



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



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Headteacher's Update:

Dear Families,

First of all, thank you to all who joined us for our 'Meet the Teacher' event last week. We hope you found it useful and we look forward to working with you lots more in the future. A huge thank you also to the families who joined us for our racial justice policy consultation. This is a hugely important, ongoing piece of work and the views of parents and carers are vital in ensuring we continue to build a dynamic, diverse and inclusive community.

The children are all now fully immersed in their learning for the first half term. There is some impressive work on display in books and around the school. Our youngest learners are already following their routines with ease and they are producing some really creative work! We look forward to sharing with you at our upcoming Year 1 to 6 Parents / Carers' evening sessions, which will take place after school on 13th and 15th October. Booking details will be shared soon so please keep an eye out.

Thank you very much to all families who gave so generously for our harvest celebration. We all enjoyed hearing about how our very own orchard is getting on and it was fascinating to watch some of our older children, supported by parent volunteer Kath, pressing apples and producing the sweetest, freshest apple juice I've ever tasted!

As the weather starts to get colder, please do ensure your children are suitably dressed so that they can play outside comfortably at break and lunchtime. We are starting to creep into the season of coughs and colds. Please remember that mild symptoms are not a reason to keep your children at home. Every moment in school counts and missed days not only impact learning, but also important opportunities to socialise and build connections. Please do work with us to ensure your children are in school, on time, every day that they are able to be. There is some information below to support you with this.

Nevertheless it looks like the weekend is going to be relatively warm and settled so we hope you all enjoy some rest and relaxation and come back to school on Monday refreshed and ready to learn!

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend,

Headteacher

Golden Scroll Certificate Recipients

A huge well done to: Elliot, Daniel, Elisabeth, Toby, Charlie and Maizey, whose fantastic designs are being used to create our Golden Scroll certificates. Each piece of work will feature for half a term. The standard of entries was very impressive and the entries are on display outside our school hall.



Harvest

Thank you for the donations to the food bank last week. The Vineyard Community is very grateful. Thank you also to Reverend Kate from St Peter's for leading our assembly and to Kath for sharing her time and expertise. Year 6 had such an interesting afternoon engaging with our young trees in the orchard on the Petersham field. We are so looking forward to sampling Russell fruit varieties in the future!



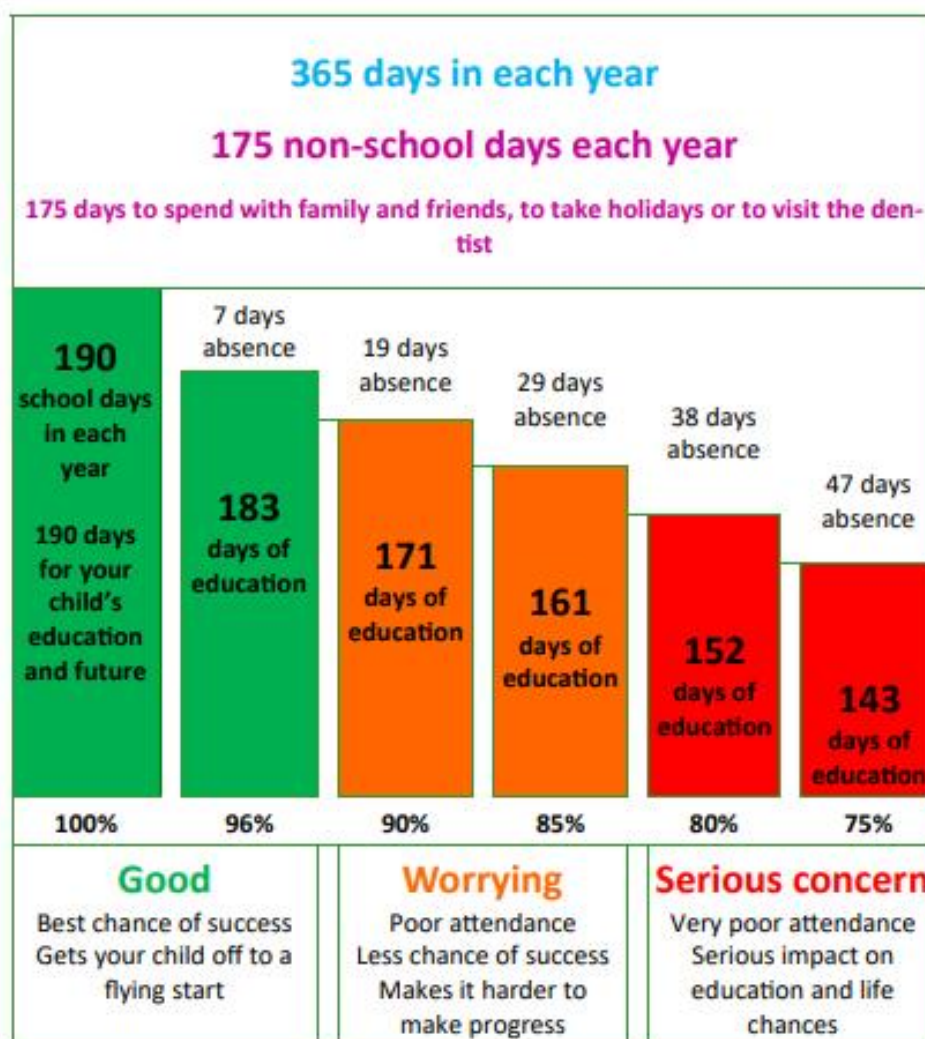
The Russell School

Attendance

At The Russell School we are always working hard to further improve our attendance levels. We aim to ensure that all children are able to take advantage of the opportunities available to them in order to reach their full potential by promoting regular attendance and punctuality.

Good Attendance Means...

Being in school at least 96% of the time or at least 183 days



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS



The Russell School

Hints and Tips for Good Attendance

Did you know that whilst children are in school they can:

- Make new friends
- Learn and enjoy new experiences
- Feel safe and listened to
- Grow in confidence
- Take part in school trips, special events, teams and clubs
- Keep up with their class work and homework
- Achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Be made to feel special when they do well
- Meet and help people in their community

As a parent you can help by:

- Telling your child how important school is
- Praising your child's achievements and celebrating their success
- Arranging non-urgent medical appointments after school
- Establishing clear routines at bedtimes and breakfast times - early bedtimes make for early mornings and a better start to the school day
- Encouraging healthy eating and exercise
- Encouraging your child to organise their equipment the night before school
- Ensuring your child completes their homework
- Taking time to talk to your child about what they have learnt and enjoyed at school
- Providing a nutritious breakfast to give your child the energy they need for the rest of the day — don't forget about the benefits of attending Breakfast Club

Help us to continue to thrive:

The Russell School Education Fund (RSEF)

The Russell School receives its funding from the government on a per-pupil basis, but student numbers are much lower across the UK than they have been in the past - and Ham is an area which is particularly affected by this issue. **We currently have 25 spaces across the school which accounts for over £100,000 of funding.**

School budgets are being stretched to cover increasing overheads, meaning the school must make difficult decisions on what can be prioritised.

The RSEF is allocated at the discretion of our amazing headteacher Ms Brooks to invest in the future of our school, and to ensure we can continue to provide a creative, exciting curriculum for our children.

We really appreciate the contributions of existing donors, and we understand that some families are not able to donate to this voluntary fund.

Each year we will update parents and carers on how the money is spent.

As a guide, a donation of £1 or £2 a day per child would make a huge difference. Anyone who is unable to make this level of donation is of course welcome to contribute a smaller amount, and larger donations are greatly received if your circumstances allow.

Together, we can achieve great things.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows us to claim back 25p for every £1 you donate, **at no extra cost to you.** If you are a taxpayer, you can opt to add Gift Aid to your donations.

If it's easier, simply scan the QR code below:



However you choose to contribute, your help is always gratefully received.

Warm regards,

Friends of The Russell School

Nursery

The Nursery has welcomed lots of new children this term. We are all learning to follow routines, explore the classroom and make new friends. We have made our own playdough, have been digging in the garden to plant some bulbs and talked about our families. We have enjoyed listening to lots of stories about owls including 'Owl Babies'. We have made some lovely owls using paint and collage.

Reception

It has been a wonderful start for the children in Duck Class. They have quickly adapted to the new classroom, new routines and have made lots of new friends! We have enjoyed sharing our news during circle time, with children listening carefully to their peers and waiting patiently for their turn. We have also enjoyed co-constructing our class charter, thinking about the important values that we think will help our class to flourish! It's also week one of Phonics, which the children have gone quackers for!



Year 1

The Year 1 children have made a fantastic start to the school year, settling into their new routines with remarkable confidence and enthusiasm. The transition from EYFS can be a big step, but they have adapted beautifully. They are quickly mastering new classroom routines, building on wonderful friendships and approaching every challenge with a bright, positive attitude. It has been an absolute pleasure watching them grow in confidence over these first few weeks and they should all be incredibly proud of how well they have embraced life in Year 1.

Year 2

It has been a fantastic first three weeks in the Pond, and our Pochards have settled in beautifully to Year 2! We have been busy developing our writing skills, focusing on using immersive language, including exciting similes and expanded noun phrases, to bring our ideas to life. Our class book, *The Knight Who Wouldn't Fight*, has inspired lots of imaginative writing and discussion. The children have also been loving our topic on castles, exploring what castles were like and learning about their different features. In DT, they have been busy experimenting with lever and sliding mechanisms, enjoying the opportunity to design, make and test their own ideas. It has been wonderful to see the children becoming increasingly confident, independent and enthusiastic learners, and I am so proud of how well they have settled into Year 2!

Year 3

Welcome to Year 3, Kestrel class and thank you to all those who were able to attend the Open Event, we hope you found it useful. It has been great beginning to get to know all your lovely children. They are beginning to adopt their new routines and have settled in well on the top floor! Thank you for your help with organising their equipment, PE kits and homework. Just a reminder...Big Question, Maths and Spellings are sent out Friday. All homework is due back on the Wednesday. The children have now been given their Reading Diaries and should take them home and bring them back to school every day. I appreciate these new routines often take some time to embed. We have started our Stone Age topic and are looking forward to the trip next week. Thank you to our parent and grandparent helpers for volunteering to chaperone the children to the Museum – we really appreciate your help, thank you.

Year 4

Sparrowhawks have settled amazingly well into Year 4! We have been working hard on both our new and familiar routines, moving around the school as silently and gracefully as our class bird. The children have each shared some great first impressions with me as we continue getting to know one another. In English, we have begun to explore the Anglo-Saxons and the epic poem *Beowulf*, focusing on figurative language and expanded noun phrases. We have also combined Science and DT to start planning our own working lighthouses, and we even became super-spies in PE, dancing our way through lasers, pressure plates, and guard dogs! We are off to a fantastic start to the year.

Year 5

Robins have settled wonderfully into Year 5! They have been working incredibly hard as we establish our new routines and the children are already showing great enthusiasm for the exciting year ahead. In English, we have been thoroughly enjoying reading *How to Train Your Dragon* and are now busy building up the skills we need for our first big write: a non-chronological report all about dragons! In maths, we have been developing our understanding of decimal numbers, exploring place value and learning how to read, write and represent decimals confidently. In science, the children have been working like scientists as they investigate the properties of different materials. Through practical, hands-on experiments and collaborative group work, they have been making observations, testing materials and discussing their findings. In history, we have begun our fascinating topic on the Vikings, finding out who they were and why they came to Britain. The children have also particularly enjoyed our DT lessons, where they have been exploring micro-bits and learning how to create, test and debug their own programs. They have made a brilliant start to their swimming lessons too, showing a positive attitude, confidence and perseverance. I would like to congratulate every Robin on such a fantastic start to Year 5. I am very proud of how well they have settled in and I am really looking forward to all the learning and adventures we have ahead of us!

Year 6

What a fantastic start to Year 6! We started it off with a lovely harvest celebration, which included pressing our own juice. The children have loved learning about the Victorians and the Industrial Revolution in history, and are using this to help them write gothic and mysterious narratives in English. In maths, they are building upon their prior knowledge of place value and are able to use six digit numbers accurately. Thank you for a lovely few weeks Year 6, have a lovely weekend!



OPEN EVENTS

For Year 7 Admission
September 2027



Open Mornings

2nd and 5th October 2026
9:00am - 10:45am

Open Evening

30th September 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Super Saturday

10th October 2026
9:00am - 11:00am

Join us at our Open Events – scan the QR
code to book your visit today

📞 0208 894 4503 🌐 www.twickenhamschool.org.uk





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 🌐 www.footyfun4kids.com

Are you raising the child of a relative or a friend?

Whether you have a special guardianship order, child arrangement order or no legal order in place, you and your child are eligible for support and advice to help with education.

This could include:

- Pupil Premium funding
- advice and support from AfC Virtual School
- advice and support from other organisations



For more information, please contact Rebecca Lloyd at AfC Virtual School or the designated teacher in your school.

Email: rebecca.lloyd@achievingforchildren.org.uk



Upcoming dates for Autumn term

3.9.26	INSET day. School CLOSED to children
4.9.26	INSET day. School CLOSED to children
7.9.26	Children return to school – gates open at 8.30
8.9.26 – 11.9.26	Staggered start for new Reception children
14.9.26	Harvest Assembly
15.9.26	Year 1-6 parent / carer welcome and curriculum presentation 3.30 in the hall
17.9.26	Racial Justice Policy consultation with parents / carers 5pm in school hall
21.9.26	Jeans for Genes day and International Day of Peace
1.10.26	Black History Month Commences
1.10.26	ADHD awareness month
1.10.26	Individual photos taken
12.10.26	NSPCC Talk PANTS week
13.10.26	Parents / Carers' eve
15.10.26	Parents / Carers' eve
15.10.26	EYFS and KS1 Drama Workshop
20.10.26	Year 4 community tea
23.10.26	Final day of the first half term
2.11.26	Children return to school – gates open at 8.30