



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



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SCHOOL INFO

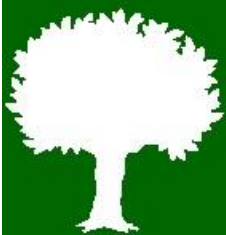
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CLASS UPDATES

A round up of the week

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Headteacher's Update:

Dear families,

It's been another week of sunshine and showers, which seems most predictable as we head into the bank holiday weekend!

Luckily, the weather looks set to pick up next week, which coincides with our much-anticipated grand opening of the reading hut on Friday 10th May. We are delighted that local author, Peter Bunzl, is going to do the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon and for any children who have copies of his books, he will happily sign these. Thank you very much for your generosity in stocking the reading hut. We are expecting a delivery from Parade's End today and for any of you who would like to help boost our stock, further book donations are most welcome!

We have a number of trips and visits this half term (both upcoming and having already taken place) including Thames Young Mariners, Hampton Court, Hounslow Urban Farm and Holly Lodge. I wanted to share a quote from one of our Year Five children who visited Hampton Court this week:

"My cheeks are hurting so much from all the smiling... This trip has really brought what we have learnt in class, to life and I feel so happy!"

It really sums up the purpose, value and sense of wonder which trips offer and it makes all the planning and organising worthwhile!

We still have vacancies on our governing body. If you are interested in being part of the strategic vision and direction of the school, please do come and talk to me. It is an interesting, engaging and rewarding role and I'd be happy to chat about it.

We still have spaces in our wonderful nursery for September. If you have little ones, or you have friends and neighbours with little ones, please do tell them to get in touch. Our nursery is a creative, nurturing setting where children learn, play and thrive.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful bank holiday weekend and I hope we get a little glimpse of the sun... We look forward to welcoming everyone back in on **Tuesday 7th May**.

Laura Brooks

Good Job by Good Gym!



Over the Easter holidays, we were lucky enough to welcome the wonderful volunteers from Richmond Good Gym. It took around 90 minutes for them to dig out, line and then edge a pathway to the reading hut. Mateo (Year 5) helped the team move the soil and with checking the path was straight! The following day, even more Good Gym volunteers arrived to move the very large bags of woodchip and finish the pathway. Sky (Year 3) came along to assist and proved to be an excellent wheelbarrow driver. The team also gave the Early Years outside space a quick tidy and topped up the woodchip in the den building area.

Thank you Good Gym, we really appreciate your hard work!



Look What We Have Been Learning...

Nursery

We have been enjoying some warmer days this week after the cold start to the term. However this doesn't stop us getting outside to ride the bikes, build shelters and climb!

We have been listening to the story of The Hungry Caterpillar and counting all the food he ate. The children have loved printing caterpillars and finding circles to make their caterpillars. We have used paint to make butterflies and enjoyed looking closely at pictures of butterflies and caterpillars using magnifying glasses. We have been learning to take turns and have played lots of games like 'Snakes and Ladders' and 'The Snail Race'.

We have been learning the sounds 'j', 'v' and 'w' and we made jelly in our cooking.



Look What We Have Been Learning...

Year 1 and 2....

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about all things animals! In English we have been learning all about owls and it has been very exciting to learn new facts about them. We have been working very hard this week writing our very own non-chronological reports! In Maths we have become experts in numbers 20 – 50 and can now count backwards and forwards in tens. We are very excited for our upcoming trip to the farm next week!

Bolt Class are really enjoying our project on minibeasts. We have been up close and personal with snails this week, writing great information texts with lots of detail and specific vocabulary.

We shared our incredible stories written last term on 'Adventures in Brazil' with Reception earlier this week, reading the story many times over to the younger children, inspiring them to write their own. Well done Bolt Class.

There has been lots of work on practising our maths fluency skills – keep practising!

Look What We Have Been Learning ...

Year 3 and 4...

It has been fantastic to see everyone back together again after the Easter break. Year 3 have been doing lots of great learning this past fortnight, with a maths focus on fractions. They have worked so hard-even though it has been a tricky topic! In English, they finished their classic twists on the fairytale, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and we have started our new unit on writing biographies. We have started a study of our local area in geography and have enjoyed learning about Banksy and we have started to create our own pieces of artwork in the same style. Well done for a fabulous fortnight Year 3!

Welcome back from Jenner class! Year 4 have been very busy over this fortnight; from a brilliant residential trip, understanding the four stages of the water cycle as well as finishing their exciting diary entries. In maths, the children have worked very hard in fractions and they have a better understanding of improper fractions and mixed numbers. The children have begun exploring our new English unit - information texts. Keep up the brilliant and positive work Jenner class.

Look What We Have Been Learning This Week...

Year 5 and 6....

What an amazing couple of weeks we have had in Year 5! Our Tudor topic is in full swing, especially after our wonderful trip to Hampton Court - the home of Henry VIII. Thank you to all our parent volunteers – we couldn't do these trips without you! Rehearsals for the singing festival have been going well and we are almost ready for the big event at the Rose Theatre on 21st May. We finally found a break in the weather and planted our seeds in the allotment – hopefully in a few weeks we'll have a crop to harvest!



Y6 has been working really hard to prepare for SATs. Last week was the mock exams and everyone did amazingly. We have one week left before the actual SATs...

Everyone's looking forward to after the SATs because we are preparing for an exciting adventure to the Isle of Wight! But first we are holding a fundraiser, named the Isle of Wight Bazaar, on the 23rd of May. We are going to have our own stalls to raise money for extra activities such as a fun fair, ice cream etc.

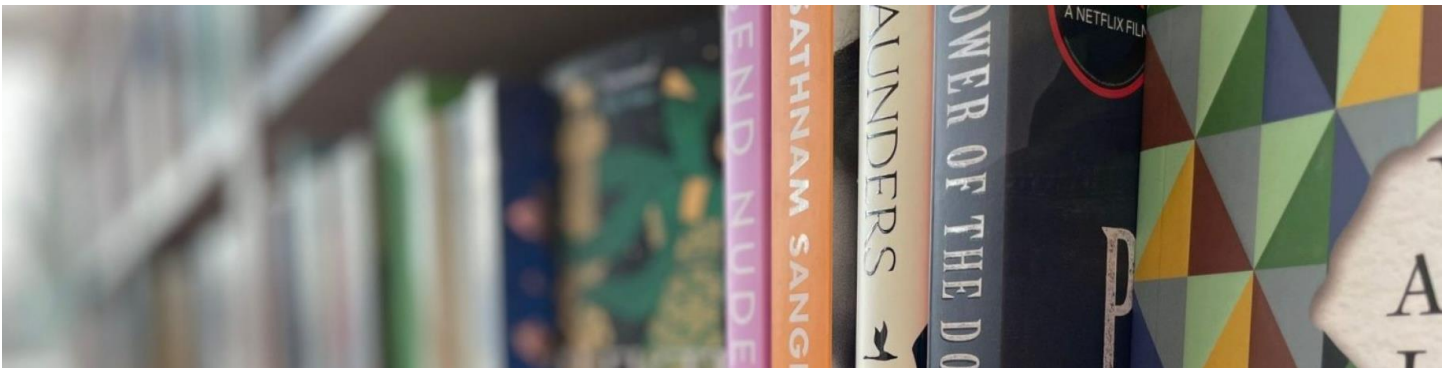
Our Grey Court PE teachers are going to help choose who will represent our school in Borough Sports. Borough Sports is an athletics competition that all the schools in the area compete in.

In science Y6 have been dissecting lamb hearts using lots of professional tools. We have also been making smoothies that represent blood. Lots and lots has been going on!

By Maya, Wallis and Wai Sze

Community News...

Parade's End Bookshop upcoming event:



Click on the link below to find out more about an upcoming event based on the publication titled *It's Not Fair: why it's time for a grown-up conversation about how adults treat children*.

[It's Not Fair: why it's time for a grown-up conversation about how adults treat children - Parade's End Books \(paradesendbooks.co.uk\)](https://paradesendbooks.co.uk)

PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY 10AM – 12PM.
HAM LIBRARY GARDEN, HAM STREET,
HAM. TW10 7HR**



We will be accepting donations of house plants, perennials, vegetables, flowering annuals, shrubs, fruit and herbs from 9.45am and will be very happy to collect and store any donations prior to the sale.

The proceeds of the sale will continue to help support local initiatives and projects.

Contact us: info@hamunitedgroup.org.uk

Ham United Group (HUG) is a volunteer-run community organisation that supports groups and projects that build a more sustainable and cohesive community in Ham and Petersham. We empower people to care for our environment and local nature.

At present, we are proud to be supporting these amazing local initiatives: Ham Library Garden, Grey Court School Allotment, Friends of Ham Lands, Richmond MakerLabs, Ham Meditation Group, Green Grafters.



GIRLS CRICKET

ON HAM COMMON



Girls Cricket on Ham Common

**Girls
Pizza & Cricket
Evening
5pm, 7th May**

Girls only group sessions (Yr 2 – Yr 9)

Tuesday 5pm from 23rd April

All Stars (Reception – Yr 3)

Fridays 5pm-6pm from 3rd May

**Bring a friend and come
and join the fun!**

**Free Taster
Session!**

**Matches throughout the summer
For complete beginners to future test stars**

£45 to join or weekly sessions for £5

All Stars - £40 for 8 sessions + register for All Stars here:

www.tinyurl.com/HandPCC

Contact:

info@hamandpetershamcc.co.uk

www.hamandpetershamcc.co.uk





**HOME
START**

Richmond, Kingston
& Hounslow

**FREE
VOLUNTEER
COURSE**

JOIN HOME-START'S VOLUNTEER NETWORK

Do you have parenting experience and a few hours spare each week? Local charity Home-Start is offering a free volunteer training course to provide emotional and practical support to parents with pre-school children facing challenging times.

Interested? Contact Erin Laybourne
erin@homestart-rkh.org.uk or 07884 536161.

Registered charity no: 1108975.



**2hrs being a listening
ear so a parent feels
less alone**

Volunteer with us

We know that time is precious, but just 2 hours a week could make a difference that lasts a lifetime.

Home-Start volunteers give children the best possible start in life by providing emotional and practical support to families when they need it most.

Our next volunteer training course starts on: 9th May 2024 in Hampton Wick. To find out more about volunteering with us, contact: volunteer@homestart-rkh.org.uk.

Apply now



**HOME
START**

Richmond, Kingston
& Hounslow



NOTICEBOARD

6.5.24	May Bank Holiday
7.5.24	Year 1 trip to Hounslow Urban Farm
10.5.24	Grand opening of reading hut (for children)
13.5.24	Year 6 National SATS week commences
16.5.24	Year 6 Parents / Carers Isle Of Wight info meeting 4.30
20.5.24	Year 6 to The Rose Theatre – Barnes Literature Festival
	Reception Forest School Week
21.5.24	Year 5 to The Rose Theatre – Singing Festival
22.5.24	Year 2 to Holly Lodge
23.5.24	Class Photos
	Year 6 Isle of Wight Bazaar
24.5.24	Year 1 class assembly at 9am
	Last day of half term (school finishes at 3:15pm)
3.6.24	Children back to school
	Year 6 to Isle of Wight

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!