEWS...

In maths, Singer Class have been consolidating writing number names and representing numbers 6-10 using a five and a bit structure.



Headteacher's Update



WELCOME TO 2023 AT THE RUSSELL!

I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year and managed to find time to relax with family and friends. The holidays seem like a distant memory now and we are into the second week into term and things are in full swing at The Russell!

During the holidays we had our fantastic History Wall installed. With a lot of work from our staff and school council we managed to plot key events not only in World and UK history but also the amazing history of The Russell School. The children and adults love stopping and taking in the information when they pass and it is beginning to be used to aid the learning of our history projects. I would like to thank the PTA for raising the money to fund this amazing mural.

Everyone has settled back into school life and this half term's projects are beginning to be discovered from 'Paws Claws and Whiskers' in year one to 'Frozen Kingdom' in year six everyone is very excited about their new projects. We have some new arrivals into Donaldson Class, Nursery this term and they have already settled so well if you didn't know you would think they had all been there since September!

I struggle at times to get out of my office and back into the classroom to teach but I did manage this week to spend some time in Reception and year five. I was so proud of how independent, resourceful and enthusiastic the children were towards their learning. It really was a joy and definitely my most favourite part of the week!

Final reminder for all parents with children due to start Reception in September 2023 to make their school choices on the Richmond e-admissions website by this Sunday 15th January:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/primary_school_admissions

Miss James



HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Some of my Headteacher's awards have had to wait for almost a month for a mention in the newsletter so I won't keep them waiting any longer! Harris, Thea and Isla wrote some fabulous applications for jobs working as a NASA astronaut (they all got the job!) Lucy gave some fantastic advice about how to deal with difficult situations and Wallis created an amazingly informative timeline.



Millie, Nathan, Teddy, Constance and Pui Sze wrote some fantastic descriptive pieces about Camp Green Lake from their class novel 'Holes' they all brought the place to life. Albert explained his scientific light tests extremely well.



These two cheeky chaps both came bounding down the corridor to see me last week with some fantastic independent sentence writing all about their Christmas holidays. They had used their phonics very well and had included full stops and capital letters.

The lovely Laurie came to visit me with some fantastic independent sentences all about tigers. He had used capital letters, full stops, finger spaces, brilliant handwriting and amazing descriptive words!



Last but not least I had the pleasure of awarding Elmore and Emily awards for some more descriptive writing about the characters in some unseen photos. The language they used was amazing!

Look What We Have Been Learning This Term...

Donaldson Class (Nursery)

We were pleased to welcome back all the children after their Christmas holiday and to see how they have all settled back into the school routines quickly. We have welcomed five new children to our class and they have all come in happily and enjoyed their first few days. We have enjoyed playing outside in all the wonderful weather that January brings-exploring the puddles, and playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'. We have enjoyed playing the claves in music, playing loudly, quietly, fast and slow. We are learning to listen to each other and take turns in a circle. We have talked about the seasons and especially the trees and how bare they look and what we will look forward to seeing in spring. The children have been learning the sounds 'm' and 'd' and trying to listen carefully for the sounds at the beginning of the words mouse, marble and mirror; duck, dog, door and dinosaur! We are encouraging the children to recognise their names and some to try and copy their name onto their pictures and paintings. At story time we have reminded the children of 'The Colour Monster' book and how different colours relate to different feelings. The children are able to sit and reflect on their feelings if they have been feeling cross, sad and also to place themselves on a monster as we talk about their feelings. Ask your child if they can remember the colours for happy and sad.



Brownlee Class (Reception)

We have dived into the world of Fairy Tales after our return to school, choosing to explore Beauty and The Beast first. The story has given us so many new words to play with and use in our conversations and we have been collecting all the different ways to start a story, it doesn't all have to be once upon a time. We studied the Beast's castle and investigated what a castle needs before planning and building our own castle in the classroom, it needed a lot of teamwork to get it just right. We have also been learning about zero and using lots of counting songs to help us understand it means there is nothing left to count.

Singer Class (Year One)

It has been a great start to the term. Singer Class have been really enjoying their new topic; Paws, Claws and Whiskers. This is a topic all about animals! So far, the children have learnt about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They have also listened to a range of 'Just So' stories and written their own. We had lots of interesting story titles such as, 'How the Giraffe Got its Spots' and 'How the Snow Leopard Got its White Fur'. I was so impressed with their creativity. In maths, Singer Class have been consolidating writing number names and representing numbers 6-10 using a five and a bit structure. Please continue to practise phonics with your children at home and just a reminder that reading books go home on a Friday and need to be handed into school the following Thursday please.



Goodfellow Class (Year Two)



Happy New Year from Goodfellow Class. It has been a wonderful start to the year with the focus of our project on castles. Everyone is enjoying dressing up and playing in the class castle and writing questions that they would like to find out about, such as who built the first castle? Do they still build castles today? and what did they do without electricity? Lots to find out about. We are all focusing on how to improve our learning this term. Everyone has been reflecting on what they are good at and what they could try to do to get better at something. In our English we are all trying our best to form letters correctly and in the right size. We have put in some fabulous work on plurals showing excellent handwriting and spelling. A great start from everyone! We are excited to be doing PE outside with Mr Clements and so ask that every child has full PE kit, with plimsols or trainers so they are not wearing their school shoes and have a school hoodie please. Gymnastics is in the hall. It works best if your child's kit is on their peg for the whole term - we will send it home to be washed when needed. Thank you.

Zephaniah Class (Year Three)

Zephaniah class have had a super start to the New Year! The children have come back refreshed and excited to learn all about our new topics this term. For science we took advantage of our excellent school grounds to go on a rock hunt. The children were amazing geologists, uncovering a range of different types of rock. We took our findings back to class to study them further and, using our scientific skills, were able to identify and categorise them into the three main rock types we had been learning about! Year three also had a very exciting DT day where they got to design and create a hand puppet based on their ultimate predator. The children summoned much will and patience to learn how to do a running stitch and a hem stitch in order to sew their hand puppets together and they turned out amazingly!



Angelou Class (Year Four)

Angelou class have gone back in time to the year 1066. King Edward the Confessor has died and left no heir to his throne. We took on the roles of the four claimants to the throne and their supporters, to convince the Witan who should be the next king. The arguments were strong from all parties, with some re-enacting the death of the previous King. Harold Godwinson was chosen in the end, but his rein was to be short-lived. We have also been learning about the events that followed Harold's coronation and were shocked by the traitorous actions of his brother, Tostig. The scene was set for the Battle of Hastings and we have been building descriptions of the feelings and senses that we imagined would have been experienced by both armies in the conquest. In Maths, we have continued our investigation into solving problems using the 6 times tables and arrays, and are learning to use the inverse to understand division. We also began swimming this week and everyone was excited to get in the pool. It was assessment day and everyone did wonderfully at showing off their swimming skills. They all had a smile on their faces on the bus back and we're looking forwards to next week!



Nichols Class (Year Five)

Another busy start to our New Year, new term and new Time Traveller topic! I hope you all had a wonderful break. Thank you so much for all your kind wishes and generous gifts; they were all really appreciated. It's lovely to see all the children returning to school with great enthusiasm and ready to learn! We have been reflecting on last year and thinking about our new goals and ambitions for 2023. In Science, we will be looking at Puberty and the changes we can expect both Physically and Emotionally during this key developmental stage. We have been looking at a Human timeline and the stages of growth throughout our lifetime. In English, using a range of photographs, we have been writing detailed character descriptions based on appearance, emotions and personality traits. We have been using all the usual features in our writing, including fronted adverbials, relative clauses and expanded noun phrases! In maths, we have been multiplying two digit numbers by two digit numbers using pictorial and area models leading onto the formal written methods for long and short multiplication. We are already intrigued by our new class novel, Tom's Midnight Garden and look forward to following his journey.



Coelho Class (Year Six)

Happy New Year from Year 6! We have got stuck straight into our new learning project - Frozen Kingdom. We are learning all about the polar regions and explorers who have been brave enough to take expeditions there. In particular, we are reading the book 'Shackleton's Journey' which tells us all about the famous Ernest Shackleton and his voyage on the Endurance to Antarctica. Everyone in Coelho Class chose a member of his crew at random and we researched the role they had onboard. This included: meteorologists, engineers, photographers, and most importantly - cooks! We have taken inspiration from Shackleton's Journey and are planning to write our own Arctic adventures. A fascinating phenomena that occurs in the Arctic and Antarctic circle are the Northern/ Southern lights (Aurora Borealis / Aurora Australis). We created some art work replicating these natural lights using ripped paper and coloured pastels - simple but effective!



NOTICEBOARD

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17/01/23	Boys Football v St Richards
18/01/23	Girls Football v St Richards
25/01/23	DBS information event
26/01/23	Year 3 Girls Football Ham
26/01/23	PTA Coffee Morning all welcome
27/01/23	Year 2 Class Assembly
30/01/23	National Story Telling Week to 3/02/23
2/02/23	9am Early Phonics and Reading parent workshop (Reception and Year 1 parents)
3/02/23	Year 1 Class Assembly
8/03/23	Early Years mental health and wellbeing coffee morning

BAG 2 SCHOOL

**Bag 2 School
Collection from
Meadlands Drive
Bike Shed
24th February**

DRUMS

DRUM LESSONS WITH CARLO MORELLI

Carlo Morelli is a professional Drummer based in London.

Graduated on the one year diploma at the International Tech Music School and he's studied privately with the best teachers too. He played in different projects and music events (rock bands, Theatre productions, Orchestras...) in the UK and Italy.

You can check his drum solo videos on:

- Carlo Morelli Titans
- Carlo drum solo 2

The lessons will be based on:

- Technique
- Coordination
- Stick Control
- Moving around the drum set
- Improving your sound
- Rudiments
- Studying different grooves
- Sooloing

How to play with music and many other subjects using different books.

CONTACTS:

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MELLY'S MUSIC CLUB

MELLY'S MUSIC CLUB

A musical platform for students to learn how to find their voice through singing, performing music, songwriting and guitar!

Individual & Group Session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MELLYSSCHOOLOFMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

AN ASSOCIATION WITH
4900 HOURS
LITTLE LEARNERS TRAINING
& DEVELOPMENT

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

ACTIVE CLUB

Fun, exciting and stimulating club 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 daily basis.

The Normal School, Hounslow Rd, Richmond TW9 2ET

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 07940 282276 or email info@activeclubrecruiting.co.uk or visit www.activeclubrecruiting.co.uk

THE CHILDREN ARE RECRUITING FOR YEAR 5

SPRING/ALICE COACHING

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 3.30PM-4PM

Top Quality Supervisors of Experience

HOME START

RECRUITING NOW

Volunteer. Because childhood can't wait.

If you have parenting experience, a few hours spare each week and want to make a difference to a local family, join our network of trained volunteers, helping families with young children through challenging times. Free volunteer course runs in Wilton on Tuesdays 9.30am-2.30pm from 31 January to 23 March 2023 (not 1st Feb).

To find out more, contact
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HOME START
Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow
Charity No: 1108075