



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



Dear Families

I can't believe that we're at the end of our second term already! To all our families who celebrated Eid or Persian New Year (Nowruz) last week, we hope you had a wonderful day filled with family, friends and celebrations.

Thank you to all of the Year 1 – 6 families who joined us this week for our Parent / Carer and teacher meetings. We hope you enjoyed looking through your children's books and talking to their teachers about successes and next steps and thank you for supporting the book fair.

It has been a truly action-packed term with highlights including: performing at the O2, upgrading the Early Years outdoor area, debating successes, lots of musical opportunities, trips and visits, World Book Day fun, outdoor learning and assemblies delivered by inspiring members of our community.

This week, we are celebrating Science Week in school and as part of this, the children have been told about a competition which will run during the Spring Break. This week's newsletter is dedicated to all things science and as part of this, full information about the competition is shared below.

When we return after the holidays, we HOPE that we will be moving into the warmer weather which will mean the children will have lots of opportunities to play outside. With this in mind, I wanted to acknowledge the situation with The Tree Fort. I am as frustrated as the children (and you) with the exceptionally slow progress which is being made with the works. I did not imagine that we would be without it for such a significant time. Be assured, this is not due to lack of engagement on the school's part. In order for the equipment to comply with the appropriate standards, we must be very exacting and that is not without its challenges. I really do appreciate your patience with this and a huge thank you to the members of the community who are supporting with this project.

As always, thank you to all of you for your wonderful support and engagement with our school community. The positive relationship between home and school is vital for our children's success, and we truly appreciate the many ways you contribute to this. Together, we can help every child at The Russell Primary School develop into the respectful, responsible and resilient members of the community they are destined to be.

Wishing you all a restful and restorative Spring break and a very happy Easter to all our families who will be celebrating.

Laura Brooks

Headteacher

Competition Time – Calling all science spotters!

Over the Spring Break, you are going to be science spotters!

We would like you to observe and record science happening in your everyday lives over one week in the holidays, then bring your findings into school, presented however you would like to, to share with your class!

There will be prizes in assembly!

Some examples of what you might think about / spot....

- Why does toast go brown?
- How can you dye your hair?
- What turns a mixture of ingredients into a cake?
- Why do leaves change colour?
- How does a phone charge?
- ...The list is endless!!!!!!!

Some examples of how you might record your work:

Reception & Year 1:

Picture diary with simple labels

Grown ups helping with writing

Examples might include: "Ice melting in my drink," "Shadow changing size," "Bubbles in the bath"

Years 2-3:

Recordings with drawings and sentences

You could try to categorise into different scientific concepts: forces, materials, living things, light/sound.

You could include: What I saw, When I saw it, Why it's science

Years 4-6:

Detailed observation log

You could include: Observation, scientific explanation, questions raised

You could classify observations by science topic (biology, chemistry, physics)

This is completely open ended and the children can choose how they record their science spotting!

The ideas above are just to prompt and inspire.

We look forward to seeing what the children spot!



The Russell children and The Royal Society

We are thrilled to have been selected to participate in this year's Royal Society Young People's Book Prize national voting panel. Our panel — comprising Timur, Maaïke, Toby, Zach, Thaddeus, and Frank — brought thoughtful enthusiasm, spirited discussion, and careful deliberation to the judging process. The Young People's Book Prize exists to champion literacy among young people, inspire a love of science, and celebrate the writing of outstanding, accessible STEM books for readers under fourteen.

We were truly impressed by the quality of this year's shortlist. The six titles, each remarkable in its own right, are:

Green: The Story of Plant Life on Our Planet by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton

Patience by Rachel Williams, illustrated by Leonie Lord

The Animal Body Book by Jess French, illustrated by Jonathan Woodward

The History of Information by Chris Haughton with Loonie Park

The Rocks Book by Nancy Dickmann

The Wild Life of Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Animals by Mike Barfield, illustrated by Paula Bossio

We are delighted to share that all six shortlisted titles are now available in our library for you to explore and enjoy.

A huge thank you to one of the scientists in our community, Dr Amy Strachan, who has facilitated this.



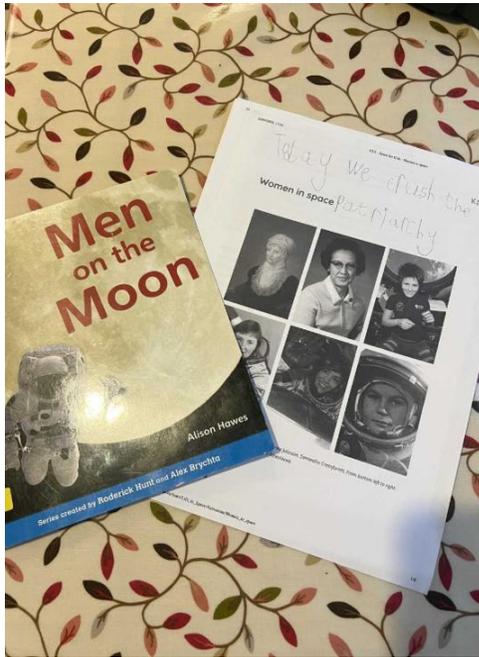
Inspired by the scientists in our community

On Thursday, we were all inspired by our very own Dr Parastoo Hashemi, who delivered an exceptionally engaging assembly for the children, talking about the ground-breaking work she does developing smart sensor technology to probe the brain. The children were all enthralled by her story and they asked a range of really pertinent and enquiring questions. We hope we can do some more work with Parry!



Representation in Science

As represented by our visiting scientist Dr Parastoo Hashemi, science is for all genders and this is something which Wulfie and Magnus starting thinking about when working on their reading at home! When faced with the book: Man on the Moon, Wulfie recognised that this seemed odd and he asked where all the women in the book were. This sparked discussion, discovery and their own project! What great role models you both are!



Chicks are a hatching!

Our early years children have experienced science in action, watching their eggs hatch into chicks! What a fantastic, first-hand experience this has been and we are pleased to report that the chicks are now safe with Matilda and her family, where they will now live.



Our littlest scientists!

The last couple of weeks in Nursery have been full of excitement, exploration and investigation as we welcomed the first signs of spring. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about seasonal changes, and we went on a spring walk around the school grounds, listening carefully to the busy birds and observing the first emerging buds and beautiful flowers. Following our walk, we practised distinguishing and naming environmental and nature sounds, developing listening skills and awareness of the world around us.

We talked about baby animals being born in spring and we were lucky to witness the hatching of some baby chicks. We explored movement and body control through music, using body percussion while listening to Vivaldi's Spring from The Four Seasons.

The following week, we continued our learning by sowing cress seeds and getting creative with a range of arts and crafts. The children had great fun making delicious chocolate Rice Krispies Nests, which they were very proud of!

Chess Success

Once again this term Russell School took part in the annual UK Chess Challenge which involves thousands of children all playing chess at the same time in schools and clubs throughout the UK.

The trophy for first place this term was won by Samunnat. Runners up each taking home a medal were: Jason, Dylan and Thaddeus. Every player was given a Certificate of participation and details about the "Megafinal" should they wish to challenge players from other local schools. Congratulations and well done everyone!

If you would like to join our chess club next term when we start a whole new tournament, just click on the following Link: <https://www.letsreg.com/uk/event/russellschoolchessclub>

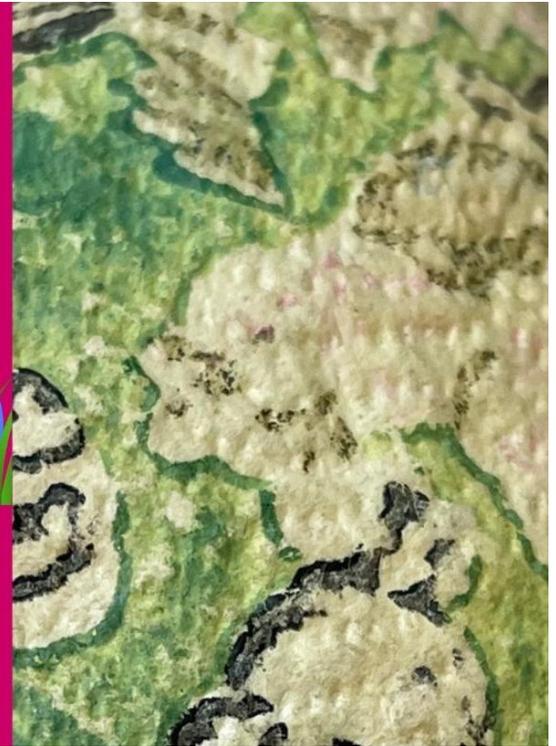


Easter Activities for Families



FAMILY WORKSHOP: EASTER EGG DECORATIONS

Tuesday 31 March to Friday 3 April 2026, 10am to 12noon
Hop into history this Easter! Get up close with our 100-year-old Easter eggs and discover the festival's fascinating past. Then, let your creativity bloom as you design and decorate your very own decoupage eggs to take home. A cracking good time for all the family! To book, scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.museumofrichmond.com/families/workshops/>





National Online Safety

7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WakeUpWednesday



1

Which apps/games are you using at the moment?

THIS WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING ON THEIR DEVICES, ALONG WITH THEIR INTERESTS. REMEMBER THAT THEY MIGHT NOT TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY ARE USING, SO IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO ASK THEM TO SHOW YOU THEIR DEVICE, BECAUSE NEW APPS AND GAMES ARE RELEASED REGULARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE WITH WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Which websites do you enjoy using and why?

AS IN THE TIP ABOVE, ASKING THIS QUESTION WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE, AND ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THEIR ONLINE ACTIVITY, ASK THEM HOW THEY USE THE WEBSITES, AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY CAN USE THEM IN A POSITIVE WAY, ALSO ASKING THEM TO SHOW YOU IF POSSIBLE.



2



PLAY AGAIN?
YES NO

How does this game/app work? Can I play?

SHOW A GENUINE INTEREST IN WHAT THEY ARE DOING, WHILST YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME OR USING AN APP WITH THEM, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY THINK IS A DANGER TO THEM, IF THEY ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANT TO SHARE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH YOU, QUESTION WHY.

Do you have any online friends?

CHILDREN CAN FORM POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE ONLINE, AND THIS HAS BECOME MORE COMMON THANKS TO ONLINE MULTI-PLAYER OPTIONS, BUT THEY MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FRIEND AND A STRANGER, YOU COULD MAKE THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFIC TO YOUR CHILD, FOR EXAMPLE, "HAVE YOU MET ANYONE ONLINE THAT YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WITH?" THEY MAY NOT WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOU, SO ENSURE YOU TEACH THEM ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.



4



Do you know where to go for help?

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY BE THE ADULT THEY TRUST THE MOST, SOME CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE DUE TO CONFUSION OR EMBARRASSMENT, BECAUSE OF THIS THEY MAY STRUGGLE TO APPROACH THE NORMAL PEOPLE WHO WOULD HELP, SUCH AS YOURSELF OR A TEACHER, HAVE A CHAT TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAN GO FOR HELP, AND HOW THEY CAN REPORT ANY ACTIVITY THAT THEY BELIEVE IS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE.

Do you know what your personal information is?

YOUR CHILD MAY ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS BUT THEY MIGHT NOT THINK ABOUT HOW IT CAN BE SHARED, HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION IS AND HOW THIS CAN AFFECT THEM IF IT IS SHARED BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD UNDERSTANDS THE DANGERS OF SHARING CONTACT DETAILS OR PHOTOS, AS INFORMATION SUCH AS THIS CAN SPREAD QUICKLY ONLINE.



6



7

Do you know your limits?

CHILDREN MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVICE OR GAME ADDICTION, TALK TO THEM OPENLY ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND ASK WHETHER OR NOT THEM SPENDING TIME ONLINE OR PLAYING A GAME IS AFFECTING THEIR SLEEP, PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL OR IF THEY ARE GENERALLY LOSING INTEREST IN OTHER ACTIVITIES, YOU MAY LEAD ON TO ENCOURAGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSING THE INTRODUCTION OF TIME LIMITS WHEN AT HOME.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /nationalonlinesafety

Phone - 0800 368 8061

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.





**FOOTY FUN
4 KIDS**

EASTER FOOTBALL SPORTS & ACTIVITY CAMP



The Russell School

Petersham Road, TW10 7AH

30 March - 10 April

Football Tournaments ✓

Multi-Sport Challenges ✓

Epic Playground Games ✓

Ultimate Obstacle Courses ✓

Creative Arts & Crafts ✓

Easter Fun ✓

Scan for FREE
HAF places:



FUEL

Feed Ur Everyday Lives



Contact Us

0330 229 0566



Website

www.footyfun4kids.com



Book your place online at:

<https://pbbl.uk/4aWxXwc>





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

Easter 2026 at St Peter's, Petersham



Copyright: Crown of Thorns
by Mark Jennings

Palm Sunday 29th March

9.30am Parish Communion, with dramatised reading of The Passion and Distribution of Palm crosses

Monday 30th March

7pm Compline, a simple meditative evening prayer

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Communion services recalling Christ's last meal, his washing disciples' feet and his praying in anguish in Gethsemane

7pm at **St Peter's, Petersham TW107AX**

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Good Friday Family Trail, a 30-minute children and family trail recalling the story of Good Friday with hot cross buns and activities

12 noon 'The Cross of Christ', an hour's reflection, readings, song and prayers

Easter Day Sunday 5th April

6am Outdoor Dawn service with Easter Candles and followed by a celebratory breakfast; meet outside church, please dress for the cold start and muddy uneven paths.

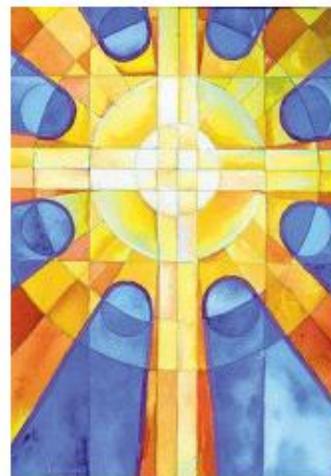
9.30am All Age Communion service followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard and hot cross buns. All ages welcome



Instagram @ [st.peters_petersham](#)
Facebook - St Peter's Petersham Richmond UK
Email - st.peters.petersham@googlemail.com

Priest - Rev Kate Daymond - revdaymond@outlook.com
www.stpeterschurchpetersham.com 0208 940 8435

St Peter's, Church Lane, Petersham TW10 7AX



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CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

A FAMILY CONCERT FOR ALL AGES

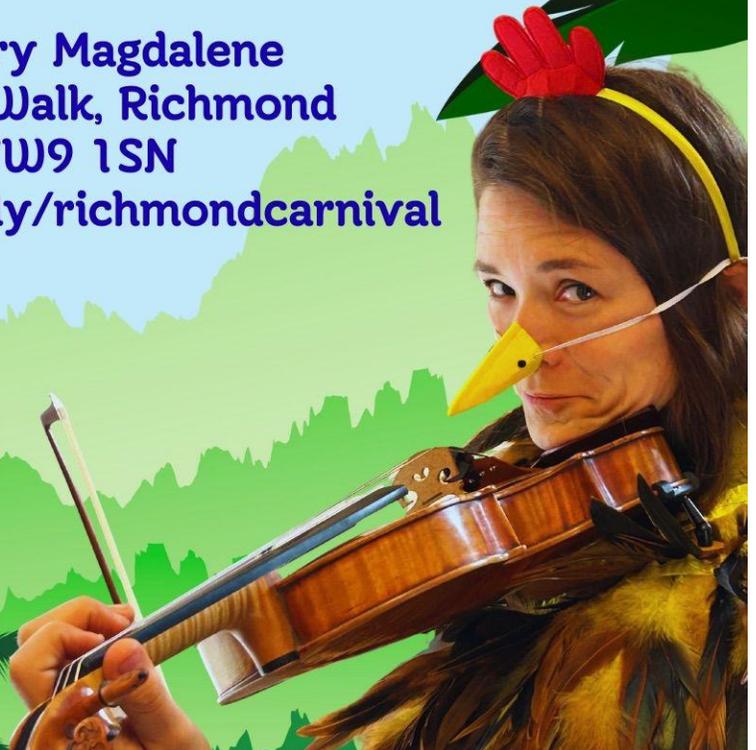
2:00PM SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

St Mary Magdalene
Church Walk, Richmond
TW9 1SN

TIX: www.bit.ly/richmondcarnival



EVENTBRITE
TICKETS





Upcoming dates for summer term

13.4.26	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am The Russell School Children's Mental Health Week (This is Your Place)
15.4.26	Rescheduled Isle of Wight Info eve for Year 6 families. 5.30pm
24.4.26	Year 5 Class Assembly Y2 cake sale
25.4.26	Mini Marathon
28.4.26	Y5 St Richards Choir Rehearsal
30.4.26	Y1 Farm Trip
1.5.26	Y2 Scooter Training
4.5.26	May Bank Holiday
14.5.26	Class Photo Day
15.5.26	Reception Class Assembly
20.5.26	Y5 Rose Theatre Singing Festival
22.5.26	Y1 Class Assembly Break up for half-term holiday