



# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL



## NEWSLETTER



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## Headteacher's Update:

Dear Families,

First of all, thank you all for your kind and generous gifts shared at the end of last term. A Happy New Year to you all. The children have come back to school focused, engaged and ready to learn and they are already getting into new topics and units of work. As ever, please keep an eye on emails as we have a number of trips and visits coming up this half term.

As you know, I have arranged a Smartphone Free Childhood workshop for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Please do come along to this. It is an issue which we all face as parents, and I'm sure lots of children will have been gifted with new technology over the holiday period. For children who bring mobile phones into school, please help us by reminding them to turn them off as soon as they have alerted their adult that they have reached the school gates safely.

In the meantime, please do follow this link if you would like to join the smartphone Free Childhood Whatsapp group for The Russell School. Please note – this is a parent-run group and no members of school staff will be part of it: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IHf7VCOEK6P7IzxpYlOHRR>

I am hoping to be able to provide you with some updates soon regarding our collaboration with Camp Beaumont. Their holiday clubs will start in the Easter break and will provide a vital childcare service for the holiday periods.

I had a really useful meeting with colleagues from the local authority yesterday regarding our attendance data. This is something I want us all to work together to improve. I will be reaching out to families to get some parent and carer views on attendance and I will hold a parent workshop in the second half of the term.

You will all see that work is progressing on the build next to the school playing field. This site is owned by The Auriga Academy Trust and once completed, will be a much-needed additional special needs provision for Richmond.

Next Friday, Sophie McGeoch, our safeguarding governor, is going to conduct a wellbeing and safeguarding audit for us. This is an annual event and it is part of our continuous drive for excellence. As part of the audit, she will come and meet families on the gate with me on Friday morning.

With safeguarding in mind, I have to mention the parking issue around the Meadlands Gate. It is only week two and I have had two complaints from residents and have spoken to a number of concerned families. Please be considerate and put safety first. I have so far refrained from 'naming and shaming' by putting pictures of car registrations into the newsletter but this is something other schools do, and pictures are regularly sent to me by residents and if it makes a difference, then I will consider it.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

*Laura Brooks*

## Year Five are Published Poets!

Last term, our Year 5 children took part in a *Young Writers* poetry competition and I am delighted to say that every single one of the entries made it into the published book. We shared some fantastic examples in assembly today and there are a couple of copies of the anthology proudly on display in the library. Fantastic work Year 5!



## Sports Roundup – Written by Olive, Harrison and Diaz, Year 6

This Monday, our Russell girls' football team (year five and six) very successfully won 6-0 against St Elizabeth's school. The goal scorers are: 3-Nelly; 1-Scarlett, 1-Aurelia and 1-Margo, to keep our streak the girls and the boys are going up against Deer Park - girls 20th January - boys 21st January.

# What we are learning

## Nursery

The children are enjoying their daily tooth brushing and are in a great morning routine establishing great habits for the future. We have been looking at winter and observing the changes in the weather and the trees. This week we have been reading the story 'Where's Lenny?' We have played lots of games of 'Hide and seek' and practised describing where our friends are hiding-using words like 'under' and 'behind'. We have loved blowing bubbles and making toast in cooking. We have been singing the rhyme 'one, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive' and practising our counting to 5! Last week we welcomed 3 new children into our class and we hope to be welcoming a couple more in the next few weeks.



## Reception

This term, Reception are going on some **Fantastic Adventures** and exploring traditional tales from around the world. Last week we found a giant beanstalk growing in our classroom and retold the story of Jack and the Giant Beanstalk. This week we are exploring Rapunzel and compared lots of different versions of the story, looking for similarities and differences. We noticed that the locations were different, with one version having a giraffe in the back ground and another had a cow. We also noticed lots of different the hair colour and styles of Rapunzel, with blonde hair, black hair, braids and plaits. We reflected this in our art work, drawing Rapunzel in her tall tower. I wonder where we will go next week?!



# Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous week. We have been busy writing posters to put up around the school pond to make sure that no one touches the bog babies that might be living there. In PE, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning different gymnastic sequences and we have begun to create our very own, consisting of a travel, jump and balance. As a class we have also been working very hard on our handwriting and the presentation of our work.

# Year 2

Year 2 have had a very successful start to the new year. They have enjoyed learning all about David Attenborough and were very excited to hear that he has visited the school before. All the children have written a letter to him!

# Year 3

We have started the New Year with a bang. In Year 3 we have had a very busy fortnight. We have started our exciting new history topic, learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. In English we have started our book 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx' and have had great fun writing our own riddles and sharing them with others to solve. In maths, we have started our new topic of column addition. In other exciting events, we have started swimming at 'Pools on the Park' and it was great to see everyone enjoying their first proper lesson this week.

# Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the New Year! We have really engaged in our new topic about Ham House, considering its role in the local area, both historically and now. We have also been looking at newspapers ahead of writing our own articles based on Anthony Browne's 'The Tunnel', and I've been so impressed with how everyone has applied their prior learning. We have also continued swimming on Thursday afternoons, and all of Year 4 have grown so much in confidence and skill. Keep up the fantastic work Year 4!



## Year 5

Another busy start to our New Year, new term and new history topic...Ancient Egyptians! I hope you all had a wonderful break. Thank you so much for all your kind wishes and generous gifts; they were all really appreciated. It's lovely to see all the children returning to school with great enthusiasm and ready to learn! We have been reflecting on last year and thinking about our new goals and ambitions for 2025 and beyond. A wonderfully ambitious class of children! Our chilling science lessons have led us to exploring thermal conductors and insulators. We have been investigating the best sustainable material to keep our lunch cool in the hot desert. In maths, we have been multiplying 2 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers using pictorial and area models, leading onto the formal written methods for long and short multiplication. We are already intrigued by our new class novel, The Phoenix Code, and look forward to following the journey of our protagonists Ryan and Cleo. We are looking forward to our trip to the British Museum!



## Year 6

Fanshawe class have come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm. The children have been incredibly focused and engaged. They have completed their first unit of work, creating vivid poetry, written from the perspective of a child during WW2. They used various figurative language skills and they have continued to use these skills in their new narrative unit. Fanshawe class have been very eager within maths as we start our new topic: fractions, decimals and percentages. Finally, the children have completed and produced some amazing homework. Keep up the brilliant work Fanshawe class!

## '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
<b>Worries</b>	The <b>'Helping children with worries'</b> 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
<b>Resilience</b>	The <b>'Helping children with resilience'</b> 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
<b>Friendships</b>	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
<b>Challenging behaviours</b>	Children often communicate their needs through their behaviours. The <b>'Helping children with challenging behaviours'</b> 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.		
<b>Screen time</b>	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
<b>Sleep</b>	The <b>'Helping children with sleep'</b> 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
<b>Transition to Secondary</b>	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.

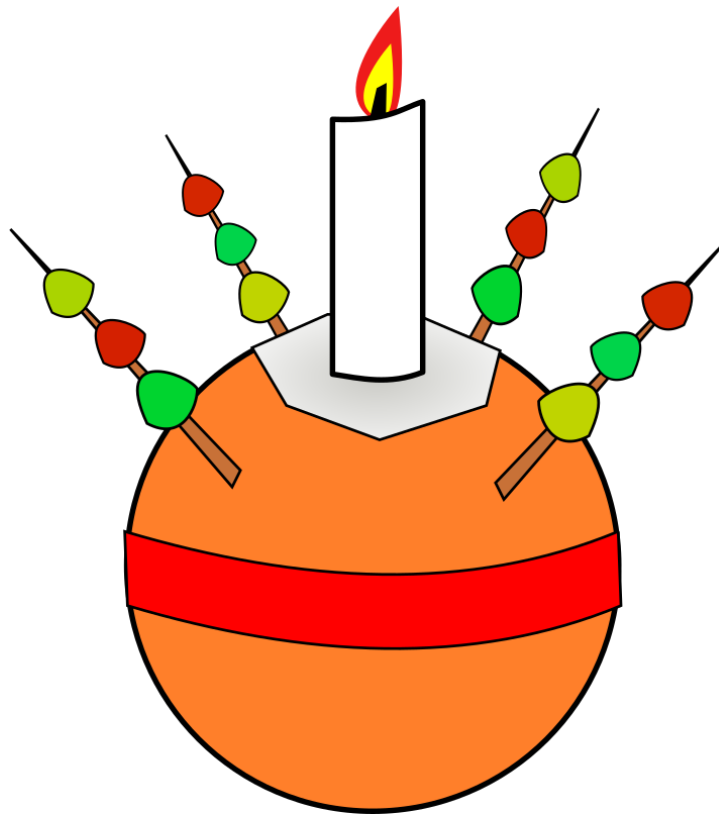


# Christingle Service

St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Petersham

## Sunday 2nd February 9.30am

All ages welcome to make your own Christingle  
and discover their special meaning



### ALL WELCOME

Shining light into darkness with the support and resources of the Children's Society.

[www.childrensociety.org.uk](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk)

[www.stpeterschurchpetersham.com](http://www.stpeterschurchpetersham.com)

# Cooking Up



**Introductory session 17 Feb**

**Course dates: 17 March, 24 March, 31 March**

**3.30pm**

The Children's Centres are delighted to be working with Cooking Up to deliver family cooking sessions for children aged 8 years plus. During these sessions you will make a meal for four people to take home and enjoy with your family, learn culinary skills and how to prepare simple and healthy meals on a budget. Please scan the QR code to book your place or email

[richmondcc@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:richmondcc@achievingforchildren.org.uk)



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NOTICEBOARD

## Upcoming dates

21.1.25	Year 5 trip to British Museum
21.1.25	N, R, Yr 1 and Yr 2 drama workshop
22.1.25	Reception and Year 6 height and weight measurements
29.1.25	Parent / Carer Workshop with Smartphone Free Childhood advocate 7pm (not suitable for children)
5.2.25	Year 6 singing at O2
7.2.25	Year 2 class assembly 9am
10.2.25	Year 5 singing festival at Meadlands School
14.2.25	Number day! Final day of half term
24.2.25	Children return to school. Gates open 8.30am, all children in class by 8.45am

## 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!**