



# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



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### IN OTHER NEWS...

Lots of parents attended our Curriculum Display Event to see all of the hard work the children have been putting in this term. We had special guest appearances from the likes of Benjamin Franklin, Pele, Albert Einstein and Frida Kahlo (aka year five!) Thank you all for coming!



# Headteacher's Update



Here we are at the end of the second term, so much has happened this term and it has definitely flown by! We would like to thank our wonderful PTA for hosting two exciting events for the children during the past two weeks, an Easter Scavenger hunt last week which saw the children answering clues to win a little Easter themed prize, they all absolutely loved it. This week saw the Bounceathon, a chance for a bit of money raising and a lot of fun! Thank you to all of the parents who gave up their time to help, we really value all of your support and the children have absolutely loved the activities.

Year four, five and six all headed out on trips over the past two weeks. Year six sang their hearts out with other schools from across the borough at the RMT singing festival at The Rose Theatre. I would like to thank Mrs Thomas for the hard work she puts in to helping the children learn the songs. For any of the parents who managed to get a much sought-after ticket, I think you will agree that they were brilliant! Year five headed off to the British Museum to immerse themselves in all things Ancient Egypt, the trip really brought their project to life and year four thoroughly enjoyed their wander through Richmond park to the apothecary in Holly Lodge to bring their 'Potions' project to life. The end of term certainly does not mean that we slow down!



You may have already read the news I shared earlier this week from our chair of Governors about our new appointment for September, Ms Laura Brooks. As you know I took on the role of Acting Head teacher for a year and it has been a very valuable experience but my heart lies in the classroom, I will be heading back to my role as Deputy Head Teacher in September when Ms Brooks will become our Head Teacher (you are stuck with me for another term!) Ms Brooks will be an asset to the Russell team, I know her through my time as Deputy Head and I could not be happier to welcome her on board. She will be popping in during the summer term so the children may start to talk about her.

Have a lovely Easter holiday and see you in the Summer Term! Miss James



## HEADTEACHERS AWARDS



This week I had a visit from Sadie and Maya in year one who had written some fantastic adventure stories. I would definitely like to go on an adventure with both of them!



My final Head teacher award visit of the term was from Adam and Gabi. They had both been researching facts about their favourite period of time from their class project. Adam chose the stone and Gabi chose the iron age. They both produced some fantastic work.

# Look What We Have Been Learning This Week...

## Donaldson Class (Nursery)

This half term has flown by and it is hard to believe we are nearly into the last term! The children have been busy exploring lots of new sounds in our phonic sessions and have loved finding things for our sound box like a 'blue bear' or a 'red rocket'. We have been learning lots of counting rhymes and practicing our counting when we choose our fruit at snack time and when we count the children at registration. Although Spring is here some days it has felt like the middle of winter. One day it's raining, then snowing, then feels like spring is in the air as we feel the warmth of the sun! Nevertheless, the children love to play outside in all weathers. We have loved our new water play area in the classroom and especially exploring the different sized bottles. On World book day we enjoyed dressing up and sharing our favourite books. In Science Week we were fascinated by learning about how wind can make things move and this included listening to the story of The Three Pigs. We made houses out of bricks, sticks and all sorts of materials both 2D and 3D and are still loving listening to and retelling the story! This week there have been many Easter fun activities which have obviously involved chocolate!



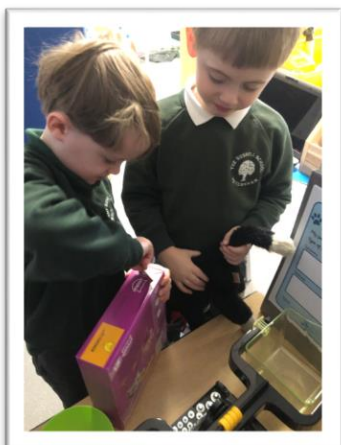
## Brownlee Class (Reception)

What a lovely term we have had in Brownlee Class, we have loved learning all about animals, such an important topic when we have such animal rich surroundings. We began by exploring pets and opened up a veterinary surgery in our role play, this was a great place to develop our language as we looked after the poorly pets and a perfect opportunity to practise measuring with scales, all that cat food made our class a bit stinky though!

We moved on to the animals we might find in our local area, we are just like Percy the Park Keeper living so close to Richmond Park. We wrote our own Percy stories based on 'One Snowy Night', just imagine excited we were when it really did snow while we were reading the story! We also shared 'After the Storm' on a very windy day which helped us explore wind and water as natural energy sources, we moved bubbles and balloons without using our hands.

As the weather became slightly warmer we began thinking about the signs of spring, we noticed the animals coming out of hibernation and the way our environment is changing, we explored life cycles of animals and plants and began naming parts of a plant. This is something we can carry on exploring all through the Easter holidays, wherever we travel and whatever we do, Spring is all around us.

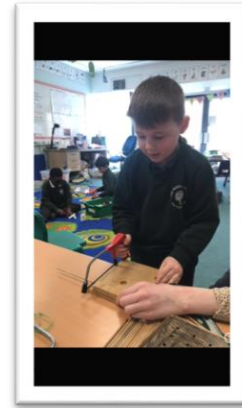
It is strange to think that there is only one term left but we are looking forward to the final part of our journey in Reception, just think how much we have already learnt and what we will have achieved by July.





## Singer Class (Year One)

It has been a real joy to teach Bright Lights, Big City to Singer Class this term. They have engaged so well in all topics that we have explored and have worked very hard! Some of the brilliant work they have produced this term includes; writing facts about The Leaning Tower of Pisa, writing their own adventure stories and retelling the story of The Great Fire of London. The weather finally allowed the class to recreate The Great Fire of London and observe how the fire spread so quickly. The children loved learning about this and I'm sure they have told you lots of facts about the fire. This term, Singer Class' DT project was to build a car with a moving axel. This involved, designing their car and using a saw to cut the axels to a suitable length. The children were so sensible when using the equipment and all produced amazing cars! I was so impressed. Thank you for all of your support this term by helping your children at home and bringing in items like cardboard boxes when asked to! I really appreciate all that you do and hope you have a lovely Easter.



## Goodfellow Class (Year Two)

Wow this term has just flown by - so it must have been a fun project about Brazil. We have been super impressed with how much information they have learned about the country, animals, lifestyles and environment. Our favourite activities were around carnivals, learning to samba and making masks to parade in our own school carnival. The class have shown great enthusiasm for music and dance through drumming and listening to Brazilian music. They continue to surprise us with their great creativity in making beautiful masks and shakers and drawing detailed rainforest pictures. There has been lots of progress made in reading as we have focused in on poetry and non-fiction, the class are excellent at sharing their thoughts on books and have a real love of reading. We can see so progress in writing too as all the skills in handwriting, spelling, punctuation and structure that they have learned are coming together. Well done Goodfellow Class for an excellent, well-behaved and hard-working term. We hope you all have a lovely break this Easter and look forward to an exciting summer term together.



## Zephaniah Class (Year Three)

What a term it has been in year three! We have had such an exciting end to the term. Firstly with an amazing science week, the children got to be collaborative and innovative during their own experiment to build and test which wind turbine would be the strongest to power a small village in Peru where there is currently no electricity. We also had some incredible parent volunteers come in to work with the children on some planting in the allotment and engineering their own rollercoasters! Then Zephaniah Class put on an outstanding performance in their class assembly, they all worked so hard to remember their lines and really showed what superstars they all are! As it is leading up to Easter the children got to take part in a very fun scavenger hunt around the school grounds, reading clues and looking for answers within our surroundings. The children had a great time, they have worked so hard this term and I hope they enjoy a very well-deserved Easter break!





## Angelou Class (Year Four)

Our half term has been filled with mysterious potions, dramatic Shakespeare, and microscopic particles. We also welcomed our new student, Oliver, to Angelou class and we are finally a full family! We have been exploring the basic states of matter; solids, liquids, and gases and their properties. It surprised many of us that gases can actually take up space (like when we blow up a balloon) and that they have mass and weight, since they are often invisible to our eyes. Using our bodies, we re-enacted how the particles are arranged in solids, liquids, and gases, as well as how they speed up or slow down when exposed to heat or cold. It was fascinating to see how particles in a solid begin packed so tightly together but bounce around crazily when heated to create a gas. Next term we'll apply this knowledge to looking closely at how the water cycle functions. We finished off our potions topic with a trip to Holly Lodge in Richmond Park. We were fortunate enough to see a small group of fallow deer on the way and even saw some park staff cutting the grass verge with shire horses and an antique mower. At the Lodge we were taught how pills were mixed, rolled, and cut in Victorian times before making our own from playdough and edible gold powder. We also learned about the health benefits of different herbs and made an extract from mint leaves that would have been used to treat stomach aches. All in all we had a great day out and had a big thank you to the staff at Holly Lodge.

## Nicholas Class (Year Five)

It is incredible to think that we are already at the end of the Spring Term! A tinge of sadness to know that when we return, we will be embarking on our last term together in Year 5! Having said that, what a delight this term has been. We have enjoyed learning all about the Ancient Egyptians, including our fabulous trip to the British Museum. Science has been a key feature of our term with our British Science Week events, not least our expert visitors and plenty of investigations. We have learnt lots about different types of numbers, Prime, Composite, Cubed, Square, largest and common multiples and have begun our work on fractions. We have found patterns in numbers and sought ways to eliminate and recognise numbers efficiently. We have written chronological reports, diaries, speeches and have adapted our own play-scripts, all the while developing our writing, drama and speaking and listening skills. I hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the Summer term!





## Coelho Class (Year Six)

Year 6 have really enjoyed our learning project this term: A Child's War. We have learnt what it was like to be a child during World War 2 and how different it is to being a child today (no phones or computer games!) It is fascinating to learn how Richmond was affected by the war and all the history that lies in our local area. One of the highlights of this term was our D.T. project building model Anderson Shelters. Anderson Shelters were constructed at the bottom of people's gardens during the war to protect them against air raids. It was important that our model shelters had a strong structure. They also had electrical components. Some of us chose lights so you could see inside; others chose buzzers to represent the air raid sirens. We had a lot of fun sawing and using the hot glue gun to create our models. We showed a lot of teamwork and resilience and are very proud of our finished models! We hope you got the chance to see them at the curriculum display in the hall.

Next term, we will visit the Imperial War Museum to round up our topic - a trip we are very excited for!

## Russell School Chess Club Results

This term Russell School Chess Club took part in the annual Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge which takes place in schools and clubs up and down the country every spring term and attracts thousands of children. You will probably have seen players wearing the badges throughout the term. After some very competitive matches it was a very exciting finish with just one point separating first and second place. In First Place lifting the Trophy was Edward! Right behind him in second place taking a Gold Medal was Mateo. Runners up were, Wells and Wai Sze taking Silver and Bronze Medals. Have a good Easter Break. Mrs Vannucci.







# NOTICEBOARD

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17/4/23	INSET day School closed
18/4/23	First day of the Summer Term
24/4/23	Year 3 Richmond Town Walk
27/4/23	Year 2 Holly Lodge
28/4/23	Year 5 Class Assembly
1/5/23	Bank Holiday
4/5/23	Coronation Discos (4pm-5pm YrN-2 5:15pm-6:15pm Yr3-6)
5/5/23	Coronation Day
8/5/23	Coronation Bank Holiday
9-12/5/23	Year 6 SATs

## THE RUSSELL SCHOOL NURSERY

**Admissions for our Nursery class 2023 is now open. If your child turns three between now and December 2023 please pop in to the school office for an application form or to book a tour.**



## MAKERS UNITED

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MAY	Paint on fabric
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JULY	Make a summer bag
AUGUST	Creative craft club
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## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

**Active Club provides a stimulating care for children after school.**

**Healthy snacks and lots of fun activities are included. Children are collected from class at 3:15 or after their club at 4:15 and are able to stay up to 6pm daily.**

**Please arrange direct with Active Club:**

**07740 292 379**

[info@sportsactivecoaching.co.uk](mailto:info@sportsactivecoaching.co.uk)

[www.sportsactive](http://www.sportsactive.co.uk)

## SWIMMING

### INTENSIVE HOLIDAY COURSES

ST RICHARDS POOL, HAM

**SMALL GROUP LESSONS**

**EASTER**

**MON 3RD - THUR 6TH APRIL**

**TUES 11TH - FRI 14TH APRIL**

**BOOKINGS ALSO NOW OPEN FOR :**

**MAY HALF TERM**

**MON 29TH MAY - FRI 2ND JUNE**

**SUMMER**

**MON 24TH JULY - FRI 28TH JULY**

**MON 31ST JULY - FRI 4TH AUG**

**MON 28TH AUG - FRI 1ST SEPT**



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## HOCKEY

OLD KINGSTONIAN HOCKEY CLUB

### EASTER HOCKEY CAMP

TIFFIN GIRLS SCHOOL, KT2 5PL  
4 & 5 APRIL 2023 • 10AM TO 2.30PM  
SCHOOL YEARS 2-11

FIELD PLAYERS & GOALKEEPERS • ALL ABILITIES WELCOME  
MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSIONS AVAILABLE  
(LUNCH BREAK 12-12.30PM)

MEMBERS: £15 PER SESSION/£30 PER DAY  
NON-MEMBERS: £20 PER SESSION/£40 PER DAY

Members: please book via your member account  
Non-members: please go to [www.ekhockey.com](http://www.ekhockey.com) to book your place or email [administrator@ekhockey.com](mailto:administrator@ekhockey.com)

**BOOKING NOW OPEN!**

