



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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SCHOOL INFO

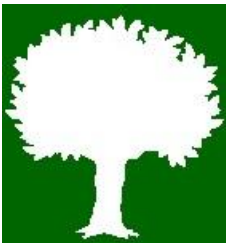
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SCHOOL CALENDAR



Headteacher's Update:

Dear families,

We have had a busy week at The Russell with competitions, workshops and lots of hard work!

A big congratulations to Liliana in Reception, Mia in Year Two, Frank in Year Five and Ben in Year Six for creating the winning entries for the PTA Christmas Fair poster competition. And thank you to everyone who created one. The entries were creative, colourful and informative – just as a poster should be! The PTA have been very busy putting everything together for our fair next week so please do come along on Friday 6th December, 3.30pm in the school hall.

The cold weather is starting to set in so thank you for sending your children into school wrapped up and ready. I know the cold, dark mornings can be tricky but please do ensure you get your children into school on time. There are some mornings when the member of staff who is on duty has to stand outside for over half an hour, due to children arriving late. Not only is this challenging due to the weather, but it impacts on the running of the school. Gates have to be locked at 8.50. That means that adults need to be out of the playground by this time. Thank you for supporting us with this.

As we move into the festive season, children may come home with words, songs or pieces of music to practise. Please do ask them about what they are doing and encourage them to practise! It's a very exciting time of the year – oh yes it is!

I know I shared information regarding keeping children safe online in the last newsletter and I am going to keep it on this week's edition as well. It is such an important and sometimes challenging issue for parents and carers to manage. As a parent of teenagers, it is an issue that I am all too familiar with so I really do appreciate the challenges it presents to families.

Wishing you a restful weekend and thank you to all families for your support,

Laura Brooks

Keeping children safe online

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.



Nursery and Reception

The children in EYFS have started daily tooth-brushing which they are loving. They have been learning good habits and cleaning their teeth with their friends each morning! As well as looking at changes in the seasons as we move from autumn to winter, we have also been busy learning about hedgehogs, bats and hibernating animals. Last week we built a hedgehog house, made hedgehogs from leaves and learned all about why they hibernate. This week we have bats hanging around the classroom and we have been practising our gross motor skills trying to hang upside down on the climbing frames like bats! We have also been trying hard to recognise our names.



This week, Reception's book of the week is *The Boy and the Bear* by Tracey Corderoy (Author), Sarah Massini (Illustrator). The book is about a boy who is lonely and wants a best friend to play with. One day a paper boat appears with a message saying boo! Children made some guesses about who it could be and we were certain it was the shy bear, someone who also wanted a friend. We talked about friendships, what makes a good friend and how we can make new connections in the class, as well as maintaining the friendships we already have. We also had a go at making our own boats in the craft area using recycled materials, planning them first and deciding what objects we might need and how many before starting the making process. Next week we will be testing them to see if they will float in our water tray, fingers crossed.

Year 1

Year 1 have been reading the book *Beegu* - who is very lonely and lost. This week we have been discovering what makes a good friend and how we can be a good friend. We are now busy trying to make a best friend for Beegu so that he doesn't feel so lonely. In Maths, we have started our new unit about shapes and the children have thoroughly enjoyed manipulating different shapes. It is a big week for Year 1 as many children have read 50 times at home and will be receiving their certificate on Monday! Congratulations and a big thank you to parents and carers for their support with home learning! A small reminder that children are expected to read their phonics book to an adult five times a week. Thank you again for your support with this!

Year 2

We have been busy in Year 2 making collages from items collected from Richmond Park. This has also fed into our English theme of the local area, where the children made persuasive posters to encourage people to visit!



Year 3

Wow! We have had a wonderful fortnight of learning. The class have engaged in designing their own adventure-based narratives, showcasing their storytelling. In maths, I have loved watching the children gaining confidence in adding and subtracting, particularly when it involves crossing the hundreds boundary. As we move towards winter, please remember to ensure that your child comes to school equipped with coats and jumpers, as the weather has noticeably turned colder. Furthermore, I would like to remind you that if your child is speaking in the upcoming Christmas play, it would be beneficial for them to practise their lines at home. Songs for the play will also be made available on Google Classroom. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 4

What an amazing last two weeks Year 4 have had! We've had loads of fun using all of our learning about the Amazon Rainforest to create a beautiful display that the children feel very proud of! Year 4 have also shown so much enthusiasm for our new maths topic, perimeter, using their knowledge of shape, repeated addition and multiplication to problem solve. We'll be finishing the week with an exciting Anglo-Saxon workshop on Friday afternoon, which will consolidate our learning from last half term!

Year 5

Thank you to all those who were able to make the Year 5 Sayers Croft assembly and recent Book Look. We hope you enjoyed watching the collaborative representation, showcasing the skills and adventures, experienced during the wonderful Sayers Croft trip! The children were very excited to show off all their hard work during the Book Look and I hope you were able to see some of the excellent pieces of work that they are proud of. We have finished writing our 'formal' thank you letters to Sayers Croft and have been writing to Year 4 (informally), to tell them all about it, reflecting on our journey and the experiences encountered. It is fitting, with the change of weather, that in maths we have been working with negative numbers. We have been calculating and plotting co-ordinates in the first 2 quadrants. We look forward to welcoming the Space Dome in a couple of weeks and continuing our fabulous Space adventure.

Year 6

This fortnight we have been able to use all our subject knowledge to support our writing in a variety of subjects. We have been learning about Charles Darwin and his contributions to the theory of evolution. We have completed a biography on him and researched further information on inheritance and adaptations. In geography we are learning about biomes and we have used this learning as a stimulus for our art lessons. Finally, the Year Six football teams should be very pleased with their efforts in both their matches this term!

Sporting News

Football matches

Monday 18th Nov

Boys Football v Meadlands
Meadlands 1-1 The Russell

A competitive match ended in a draw despite partly due to the failing light!

Tuesday 19th Nov

Girls Football v Meadlands
Meadlands 5- 1 The Russell

The girls played with determination and skill against some tall strong opposition. We are improving and learning every game.

Well done to all the children who took part!

A Musical Treat!

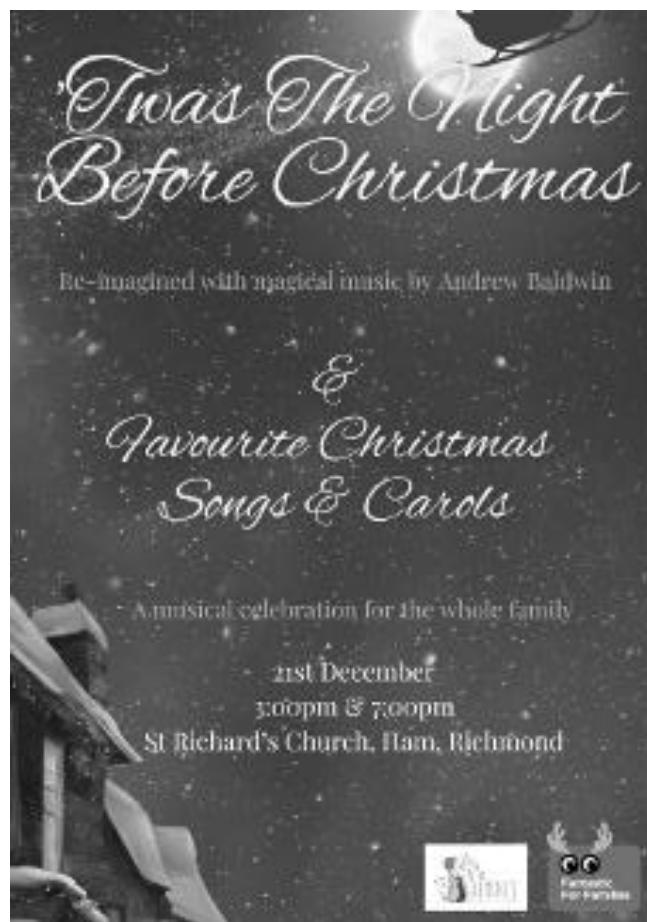
Experience Clement Clarke Moore's timeless Christmas classic, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas, like never before.

Immerse yourself in the wonder and excitement of this festive favourite, reimagined with captivating music as renowned children's narrator, Alexander Campbell, breathes fresh life into the iconic poem.

The performance will be followed by a lively selection of beloved Christmas carols, inviting everyone to sing along and revel in the festive spirit. Ticket link below:

www.bit.ly/HamTwas

Ham, St Richards Church on 21st December at 3pm and 7pm



'Helping children with...' series of webinars for parents, 2024/25

Achieving for Children's Mental Health Support Teams are delivering a series of webinars for parents of primary aged children. The **'Helping Children with ...'** series of webinars will cover a range of common difficulties experienced by children and will aim to share evidence-based strategies to help parents and carers support their children with these difficulties. Below is a list of webinars on offer over the coming months. In the third and fourth columns of the table below, you will find the sign up links. Please note that sign up links will be added a month before the webinar dates.

Helping children with ...	Overview of webinar	Morning 9am	Evening 6pm
Worries	The 'Helping children with worries' webinar will help you learn ways to support your child in dealing with their big feelings, worries and fears. This webinar will give you practical ideas on how to help your child to think more positively and develop their self confidence. You will also be introduced to some helpful cognitive behavioural therapy concepts.	Tuesday 12th November 2024 AND Friday 25th April 2025	Friday 24th January 2025
Resilience	The 'Helping children with resilience' webinar will support you in understanding how children develop resilience, while exploring a variety of helpful coping skills, and what you can do as a parent or carer to help them be their most confident self.	Friday 31st January 2025	Monday 14th October 2024 AND Thursday 20th March 2025
Friendships	In this webinar we will learn how to support our children develop their friendship skills: learning to communicate better, repair difficulties, and negotiate solutions when relationships between peers are tricky.	Friday 28th February 2025	Monday 18th November 2024 AND Tuesday 29th April 2025
Challenging behaviours	Children often communicate their needs through their behaviours. The 'Helping children with challenging behaviours' webinar will help you to learn about the different factors that can impact children's behaviours, build or strengthen positive relationships by reinforcing the importance of giving positive attention. You will also	Friday 6th December 2024	Tuesday 24th September 2024 AND Monday 3rd March 2025

	learn strategies to establish home rules and boundaries to create a safe and structured environment for your children.		
Screen time	In this webinar we discuss the positive and negative impact of screen time and gaming on a child's mental wellbeing. We will share the recommendations for screen time based on age, how to have this conversation with your child in a positive and effective manner and a simple and effective way to manage the use of screens in your home.	Friday 14th February 2025	Wednesday 2nd October 2024 AND Friday 2nd May 2025
Sleep	The 'Helping children with sleep' webinar introduces a number of key concepts and strategies to support you in creating a healthy bedtime routine for your child. This webinar focuses on the importance of sleep due to its impact on child development and wellbeing, and explores key components in enhancing sleep quality.	Friday 9th May 2025	Wednesday 27th November 2024 AND Tuesday 8th July 2025
Transition to Secondary	In this webinar we will explore the main worries children may experience when moving from primary to secondary school. We will help parents/carers think about the different ways to help to support and get their children prepared for the transition.	Thursday 22nd May 2025	Tuesday 20th May 2025 AND Tuesday 10th June 2025

*All Webinars are 60 minutes long, with 15 minutes at the end for questions and answers.

**Please have a pen and paper handy for the webinar.*

How to sign up

Parents and carers can sign up to the webinars by clicking on the sign up links. This will take them to a google form where they will need to provide their email address, the school their child attends, and the year group their child is in.

Alternatively, you can sign up by scanning this QR code on your phone camera.



Who to contact

If parents have any questions, they can contact the school who will direct queries to the allocated MHST practitioner.



Mental Elf

Festive Fun Run

Sunday 1st December 2024, 11am
Marble Hill Park, Twickenham TW1 2NL

Mental Elf is a festive walk, jog or run around the park.
Choose to complete 1,2 or 3 laps - 3 laps is 5k.
Festive fancy dress is not essential but strongly encouraged!

Join us for festive frolics and raise vital funds for Richmond Borough Mind!

Full details and tickets are available on our website:
www.rbmind.org or scan the QR code

Generously supported by

Santa Fun Run 2024



Run, jog or walk 5K and raise money for your local Hospice.

Sunday 8 December at Bushy Park.

Sunday 15 December at Sandown Park

Racecourse followed by a Christmas Market.

9.30am for a 10.00am start.



Scan the QR code or visit
pah.org.uk/santafunrun



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NOTICEBOARD

Upcoming dates

6.12.24	Hanukkah assembly Winter Fair 3.30pm in school hall
11.12.24	Yrs 1-6 Panto trip
13.12.24	School Christmas Lunch
17.12.14	Yrs 4-6 Carol festival at St Peter's Church am
18.12.24	Nursery and Reception singalong am Yr 1-3 Winter Production am
19.12.24	Yr 1-3 Winter production pm
20.12.24	Class parties Early closure for end of term – 1.45
7.1.25	Tuesday – children 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!