



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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SCHOOL INFO

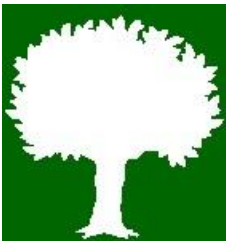
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Headteacher's Update:

Dear Families,

As our first term draws to a close, we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for:

Our **Nursery** children have blossomed, grown, developed friendships and learned to work together and listen to each other.

Our **Reception** children have made huge strides with their phonics and numerical understanding. They have developed independence, perseverance and resilience.

Our **Year One** children have become extremely independent learners and their writing is developing well.

Our **Year Two** children have developed great teamwork skills, having another go when things seem tricky.

Our **Year Three** children have taken the move upstairs with ease. They are working together and supporting each other when things are challenging.

Our **Year Four** children have shown themselves to be role-models to the whole community, as displayed in our community tea.

Our **Year Five** children have developed independence and resilience, as displayed on their trip to Sayer's Croft.

Our **Year Six** children have stepped up to the responsibility of their roles with remarkable maturity.

We have had many opportunities to showcase the talents and learning of the children and we are putting our newly-acquired stage to good use. Our Winter Fair was a huge success, with the raffle alone making over £1000 for the school. Thank you to everyone for making this happen.

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to create a new advertising flyer for the school. Thank you so much to Christina, Nick and Amina for the time and expertise you have given us. We are sharing these flyers locally. If anyone has any community links and would be happy to take some to distribute, please do come and get some from the office. Your support is greatly appreciated!

I am really excited to tell you all that we will be working with *Camp Beaumont* in the new year. They will be providing holiday camps during school holidays (starting at Easter) and we hope that it will be a successful partnership, supporting local families!

Some of you may be aware of the *Smartphone Free Childhood movement*. It is a growing movement, originally set up by parents and carers, empowering others across the country to refrain from giving their children smartphones at a young age. On Wednesday 29th January, at 7pm, I have arranged a workshop for parents and carers. I hope it will be enlightening and empowering evening. In the meantime, please do follow this link if you would like to join the smartphone Free Childhood Whatsapp group for The Russell School. Please note – this is a parent-run group and no members of school staff will be part of it: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IHf7VCOEK6P7IzpxyIOHRR>

I finish with a huge thank you to each and every one of you. I am so proud to be part of this community. The Russell School is a really special place and that is because of all of you. A Happy Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah to our families who are celebrating and I wish you all a restful and restorative break. To our families moving to warmer climes – good luck and keep in touch!

Laura Brooks

Our Chess Champions!

The winner of the Autumn Term chess Tournament was Alex! He actually tied with Adam but by using the formula called “sums of progressives” he picked up the trophy with the gold medal going to Adam. Samunnat picked up the silver medal and Jason picked up the bronze. Well done to everyone!



Netball News!

A big well done to the netball team for their before school match against Meadlands. Although we didn't win, there were two fantastic goals scored, great effort and I'm looking forward to matches in the new year!

Russell Children go Busking!

Last Tuesday morning, a group of singers from Years 2-6 sang at Richmond Station to passing commuters. These students, who attend Breakfast Music Club every Tuesday morning, sang an assortment of Christmas favourites, including 'Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer', 'Frosty the Snowman', and 'Silent Night'. They really did bring a lot of enthusiasm and festive spirit to the station and did very well to collect a huge £120 for their chosen charity, Crisis, who support homelessness. Thanks to Mrs Thomas and Ms McCann, and the parents who came along to cheer on the singers. Next term, Breakfast Music will become Teatime Tunes, after school on a **Thursday** and we hope that anyone who would like to come, can make it (3:15-4:15pm).



The Crisis logo, featuring the word 'Crisis' in a white, stylized, lowercase font on a red rectangular background.

Each year, Year 4 gets the amazing opportunity to start learning an orchestral instrument as part of the 8-week Wider Opportunities project through Richmond Music Trust. There will be two woodwind instrumentalists working with the class to introduce the Flute. This follows on nicely from their exposure to the Recorder in Year 3, which has many similarities with the Flute.

We are fortunate to have a great selection of flutes at the school and even more fortunate that a friend of the Russell - professional flautist Nina Robertson - a very successful freelance flute player who started the flute in a similar context as a young girl - has very kindly inspected all of these instruments over the last few weeks to make sure that they are in good order. Further, we have, very kindly, been gifted several items to maintain these flutes from All Flutes Plus, a specialist flute shop in Central London. We are very grateful to them for their generosity.

Celebrating Hanukkah

At the beginning of December, Adrienne came into assembly to talk to the children about the Jewish celebration of Hannukah. We learned about the significance of lighting the Menorah and learned how to read some of the symbols found on the Dreidel. Some children were lucky enough to have a try!



Carols and Christmas Cheer!



On Wednesday, we enjoyed our annual carol concert at St Peter's Church. This is a tradition that has been in place for 20 years now! It was a joyous celebration of music, messages and community. Thank you, as ever, to Mrs Thomas and our amazing musical parent helpers for making this happen!

Reception

Reception have really enjoyed learning about and experiencing the different seasons this term. The autumn colours and leaves have been inspirational and the winter chill has led us to think of those animals that hibernate. This week has also been very special as we invited parents in to our singalong and performed on stage! We have been practising our songs for a few weeks, making up special actions and keeping to the beat using instruments. We are so very proud to have performed and look forward to the next opportunity! Thank you parents for all your contributions, support and participation in what has been quite a busy term. We have absolutely loved getting to know each other and look forward to more 'Fantastic Adventures' (our next topic) in the Spring term!



Year 1

What an action packed end to the half term it has been. To enhance our knowledge about our topic 'Moon Zoom,' we had an experience in a space dome. We were very excited to learn about all of the different planets and the solar system. We have also had a wonderful reading session with Year 3 in the library, which gave us the opportunity to have a story read to us by another student. In the lead up to Christmas, we have been very busy practising for our Christmas production. We have really enjoyed learning all of the different songs and creating actions to go along. We hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did!

We thoroughly hope you all have wonderful festive season and a happy New Year!

Year 2

In Year 2, we have been combining our creative talents and scientific knowledge of materials to make Christmas decorations. We also made our final moving picture as part of our design technology project. In maths, we have enjoyed representing multiplication through class quizzes and data charts.



Year 3

What an amazing couple of weeks it has been! We've put a lot of effort into rehearsing for our Christmas play and both performances were absolutely fantastic! A huge thank you to Year Three for all their hard work. It has been wonderful to watch. Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break. I can't wait to see you all in the new year.

Year 4

What a lovely end of term Year 4 have had! To finish off our science topic, we conducted an experiment to test which liquids are the worst for our teeth. We used eggs to represent our teeth (as the shells are made of a substance similar to tooth enamel) and put them in different liquids to test which made the egg shells decay the most. Year 4 came up with some very insightful and justified predictions, and drew some very interesting conclusions by closely studying the eggs! We also enjoyed taking part in the Carol Festival in St Peter's Church on Tuesday – the children sung beautifully and loved being a part of it! Thank you for a wonderful term Year 4 – we hope you have a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Year 5

Despite a very busy couple of weeks, as 2024 draws to a close, we take time to reflect on the happy memories so far in Ellis-Bextor Class! During the term we have travelled to Space and back (all before playtime..), climbed the tallest walls and discovered the deadliest germs – to name just some of the exciting adventures already in Year Five. The highlight has to be our trip to Sayers Croft but the visit from the Planetarium was a joy. As one child commented as they exited the dome, 'This is the best thing I've ever seen!' We do hope those who could attend the Carol Concert enjoyed the entertaining experience '....it's the highlight of my year!' was a truly heart-warming comment as we were leaving the church. The children have worked enthusiastically this term and have earned a good rest. We look forward to seeing them return next year for more hard work and dedication. It has been a wonderful privilege getting to know all your children. We look forward to our Egyptian themed topic in January and to a fun filled 2025! Thank you for all your kind wishes and support and we hope you all enjoy a restful holiday with your family and friends.



Year 6

Fanshawe class have been very busy these past few weeks; from planning and completing their narratives, persevering with long division and even creating clay fossils! We have been exploring the different features found in narrative writing including: adventurous vocabulary, personification and dialogue. The children have worked very hard in maths as we have been learning various methods within multiplication and division this term. Finally, the children performed beautifully during the carol concert. We hope you all enjoyed it!

A Musical Treat!

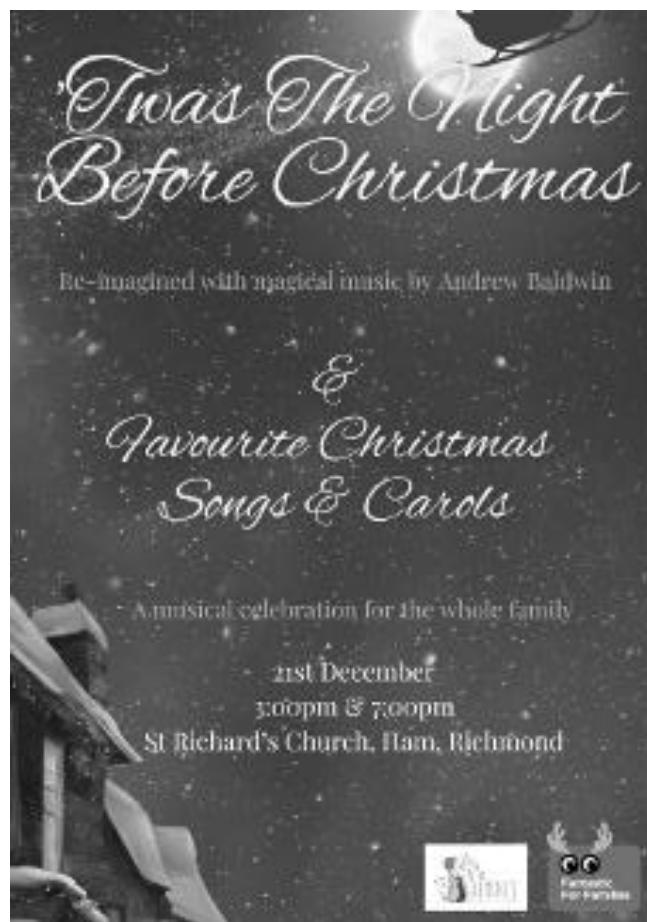
Experience Clement Clarke Moore's timeless Christmas classic, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas, like never before.

Immerse yourself in the wonder and excitement of this festive favourite, reimagined with captivating music as renowned children's narrator, Alexander Campbell, breathes fresh life into the iconic poem.

The performance will be followed by a lively selection of beloved Christmas carols, inviting everyone to sing along and revel in the festive spirit. Ticket link below:

www.bit.ly/HamTwas

Ham, St Richards Church on 21st December at 3pm and 7pm



'Helping children with...' series of 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. In the third and fourth columns of the table below, you will find the sign up links. Please note that sign up links will be added a month before the webinar dates.

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	Friday 6th December 2024	Tuesday 24th September 2024 AND Monday 3rd March 2025

	learn strategies to establish home rules and 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 clicking on the sign up links. This will take them to a google form where they will need to provide their email address, the school their child attends, and the year group their child is in.

Alternatively, you can sign up by scanning this QR code on your phone camera.



Who to contact

If parents have any questions, they can contact the school who will direct queries to the allocated MHST practitioner.



NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming dates

7.1.25	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am, all children in class by 8.45am
9.1.25	Swimming commences for years 3 and 4
21.1.25	Year 5 trip to British Museum
21.1.25	N, R, Yr 1 and Yr 2 drama workshop
22.1.25	Reception and Year 6 height and weight measurements
29.1.25	Parent / Carer Workshop with Smartphone Free Childhood advocate 7pm (not suitable for children)
7.2.25	Year 2 class assembly 9am
10.2.25	Year 5 singing festival at Meadlands School
14.2.25	Final day of half term
24.2.25	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am, all children in class by 8.45am

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!