



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



PAGE 2

A NOTE FROM MS BROOKS

Headteacher's Update

PAGE 3

SCHOOL INFO

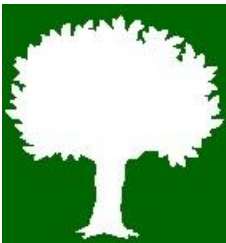
PAGE 7

CLASS UPDATES

A round up of the week

PAGE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



Headteacher's Update:

Dear Families,

We cannot believe how quickly this half term has flown by! It has been filled with trips, singing performances, sports matches and galas, assemblies and lots of learning. As ever, thank you to all of you who support us with making sure that the trips and visits can happen.

Next half term, Years 3 and 5 are going to take part in a fantastic, immersive history day, led by our very own eminent local historians and their colleagues. Elements of the project will involve the whole school, planting and caring for a selection of new trees to enrich and diversify our environment. This exciting project is all down to the time, commitment and energy of some of our amazing parents / carers. We really are lucky to have such skills within our community!

With parents and carers in mind, please do come along to our quiz night on Friday 28th February. Last year's event was great fun with lots of healthy competition! More information and booking instructions are below.

As the weather picks up next half term, I sincerely hope to see attendance and timekeeping pick up too. It really is disappointing that our attendance and punctuality is below the national data, and well below the Richmond data. I will hold an informative workshop next half term for families to really get a sense of the impact of missed schooling and to share some strategies for how to encourage your children to get into school.

Over the half term, please can I urge you all to spend some time encouraging your children to use a knife and fork? Not only is this an important life skill, but it helps the children to develop their fine motor skills which are so important for handwriting. This will have such a positive impact on their writing, help them to become fluent and helping them to produce longer pieces of work with ease.

Just a reminder that Camp Beaumont will be running holiday clubs at school from the Easter break. Please do use this service so that Camp Beaumont are happy to run clubs through all holidays. A booking link and discount code is below.

<https://www.campbeaumont.co.uk/our-camps/the-russell-school>

TRS25 for 10% discount

I'm just letting you all know that Kier developments, the company who are managing the build of the new Clarendon School adjacent to our playground, are going to be hiring a small section of our playground to house some portacabins. They will have their own entrance and exit and will be completely separate from the children so the impact will be minimal.

And finally, thank you to all of you for getting so creative with costumes and outfits for our very first Number Day. The school is ablaze with colour, frills and lycra and all things rock star. The children are going to have a fun-filled day based around numbers!

Wishing you all a restful and health half term,

Laura Brooks

Smartphone Free Childhood Resources

We hope those of you who attended our Smartphone Free Childhood workshop found it helpful and insightful. In order to share information with families who didn't manage to attend, below are a number of links shared by Cheryl and Alex, who hosted the workshop.

If you would like more information, parents Amy Strachan and Vicky Kasprovicz, who have children in Yr 1 and Yr 4, would be happy to talk to you, share their learnings from the workshop and join with those who are interested to consider how we might take this forward within the Russell. They also hope to facilitate a stall at the summer fair for people to share their thoughts, questions, and ideas. Please reach out to Amy and Vicky either face to face or via your class reps.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IHf7VCOEK6P7IzxpYlOHRR>

This is the link to the Parent Pact:

<https://londonsouthwestparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

This is the results link:

<https://parentpactresults.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/londonsouthwest#therussellprimaryschool>

This is a good article for helping reduce gaming/screen time. Come alongside your child and help them travel back from the gaming existence 'back into the room': 7 Ways to Wean your Child off Video Games – <https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/7-ways-to-wean-your-child-off-video-games/>

Tips to talk to other parents / carers:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/how-to-talk-to-other-parents>

Lastly, this is a great cheat sheet for healthy tech at home

habits: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nGgUe3wrz72qxLtFN-m1ARpDEgecD7d1/view?usp=sharing>

World Read Aloud Day

World Read Aloud Day falls on the first Wednesday of every February (which this year fell on February 5th). The day is to celebrate the power of reading aloud, storytelling as a shared experience and the art and practice of reading aloud. All children in every year group, from Year 6 to Nursery took part, with the older children visiting the younger children and buddying up for a story. Most children, even Reception, had the opportunity to read aloud, as well as listen. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and something we are eager to do again soon!



Young Voices!

Last Wednesday, Year 6 sang at a Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena along with 8500 other children! Year 6 told the younger years, 'the experience was 'incredible'. 'There were many songs to learn and we sang and danced our way right through to the very last song!' 'We loved everything about it, especially the twinkling lights in the dark and we hope that Year 5 enjoy it as much as we did, when they go next year'. Thank you to all the family members who came along to support us in the audience for the evening's performance and to everyone for helping with transport home.



JOIN US THIS EASTER!

Day Camps from **£40** per day

 **Camp
Beaumont**

**Book
Now!**

LIMITED TIME OFFER



QR code to
purchase tickets!

Parents Quiz Night - Friday 28 February at 7:30pm, doors open 7:00pm

Year 1 are hosting a quiz night for parents (adult friends of parents are welcome too) on Friday 28 February at 7:30pm in the school hall.

Come on your own, with a partner or friend or as a team of parents and get your thinking caps on!

Quiz Master **Markus Reule** is back for a second time and will challenge and entertain you with a series of quiz questions - will your table be knowledgeable enough to win the big prize?!

Catch up with or meet other parents over a glass of wine (or two) and a range of tapas from the bar.

Tickets are £7 per player (excl. food and wine)

All adults welcome - if you'd like come on your own we can allocate you to a friendly table of fellow players.

Update from Sport Captains:

FOOTBALL

The Boys and Girls teams were motivated and focused. Both teams did amazingly well to prevent the other teams from scoring a goal. The defence on both teams were strong, however it was not enough to stop the other school. The final score for both matches: Boys 0-1 and Girls 0-2. Whilst neither team won their matches, they are still focusing on their training and are eager to play their next match.

NETBALL: ST ELIZABETHS

We played very well throughout this tough game and everyone showed great respect to the other team. Both sides deserved to win - it was extremely fair, with a score of 4-4 in the end. Without a doubt, it was a brilliant end to the game.

Sport captains: Griff, Percy, Oliver, Harry and Teddy



Nursery

It has been a busy half term as we welcomed new children into the class. This half term our topic has been all about travelling to different places. We have read the books 'The Big Blue Train' and 'The Big Yellow Digger'. We have made trains using collage materials and talked about who might be on the train and where they are going. We have explored the shapes and language of 'circles' and cutting round shapes. In Mental Health Week we have been exploring our feelings and making 'happy faces' with our resources. We have also been learning new letter sounds each week, exploring the sounds they can hear at the start of words and practising saying the sounds correctly.



Reception

Reception have had many '**Fantastic Adventures**' this half term! We've climbed giant beanstalks, swum underwater with mermaids and journeyed through deep dark woods, exploring some well-known traditional tales. We learned so much about story structure and main characters, and also explored alternative versions, understanding that the possibilities are endless when it comes to storytelling! We also fully embraced Children's Mental Health Week through daily circle times and have a better understanding of what a growth mindset is, accepting that making mistakes is all part of learning. We can't wait till our next topic **Amazing Animals**! We will be talking about what living beings need to survive and exploring how animals have adapted in different climates. We will also be channelling our inner Yoko Ono and exploring ways we can be help save the environment!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a great half term. We have finished up the half term by writing our own versions of *Zog*. We have thoroughly enjoyed writing our own stories and becoming authors. In maths, we are increasing our fluency to ten and have been playing the game 'hit the button' online to help us. In science, we have been very excited watching our plants grow in the classroom and have been busy taking care of them. We can't wait to watch them grow at home! In P.E, we have been given the challenge to get outside every single day in the holidays!

I hope you all have a wonderful half term and I look forward to hearing all about your adventures when we come back!
Miss Dittrich

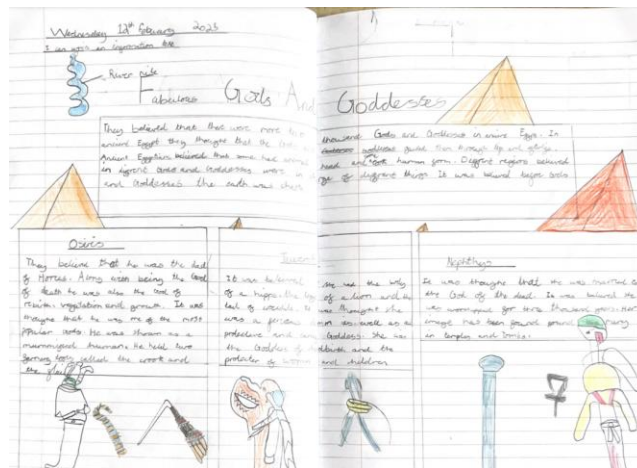
Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful last week of term writing newspaper reports in English and refreshing their knowledge of multiplication, division and addition in maths. In science they learned all about the human life cycle and even had a Doctor to visit, where they used a real stethoscope to listen to each other's heart beats! Below is a picture from our fantastic assembly. Have a lovely half term Y2 and well done.



Year 3

What a great fortnight we have had to end the half term! We have loved our history topic of Ancient Egypt and have worked hard to show this in our writing, especially our information texts which we have created about some of the Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. We have now completed our first half term of swimming and the progress being made is fantastic. In science, we have thought about the importance of reducing food waste. We have completed our fantastic design and technology project of food technology, where we made flatbread, hummus and fruit salads. In music this week, it was wonderful to start practising our songs for when we visit the orchestra in March. Have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing everyone after half term.



Year 4

What a wonderful end to the half term Year 4 have had! We finished it off with a scenic walk to Ham House to deepen our learning from this half term, and ended up having an adventure all around our local area when we couldn't get back to school the way we wanted to! We want to say a big thank you to our parent helpers for leading the way back. We are also super proud of our swimmers who competed in the Swimming Gala and represented our school beautifully – well done! Year 4 have worked so hard this half term, and we are very impressed with how much they have progressed with their times tables. We hope you all have a lovely half term!



Year 5

It's hard to believe we are now at the half way point of the academic year. We look forward to our *Mountains* topic upon return but have really enjoyed learning about the Egyptians this half term. We have made our own clay canopic jars, visited the British Museum, mummified tomatoes and written our own amazing adventure stories. We have been developing our leadership skills in PE and really enjoyed using our new skills with the Year 3 children. We shared our explanation writing with Year 3 too and read to the younger children in Reception class. We even managed to find time to begin our rehearsals for the 'Wonderful World' Singing Festival at The Rose Theatre on Wednesday 2nd April. Tickets go on sale on Monday 24th Feb. A really fun-filled and busy half term!



Year 6

Fanshawe have been very busy this past fortnight. Some children have been representing the school in football, netball and swimming - all showing great teamwork and resilience. They have finished their History topic on WW2 and now have a broad understanding of life was like during WW2 for children, as well as adults. The children created detailed and creative pieces of work that have been displayed around the school. The class have really enjoyed reading the book *Rose Blanche* and it has inspired them all in their narrative writing.

B SHARP STUDIOS
PRESENTS

ROCKBAND PROJECT

A FUN-FILLED PROGRAM DESIGNED TO
INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO THE EXCITING
WORLD OF ROCK MUSIC



SAVE THE DATE

HAM FAIR SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025 HAM COMMON,

11:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

- Free to attend popular and busy community event
- Held annually in June; has been running for over 40 years
 - Dog Show
 - Live Bands
- Local school performances
 - Childrens rides
 - Vintage vehicles
 - Over 140 stalls
- Antiques; books; bric-a-brac; clothes; gifts; toys; vintage & much much more!
 - Hot and cold food stalls
- Many other attractions – something for everyone.



NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming dates

24.2.25	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am, all children in class by 8.45am
28.2.25	PTA Quiz night
6.3.25	World Book Day (Dress up)
10.3.25	Year 3 & Year 5 Yggdrasil Project (details to follow)
11.3.25	Whole school tree planting day (details to follow)
11 - 13.3.25	SEND Family/Teacher Meetings
14.3.25	Year 4 Class Assembly (9:00am)
18.3.25	Book Fair Week
18.3.25 / 20.3.25	Family/Teacher Meetings
21.3.25	Year 3 Class Assembly (9:00am)
04.4.25	Year 5 Class Assembly (9:00am) Last Day (finish at 1:45pm)

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!