

Russell Street School

Newsletter

Autumn (First Half Term) 2022



Message from our Headteacher

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break. A warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception families.

After two years of very little out of school activity, this is a very exciting year where we introduce educational visits into our curriculum. Educational visits are first and foremost designed to deepen our children's knowledge across our curriculum. By organising educational visits to help our children experience new things and spend time outside their immediate setting, we develop their cultural capital and raise aspirations. We have organised opportunities that include visit theatres and concerts, historical sites, galleries, museums, religious buildings and famous landmarks. Visits will also take place within our local community, creating and sustaining close links. We will continue to invite visitors into school as this learning has proved highly effective over the past two years.

Curriculum evenings will now take place termly per year group across the school to ensure you have the essential knowledge to support your child in their educational journey. Further details will follow in our weekly year groups overviews.

Our outdoor book libraries are now in place in the KS1 undercover area (see photos below). Please borrow books from these libraries to read with your child/ren at home. If you feel you have any books that would be good to share, these can be placed in the outdoor libraries.

We warmly welcome Mr Palmer into our community. Mr Palmer is the new Headteacher of SMSG school. Mr Palmer and I will be working together to ensure a high-quality education continues across the two schools.

This newsletter contains a brief summary of some of the school improvements being introduced across the school this term. Each week year group leads will send you more in-depth information specific to classes so that you will be able to fully support your child at home.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson

Educational Visits



A variety of visits will take place this year some examples of which are below:

Internal visits: Dinosaurs, Indian dancing, African dancing, planetarium.

Local visits: Library, bakery, High Street, church, cobblers etc.

External visits: Milton Keynes theatre, museum, art gallery, wildlife centres, plus visits that enhance learning such as Holdenby House (Year 2 – Victorians Unit)

School Pets – Below are your child’s school pets for this academic year.

Why Have Classroom Pets?

Pets aid in improving school attendance. Pets teach children about responsibility. Pets build self-esteem. Pets encourage nurturing. Pets bring new ways to learn. Pets enrich the classroom experience.

Nursery	Reception	Year One	Year Two
			
Name: Tortoise	Stick insects	Name: Ben	Names: Herbie & Rufus

Outdoor Book Libraries

Thank you all for supporting our fabulous Parents’ Association last year. Using some of the funds they raised, we have been able to purchase two outdoor book libraries. These are located in the undercover area outside the breakfast and after school club building. Please borrow books from these libraries to read with your child/ren at home. If you feel you have any books that would be good to share, these can be placed in the outdoor libraries.

Word Poverty Matters! We view words as a commodity.

- Evidence shows that vocabulary is one of the most significant factors to children achieving higher grades at GCSE in most subjects.
- The vocabulary gap starts early (by the age of 2) and is hugely significant.
- Children can have a 30-million-word gap before children even enter school.
- The link between vocabulary at 5-7 years old as a significant predictor of reading comprehension and academic understanding at GCSE.
- Less than 1/3 of children are read to at home daily. Children who are read to at home will hear 1.4 million ‘rare words’ yearly that improve language development and understanding.
- Children’s books have 50% rarer words than the language of television, or even the conversation of graduates.

We have a ‘Ten Minutes Reading Aloud a Day Pledge’ which is over and above any other reading that occurs. Just 10 minutes a day exposes a child to around extra 700,000 words a year.

Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) - Reception Children

The use of NELI in 2021/22 was incredibly successful and we will continue to use this in 2022/23. NELI is a 20-week programme for children in their reception year who benefit from targeted support to develop their oral language skills. NELI aims to develop children’s vocabulary, listening and narrative skills and also involves activities to develop phonological awareness and early letter-sound knowledge as the foundations for early literacy.

Magic Words

A speech therapist will once again be working in school with specific children to develop their communication and learning. In addition to targeted therapy with individual children the therapist will offer guidance at a whole school level on how to embed strategies and techniques that will maximise every child’s communication potential.

You will be contacted beforehand if we feel it would be beneficial for your child to take part in either of the above interventions.



Reception



Building work/redesign

Following on from our very successful new Nursery rebuild and Reception continuous provision redesign, we have continued our improvements over the summer holiday fully opening up Reception classrooms by removing all fixed furniture. We have also created a dedicated Key Stage One continuous provision area in the previous Moles classroom in Key Stage One. Providing carefully planned continuous provision resources in KS1 enables children to practically learn skills, challenges their thinking and helps them to embed concepts. Children need to experience their learning first-hand in order to explore and make sense of the world. This exploration supports the development of critical learning behaviours that in most schools disappears after Reception due to lack of space and resources.



Your child may wear non-uniform clothes to school on their birthday. If your child has missed their birthday during the first week of September, they are able to still have a non-uniform day of your choice in school. If your child has P.E. on their birthday, you may wish them to wear their non-uniform items on a different day.

Mastering Number Programme

In 2021/22 we took part in the MathsHub Mastering Number Programme. This now continues for a second year in 2022/23.

Rehearsal, particularly core number work, helps children attain automaticity in recall and use of facts and methods. Central to the programme are small, abacus-like pieces of equipment called a Rekenrek.



Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a daily extra maths session of 10 to 15 minutes, designed to ensure they develop fluency with, and understanding of, number that is crucial to future success in maths and academic progress.

The 2022 **Big Draw Festival** theme, *Come Back to Colour*, is a love letter to each other and the world around us. The theme encapsulates what we all hope will be a rediscovery of the vitality, health, care and vibrancy in everyone's lives after what has been a challenging last few years.

The colour in our lives and the world around us dazzles in its richness and diversity if we only choose to slow down and look. Many families and communities around the world are coming back together, seeing those long missed and seeking connection after so long apart.

We will be looking at this notion of rediscovery opening up a number of ways to observe the colour around us.

The Big Draw Festival 2022: Come Back To Colour



Dinosaur Visit – Monday 12th September

To enhance our Year Two learning, dinosaurs will be visiting school on Monday 12th September. All children in school will have a chance to see the dinosaurs. Year Two will spend the day with the dinosaurs learning about them as well as fossil hunting.



Recycling Week: This year's theme- Step It Up 20th – 24th September

The Climate Crisis is something we can actively do something about, every one of us, every single day. Most of us already do, through small but powerful habits – like recycling. Week commencing 20th September all children will take part in a variety of activities to learn about recycling.

European Day of Languages – 26th September

Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 46 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent.

We will be celebrating our diversity of languages on the 26th September. If you are able to come into school to share a language you speak with us, please let us know by emailing office@russell-street-school.co.uk

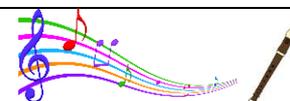


Diwali – Friday 21st October

We will be learning about Diwali in school on Friday 21st October. Children are invited to wear traditional Indian dress to school or bright pieces of clothing.

Year 2 Recorders

Every child in year 2 will be taught how to play the recorder. There will be no charge for these lessons. Children will be given their own recorder.



Houses

Children in Years 1 and 2 will continue to work in Houses this year and be awarded house points for their House for their work, behaviour and much more. Year 2 children will all have the opportunity to represent their house as a House Captain during the year.