



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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IN OTHER NEWS...

Don't forget.....children return to school on Tuesday 9th January.



Headteacher's Update

Dear families,

We come to the end of the autumn term and we have so much to reflect on and celebrate. From assemblies to performances and from trips to community events, with a visit from Ofsted for good measure, it's been a term of learning and growing for everyone; me included!

Throughout this term, I have spent lots of time popping into classes and getting to know the children. Over these 13 (ish) weeks, the children have settled into routines, increased their capacity for learning and matured. They are a credit to all families.

When we return after the Winter break, in order for this learning to continue, regular attendance is vital. I am unable to authorise term-time holidays and I urge everyone to bring their children into school every day that they are able to. Alongside this, punctuality is key. I open the gates at 8.30 in the morning. Children must be in their classes by 8.45 and I then close the gates by 8.50. Please note – these additional few minutes are to give Parents and Carers time to leave the premises. At the moment, I am spending a considerable length of time on the gates in the morning. This then has a knock-on effect, so I urge everyone to please adhere to these timings. If children arrive after 8.45, they need to enter the building through the main office. This is to ensure the children are registered. Thank you everyone for your support with this.

At the moment, our Reading Hut is being erected on the playground. I am hoping this will be fully-completed when we return after the holiday. This exciting addition to the playground is thanks to money raised by the PTA so it is thanks to everyone in the community.

I know I have said it many times before but The Russell School is a really special community, and that is thanks to the support and engagement of all families. I have really loved getting to know you all this term and I look forward to developing these relationships and connections.

I hope everyone has a restful holiday and enjoys some time with families and friends. I hope the weather is kind so that everyone can enjoy our stunning surrounding areas!

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024,

Laura Brooks

Newsflash – Polite Parking is a Priority Please!

I have been working with the Wandsworth and Richmond safer roads team to ensure our children benefit from safe roads and considerate drivers. In the Spring term, we are going to be given a portable barrier for a trial period. I will place this barrier at the entrance to the cul-de-sac on Meadlands Drive during drop-off and pick-up – see the picture below. This is the area that non-residents are not permitted to enter during peak times. Please note – residents will still be able to enter and leave the area. In addition to this, I have spoken to the children about designing a Safer Streets poster over the Winter break. Some of these designs will then be laminated and put up around the area, encouraging drivers to be considerate to our children and also our neighbours. Ultimately, the most effective measure is for drivers to adhere to the regulations. Thank you for your support with this.



Some school successes to celebrate and share...

Orchestra, Choir, Carols and Community

Under Mrs Thomas’s musical direction, the children have been out and about spreading joy through song. On Wednesday morning, our older children took part in a musical celebration at St Peter’s Church. As ever, this was supported by a group of talented parents and carers who sang in the choir, played in the orchestra and supported and encouraged our younger orchestra members. If there are any other parents and carers who would like to get involved, please do speak to me or Mrs Thomas – everyone is welcome!

On Wednesday afternoon, our Year Six children visited the Woodville Centre where they entertained the residents through some song and some chatting. This event enriched the lives of not only the residents of The Woodville Centre, but our Year Six children also.



Nursery Round Up....

The children have loved all the celebrations this half term with pumpkins, fireworks, Diwali and Christmas. The last few weeks we have been learning lots of songs and actions for our Christmas concert which the children are very excited about. The children have already developed so much this term and have especially loved our daily 'Dough Disco'. They are following routines and enjoying exploring all the Nursery has to offer. We are looking forward to welcoming lots of new children in January. Thank you for all your support and we wish you all a lovely festive holiday and a happy new year!

Reception Round Up....

We always love the Autumn half term in Early Years, it's a time for welcoming new children and families into our school and building some great new friendships. It is also a time where an amazing change happens as children begin their journey into reading, writing and counting.

We have explored festivals, countries and famous landmarks, the seasons and animals and you wouldn't believe the work we have been doing through December. We have explored all about reindeer, similar to the deer we can spot in Richmond Park, and then used our learning to write non-fiction books we read to Nursery. We may have written something else but we can't tell you about that... We have learnt songs, decorated the tree and practised our wrapping skills. We hope you liked our decorations for the tree; weren't those angels special?!

We can't wait for Spring! Get ready to see us whizzing through books and beginning to write phrases as well as solving our own maths problems – and don't forget to check Google Classroom for our Christmas photo.

Year 1 and 2 Round Up....

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed our topic 'Moon Zoom' this half term, learning all about space. After a spaceship crashed outside our classroom at the beginning of the year, we have seen many sightings of aliens throughout the half term. We have also had a very busy end of the half-term getting into the festive spirit. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been learning new songs, new dance routines and we were extremely proud to perform our Christmas show for you. We have also had many exciting opportunities to be creative and become artists. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and a happy new year.

Bolt class have really enjoyed learning about pirates, movers and shakers this year! They sang their hearts out at our Christmas performance and they enjoyed our visit to the Panto – oh yes they did! We are looking forward to learning all about towers, tunnels and turrets when we return!

Year 3 and 4 Round Up....

What a fantastic term Nightingale class have had. They have done lots of learning about the ancient civilisation of the Ancient Greeks, including making some fantastic Greek pottery. They have also had a busy term practising for the amazing performance, where Year 3 were the stars of the show, showing off their amazing acting, singing and dancing! They should be so proud of all the hard work they have put in this term and I look forward to seeing them in January after a well-deserved break.

Hello from Jenner Class! What a brilliant first term we have had! We have done lots of fun learning about Burps, Bottoms and Bile, including making 3D models of the digestive system. We worked very hard as mini miners in the KS2 performance. We were all very proud of the brilliant dance moves and singing. We have enjoyed learning and reading all about Roald Dahl's childhood during our guided reading sessions which resulted in some exciting and imaginative writing. Jenner class should be very proud of their hard work in maths as they have continued to develop their knowledge within the times tables. We have explored the relationships between the different times tables. Due to the children's monitor jobs, they have been beginning to show great responsibility within their jobs and will continue to develop these skills as well as their independence.

Have a brilliant and restful break. Myself and Mrs Povey look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Year 5 and 6 Round Up....

Despite a very busy end of term with Panto, Productions and Parties, as 2023 draws to a close, we take time to reflect on the happy memories so far in Recoque Class! During the term, we have travelled to Space and back (all before playtime...), climbed the tallest walls and discovered the deadliest germs – to name just some of the exciting adventures already in Year 5. The highlight has to be our trip to Sayers Croft but the visit from the Planetarium was a joy. As one child commented as they exited the dome, 'This is the best thing I've ever seen!' We do hope the Year Six production was an entertaining experience....the children in Year Five are already looking forward to next year when it's their turn! They have worked hard this term and have earned a good rest. We look forward to seeing them return next year for more hard work and dedication. It has been a wonderful privilege getting to know all your children. We look forward to our next topic adventure, *Time Traveller*, and to a fun filled 2024! Thank you for all your kind wishes and support and we hope you all enjoy a restful holiday with your family and friends.

This term has flown by and Malala Class have taken to Year 6 like ducks to water! They have been working their socks off with their class projects and have really enjoyed learning about ID, Mexico and the Ancient Maya civilisation. They have also been getting stuck into revisiting and recapping lots of their learning ready for the statutory tests next year. The term can't go by without a mention of the amazing performance the children put on this year. They put such a lot of effort in to learning their lines, stage directions, songs, dances and moving props on and off stage. We are so proud of them! West End here we come! It has been a very full-on term and so a well-deserved break and a wonderful Christmas and New Year are in order!



Community News.....

New Beyond Fussy Eating programme available on SEND Local Offer

Refusing known and new foods is a normal stage of a child's development, often starting between 18 and 30 months of age and with most children growing out of it by 5 years-old.

But for some children, feeding becomes a persistent and serious problem which, if ignored, can lead to serious weight loss and nutritional deficiencies. These problems can include eating a very restrictive diet made up of a small number of foods, only eating foods which are a certain colour – for example 'beige foods' like cheese and pasta, chicken nuggets, chips and white bread – or food with a certain texture, or eating very small volumes of foods. It can also involve becoming highly anxious when asked to try new foods, and showing disgust or fear when presented with new foods.

Research shows that children on the autistic spectrum and those with developmental disabilities are much more likely to experience these problems. But help is at hand! There are tried and tested methods which can help children start to make steps in the right direction and these are presented in a new Beyond Fussy Eating programme, designed for parents and carers dealing with children who are extremely selective eaters and/or who may have little interest in food and eating. The programme will also help health, education and care staff who work with these children.

Beyond Fussy Eating consists of five modules covering: exploring feeding difficulties; mealtime strategies; learning about new foods; planning for changes; and a parent's perspective (video). It was developed by children's speech and language therapists at Your Healthcare CIC, whose expertise covers speech, language, communication and swallowing problems.

Take a look at the new programme using these links:

<https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/parenting-courses/beyond-fussy-eating>



NOW WITH ADDITIONAL DATES!

Meet Father Christmas!

An immersive magical adventure comes to life at the Landmark Arts Centre!

- Craft a special card for Father Christmas.
- Discover the Secret of the Reindeer.
- Meet Father Christmas and make it onto the Nice List.
- Receive a quality wooden toy to take home.
- Keep the magic alive with a secret surprise!



BOOK NOW

8,9,17,18

& 22 of DEC

TICKETS:

CHILDREN: £14.95

ADULTS £3.95

*children must be accompanied by an adult

All proceeds go to charity.



**LANDMARK
ARTS CENTRE**

Registered Charity No. 1047080

17 DEC
HAM, RICHMOND

21 DEC
ESHER

23 DEC
COVENT GARDEN

Christmas Enchantment

A MAGICAL FAMILY CONCERT

A Christmas feast of favourite songs
and carols as we journey through the
Nativity Story.



TICKETS HERE 

WWW.HARMONYSMUSICCLUB.COM/CHRISTMASENCHANTMENT





NOTICEBOARD

9.1.24	Children return to school
26.1.24	Year 4 class assembly
1.2.24	Year 2 Windsor Castle trip
6.2.24	Swimming Gala
9.2.24	Year 3 class assembly
9.2.24	Last day of half term
19.2.24	Return to school

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!