



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



PAGE 2

A NOTE FROM MS BROOKS

Headteacher's Update

PAGE 3

SCHOOL INFO

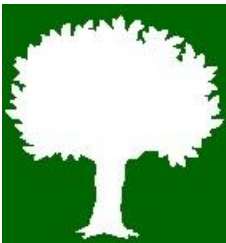
PAGE 4

CLASS UPDATES

A round up of the week

PAGE 12

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



Headteacher's Update:

Dear Families

We cannot believe how quickly this half term is flying by! It has been filled with trips, sports matches and galas, assemblies and lots of learning. As ever, thank you to all of you who support us with making sure that the trips and visits can happen.

On Wednesday of this week, three of our Year five children, Dylan, Samunnat and Enoch, took part in the national primary schools Cicero Cup debating competition. This was a first for the Russell School and the boys were exemplary role-models with an admirable outcome, a commendation for Dylan and a thirst to take part in further inter-school debates. If you are interested in joining our debating club, please make contact with the office and they will signpost you.

Today, we are taking part in National Number Day. Mrs Gray has planned a number-filled day, designed to encourage our children to apply their number skills to real-life contexts. We look forward to seeing the number-themed costumes!

It seems to be the season of endless rain, however I'm hopeful that after half term, the rain **might** subside and I sincerely hope to see attendance and timekeeping pick up too. It really is disappointing that our attendance and punctuality remains below the national data, and well below the Richmond data. In terms of our strategic school development, this is an area of concern. As ever, please do come and talk to a member of the team if you are finding it difficult to maintain the excellent attendance which our children deserve.

Just a reminder that Monday 23rd February is an INSET day so school is closed to the children. If you have any childcare concerns for that day, do get in touch with Footy Fun 4 Kids as they will be running on-site childcare on that day. More details below.

Over half term, weather-permitting, there will be some exciting development work in our early years outdoor area. This will enrich the learning experiences of the children and facilitate some really focused gross motor development. Let's cross our fingers for some mild weather!

Yesterday morning, whilst on gate duty, I had to speak to six separate members of our community who parked / stopped illegally. This week alone, there has been a reminder sent from the school office, a formal letter sent from me and still, yesterday, I had to step away from greeting children and checking in with families in order to try and manage the situation. This simply cannot continue. We are proud to be a recipient of the Bronze Healthy Schools London award, we are proud to be working towards our Rights Respecting Silver award and we are proud of our children's passion and drive to protect our planet and try to reduce our carbon footprint. Please work with us to reflect the values such initiatives promote.

Ending on a positive note and with reference to our Healthy Schools Bronze Award, I am delighted to let everyone know that our Healthy Schools Richmond Case Study video is now with our website hosts and we await its upload! Keep an eye out!

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Laura Brooks

Footy Fun 4 Kids – an update

It's been a great start for our Breakfast and After School Wraparound Clubs this term, with plenty of activities enjoyed each day.

During the Breakfast Club this term, the children have enjoyed a variety of breakfasts including cereals, toasts, yogurts and a selection of fruits. The children have enjoyed making bracelets, playing a variety of games including; Uno, Dobble and even snap! There has also been a variety of arts & crafts, with our next challenge of making a 'Welcome to Breakfast Club' poster coming up before half term.

Our After School Wraparound has been well attended so far this term, the afternoon is broken into 3 hours. The first hour is a relaxed environment after the school day where children can enjoy healthy snacks including; fruits, carrots, cucumber and crackers. Our activities are light which include the choice of board & card games, Lego, arts & crafts and even some competitive quizzes! The second hour includes a healthy nutritious meal for the children to enjoy, the highlight so far has been the pizza making activities which have been thoroughly enjoyed! During the end of the second hour and third hour the children have been active, playing some competitive dodgeball matches and invasion games including capture the flag in the hall!

There will be more activities taking place over the next couple of weeks, including slime making!

We are working in partnership with the school to promote healthy eating at both the Breakfast Club and After School Wraparound. Our aim is to support the school meet the standards required to achieve Silver Healthy School accreditation.

We have plans to make use of the whole school grounds as we move towards the summer months, these include gardening, planting, painting outside and much more! Before then, we will be creating themed afternoons which will incorporate the food dish that day and activities. We hope to see you join us!



What we are learning

Nursery

Over the past two weeks, our Nursery has been full of excitement and imagination.

The children arrived on Monday morning to discover a mystery in the classroom – a broken chair!

After some discussions and detective work, it turned out that Goldilocks had paid us a visit. The children loved joining in with repeated phrases and acting out the story, bringing it to life through role play.

Alongside this, our learning focused on recognising a group of three without counting and comparing sizes. The children were very busy mending and designing new chairs for Baby Bear, showing creativity and problem-solving skills. We enjoyed cooking delicious porridge and apple crumble too.

The following week, we continued our journey through traditional tales with The Three Little Pigs. The week was filled with songs, creative junk modelling and building activities. The children took part in acting out and retelling the story, developing their confidence and language.

A highlight was performing one of our new songs in two groups. We filmed the singing and acting and then enjoyed watching it together on the big screen.



Reception

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed our topic this term, **Amazing Adventures!** We have met giants, trolls, seen tall towers, travelled through deep dark woods and built our own homes using straw, sticks and bricks. It has been an incredible topic with children so eager to share what's going to happen next and who their favourite characters are, recalling the repeated sentences with true emotion! We can't wait to make up our own stories using different characters from the stories we have read and thinking of their own unique adventure!



Last Monday our reception children were treated to a wonderful cello concert given by Reuben and Hannah, on violin. We all helped with pirate actions and clapped along to the beat. We loved the look and sound of the cello and looked carefully at how the violin and cello are different.



Year 1

This week in English, Year 1 have been writing diary entries about visiting London. The children have been working hard to use their phonics skills to spell words, remember capital letters and full stops as well as write in the past tense. They've been describing what they saw, what they did and how they felt during their imaginary trip to our capital city. We've been so impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm! In maths, we've been exploring numbers 1 to 20. The children have been practising counting forwards and backwards, comparing numbers to find which is bigger or smaller using practical resources to help them understand place value. Our science work has focused on our senses, particularly our sense of smell. The children have been 'smell detectives', exploring lots of different items and describing what they could smell. The children had great fun guessing mystery smells and using brilliant descriptive vocabulary. Today we celebrated Number Day, where we thoroughly enjoyed taking part in various maths activities and challenges throughout the day.

Year 2

Over the past fortnight, Year 2 have been very busy with their learning. In maths, we have been practising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables, building confidence and speed through lots of fun activities. In English, the children have been learning about subordinating conjunctions and using exciting descriptive language to describe a house in detail. In art, we experimented with charcoal, exploring different lines, shading and textures. We were also very lucky last Friday to take part in an engaging drama workshop, where the children worked creatively and confidently together. Well done Year 2!

Year 3

We have had a fun week in Year 3 writing our Egyptian themed adventure stories. We have been learning how to include correctly punctuated speech, fronted adverbials and using an apostrophe for possession. In science, we have been exploring healthy foods and investigating how to keep our tomatoes fresh! We had great fun with Number Day and enjoyed lots of different maths activities. Thank you again to all our helpers who have given up their time to come swimming with us, it is much appreciated.



Year 4

What a fantastic couple of weeks Year 4 have had! We had a wonderful time visiting Ham House, where we made posies, explored symbolism in paintings, and had a go at drawing our own self portraits. The children also really enjoyed showcasing their knowledge in our class assembly, where they performed beautifully - we were so impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm! We have also enjoyed our first week of Book Club - where the children discuss their books with each other. It has been lovely to see the children reading more often and hearing about the books they enjoy! Thank you for a lovely week Year 4, have a great weekend!

Year 5

As part of our Design and Technology topic on cultural and seasonal food, the children thoroughly enjoyed making their own poke bowls. They carefully considered how to create a healthy, balanced meal and used their food preparation skills with care and thoughtfulness. The pupils worked brilliantly in their groups, showing excellent teamwork, responsibility, and a strong commitment to hygiene and tidying up afterwards.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very productive fortnight. The children have completed further SATs assessments to help identify any gaps in learning and to continue building their confidence as they move forward.

In English, the class have been enjoying some exciting narrative writing inspired by the beautiful book, *Rose Blanche*. This text has encouraged the children to develop their inference skills and use vivid imagery in their writing. They have produced some brilliant pieces of writing, using different descriptive techniques and applying all their senses.

These skills have continued in guided reading, where the children have been engaged and eager to read further with *Holes*. The class have thoroughly enjoyed the twists and turns of the story and have been making various predictions about what might happen next.



**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

3

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

5



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

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

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR
JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

Year 11 students and their families are looking forward to a fun evening with members, friends and neighbours of the German School London (DSL) at the first ever DSL Quiz Night on 6 March 2026 at 6 p.m. in the forum of the school. Everyone is invited to show off their general knowledge. The quiz will be held in English. All proceeds go towards the DSL graduation ball 2027. Click [here](https://forms.gle/iNzwr1NNu8fbn8ZCA) to register (by 13 February) and for further information:

<https://forms.gle/iNzwr1NNu8fbn8ZCA>





CHISWICK HOUSE
& GARDENS TRUST



Join us this
February half-term
for an afternoon of
outdoor fun at our
Gardening Together
volunteering session

Gardening Together

Wednesday 18 February

1.30 - 3.30pm

Free entry, but registration is
essential

LEARN MORE





NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming dates for Spring term

6.2.26	Number Day in school
9.2.26	Mental Health Week
10.2.26	Safer Internet Day
13.2.26	Annual <i>Bounceathon</i> Final day of half term. School closes at normal time (3.15)
23.2.26	INSET day – school closed to children
24.2.25	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am
25.2.26	Year 6 Young Voices at the O2. More details to follow
5.3.26	World book day and the start of 'Readathon.' More details to follow soon.
6.3.26	Year 2 class assembly 9.00am in the hall. All welcome
9.3.26	Science week
11.3.26	Year 3 trip to Royal Festival Hall. More details to follow
17.3.26	Parents / Carers' eve 3.30 – 5.00
19.3.26	Parents / Carers' eve 3.30 – 7.00
25.3.26	Isle of Wight Info eve for Year 6 families. 6.00pm
27.3.26	Last day of term. School closes at 1.45pm
13.4.26	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am