



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



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SCHOOL INFO

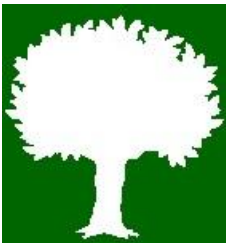
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



Headteacher's Update:

Dear families,

We have had a great start to the second half of the autumn term, with lots of opportunities to welcome the community into school. It was wonderful to see so many of our Year One to Six families enjoying the opportunity to look through books with their children on Monday. Year Five families will have this opportunity next Friday (22nd November) after the class assembly. Our Year Four children hosted our annual community tea on Tuesday. Friends and families were treated to tea, cakes and musical entertainment. A big thank you to the parents and carers who supported with this event. Our Year Five children are having an action-packed time at Sayer's Croft residential centre, enjoying lots of new experiences and pushing themselves outside of their comfort zone. And finally, we welcomed lots of families into Nursery and Reception yesterday for our stay and play session. We hope those who attended enjoyed spending time with their children in their learning space.

Our grounds are looking particularly splendid as autumn takes hold. The weather is certainly colder, and with this in mind, please do ensure that children bring coats and any other warm-weather items. We want our children to enjoy the outdoor environment, whatever the weather, so please do ensure appropriate attire is worn. We know that coughs and colds season is upon us, however as you know, minor ailments such as these can easily be managed in-school.

I am receiving more and more term-time holiday requests. Our school absence rate continues to be higher than the national average. I do appreciate your honesty with these situations, however please do remember that with the new statutory attendance guidance, I cannot authorise term-time holidays (except in exceptional circumstances) and as I have shared previously, there is now a national threshold for considering a penalty notice. The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. One school day counts as two sessions. We will continue to consider individual circumstances and will always try to find ways to support families and children around attendance in order to avoid penalties.

As this week has been anti-bullying week, we have thought particularly about the value of respect; not only the importance of respecting others, but also the need to respect ourselves and conduct ourselves in a way which makes everyone proud. I spend lots of time popping into classrooms and I am always proud of what I see; children listening to each other, engaging with the learning, and challenging themselves to aim higher. When we think about respecting ourselves and others, we must remember the impact that the online world can have. If your children have access to phones, tablets or other devices, I urge you to ensure that you have the appropriate settings in place to ensure that the children are only accessing age-appropriate material. I have included some QR codes below to support with this and please do look at the additional documents, which have been shared with this newsletter.

Thank you for all your support,

Laura Brooks

Keeping children safe online

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.



Our annual community tea

Below are some highlights from Tuesday's community tea:



Look What We Have Been Learning...

Nursery and Reception

Nursery and Reception welcomed parents and carers into their classroom and showed them what happens in a typical day in Early Years. As it was World Nursery Rhyme Week, we have been singing a different nursery rhyme each day. On Thursday, the rhyme was Incy Wincy Spider, with nursery sharing lots of spider themed activities including making a spider's web and acting out the rhyme with spiders and drain pipes. Reception also had lots of autumn themed activities for parents to join in with based on their book of the week, *Leaf Man*, by Lois Ehlert. They made leaf men using leaves gathered from the outside area and used clay to make leaf prints. Thank you to all the parents who could make it, it was a very busy and fun morning and we can't wait to have you back!



Year 1

Year 1 had some very exciting visitors last week! After reading the book 'Aliens love Underpants' we decided to design some underwear to convince the aliens to come and visit us! Even though it worked, unfortunately the aliens crashed their spaceship so we made some rockets to try and help them get home. Ms Brooks has been wondering what has been happening so we are currently busy writing a recount of what happened. In Science, we have been looking at the different materials that were in the alien's spaceship and in maths we have been investigating numbers 6, 7, 8 and 9. We are looking at our new topic 'Moon Zoom' and we are having a blast!



Year 2

In Year 2 this week, we have been busy making sliders and levers in DT. In science, we conducted a really fun experiment to see which materials could absorb water and then we used our findings to vote for which was the most waterproof.



Year 3

Year 3 have had a very busy week and have coped exceptionally well with changes of teachers as Miss Frame has been with Year 5 on their school trip. Both Mrs McCann and Ms Brooks have loved their teaching time with the children. Ms Brooks was really impressed with the lyric-writing skills of the class. Ask your children to tell you all about it!

Year 4

Year 4 would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended our community tea on Tuesday afternoon! The children had the loveliest time taking drink orders and serving (and eating!) cake. We also really appreciate all of the help and contributions from families! We have now started our new art project, which is creating rainforest animals out of clay. Year 4 have loved exploring shape, form, and texture, and look forward to discussing our ideas and questions with a sculptor!

Year 6

What a brilliant return this half term from Fanshawe class! The children have been very busy and focused in their learning. They have completed their non-chronological reports on their Amazonian creature and they used their geography knowledge to support their writing. The children are becoming very skilled at transferring their new learning within their writing in several subjects. Finally, we had a lovely school trip to Kew Gardens, with glorious weather and smiles galore! Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

ARTS RICHMOND 2024

Young Writers' Festival

Please visit our website for more information and to submit your work: ArtsRichmond.org.uk



Submissions close Friday 6th December 2024

Anthony Horowitz writes:

I am very happy to be working with Arts Richmond and their Young Writers' Festival. I have recently moved to Richmond and love the area... in fact my recent book is set here.

More to the point, I'm always keen to encourage young people to develop their creative skills and if they're living in this area, there's plenty to inspire them. Just walking along the river, in the park or on the green, we're surrounded by history and enchantment and there are stories everywhere. Good luck. And get writing!



Arts Richmond, Room 21, ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR.
Registered Charity in England and Wales No 251359

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‘Helping children with...’ Webinars for parents 2024/25

Achieving for Children's Mental Health Support Teams are delivering a series of webinars for parents of primary-aged children. The ‘Helping Children with ...’ series of webinars will cover a range of common difficulties experienced by children and will aim to share evidence-based strategies to help parents and carers support their children with these difficulties. Below is a list of webinars on offer over the coming months.

Helping children with ...	Overview of webinar	Morning 9am	Evening 6pm
Worries	The ‘Helping children with worries’ webinar will help you learn ways to support your child in dealing with their big feelings, worries and fears. This webinar will give you practical ideas on how to help your child to think more positively and develop their self confidence. You will also be introduced to some helpful cognitive behavioural therapy concepts.	Tuesday 12th November 2024 AND Friday 25th April 2025	Friday 24th January 2025
Resilience	The ‘Helping children with resilience’ webinar will support you in understanding how children develop resilience, while exploring a variety of helpful coping skills, and what you can do as a parent or carer to help them be their most confident self.	Friday 31st January 2025	Monday 14th October 2024 AND Thursday 20th March 2025
Friendships	In this webinar we will learn how to support our children develop their friendship skills: learning to communicate better, repair difficulties, and negotiate solutions when relationships between peers are tricky.	Friday 28th February 2025	Monday 18th November 2024 AND Tuesday 29th April 2025
Challenging behaviours	Children often communicate their needs through their behaviours. The ‘Helping children with challenging behaviours’ webinar will help you to learn about the different factors that can impact children’s behaviours, build or strengthen positive relationships by reinforcing the importance of giving positive attention. You will also learn strategies to establish home rules and	Friday 6th December 2024	Tuesday 24th September 2024 AND Monday 3rd March 2025

	boundaries to create a safe and structured environment for your children.		
Screen time	In this webinar we discuss the positive and negative impact of screen time and gaming on a child's mental wellbeing. We will share the recommendations for screen time based on age, how to have this conversation with your child in a positive and effective manner and a simple and effective way to manage the use of screens in your home.	Friday 14th February 2025	Wednesday 2nd October 2024 AND Friday 2nd May 2025
Sleep	The 'Helping children with sleep' webinar introduces a number of key concepts and strategies to support you in creating a healthy bedtime routine for your child. This webinar focuses on the importance of sleep due to its impact on child development and wellbeing, and explores key components in enhancing sleep quality.	Friday 9th May 2025	Wednesday 27th November 2024 AND Tuesday 8th July 2025
Transition to Secondary	In this webinar we will explore the main worries children may experience when moving from primary to secondary school. We will help parents/carers think about the different ways to help to support and get their children prepared for the transition.	Thursday 22nd May 2025	Tuesday 20th May 2025 AND Tuesday 10th June 2025

*All Webinars are 60 minutes long, with 15 minutes at the end for questions and answers.

**Please have a pen and paper handy for the webinar.*

How to sign up

Parents and carers can sign up to the webinars by scanning the QR code or using the link below:



https://afc-self.achieveservice.com/service/MHST_Helping_Children_Webinars_Primary

You can choose the date you would like to attend, and will need to provide your email address, the school your child attends, and their year group.

Who to contact

If you have any questions, please contact the school Mental Health Lead, who will direct queries to the allocated MHST practitioner.

Mental Elf

Festive Fun Run



Sunday 1st December 2024, 11am
Marble Hill Park, Twickenham TW1 2NL

Mental Elf is a festive walk, jog or run around the park.
Choose to complete 1,2 or 3 laps - 3 laps is 5k.
Festive fancy dress is not essential but strongly encouraged!



Join us for festive frolics and raise vital
funds for Richmond Borough Mind!



**Full details and
tickets are
available on our
website:
www.rbmind.org or
scan the QR code**

 **mind**
Richmond



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Santa Fun Run 2024



Run, jog or walk 5K and raise money for your local Hospice.

Sunday 8 December at Bushy Park.

Sunday 15 December at Sandown Park

Racecourse followed by a Christmas Market.

9.30am for a 10.00am start.



Scan the QR code or visit
pah.org.uk/santafunrun



Princess Alice
Hospice



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NOTICEBOARD

18.11.24	Year 2 – local area walk Boys' football, Meadlands School
19.11.24	Girls' football, Meadlands School
18.11.24	Year 2 – local area walk
22.11.24	9.00am Year 5 assembly followed by Yr 5 book look
6.12.24	Hanukkah assembly Winter Fair 3.30pm in school hall
11.12.24	Yrs 1-6 Panto trip
13.12.24	School Christmas Lunch
17.12.14	Yrs 4-6 Carol festival at St Peter's Church am
18.12.24	Nursery and Reception singalong am Yr 1-3 Winter Production am
19.12.24	Yr 1-3 Winter production pm
20.12.24	Class parties Early closure for end of term – 1.45
7.1.25	Tuesday – children return to school

Breakfast Club
<p>Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am – 8.30am. Please book online with ScoPay AT LEAST 4 days prior to the session/s required.</p> <p>Active Club is also available from 3.15pm to 6.00pm. Please contact Active Club directly.</p> <p>Both are such a valuable resource for the school – please use them!</p>