

Russell Street School

September

Newsletter

Autumn (First Half Term) 2024



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.

As we open for the academic year, I would like to remind all families about the importance of regular attendance in school. Attendance is arguably one of the most important indicators of academic success. You cannot learn when you are not in school to learn. There are concerns across the country about school attendance and much more rigorous attendance procedures are now in place for all schools. Schools set their minimum required attendance percentage at 96.5% because evidence tells us from when a child enters their Reception class:

Attendance of **95.3%** attendance yearly equates to **not reaching end of KS2 standards**.

Attendance of **96.5%** yearly means **reaching expected end of KS2 standards**.

Attendance of **97.3%** yearly means **reaching higher end of KS2 standards**.

This transfers through to achievements at GCSE level.

A **Nurture Room** has been created in school. We are extremely pleased to tell you that we have been successful in our applications to take part in ARC and PINS training this academic year. The nurture room will support these projects as well as the work of our social worker Lydia Read.

ARC - All staff will receive trauma informed training given by an Educational Psychologist to increase awareness of attachment and trauma needs. This will positively influence the school environment, enhance wellbeing and ultimately improve learning and educational outcomes for our children and families. **PINS** - Partnership of Inclusion for Neurodiversity in Schools. This programme will help shape our SEND provision, help us to provide early interventions at a whole school level, upskilling school staff.

We also aim to improve our Arts offer. Using the evidence and ideas from the **'the power of music to change lives – a national plan for music'**, we aim to enhance our current music, art and DT offer to create an **'RSS Quality Arts Offer'** for all children.

More information about the above improvements can be found below.

Our school development plans as well as a wealth of other supportive material can be found on our school website. [Russell Street School - Home \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://www.russell-street-school.co.uk). Year group guides detailing everything your child will be learning can also be found on our website [Russell Street School - Year Group Guides \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://www.russell-street-school.co.uk)

This newsletter contains a brief summary of more of the school improvements being introduced across the school, followed by some dates to note for this half term. Each week year group leads will send you more in-depth information specific to classes through their weekly update 'Sway', so that you will be able to fully support your child at home.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson



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Both above projects will help us build quality, supportive environments and improve teaching to identify neurodiversity and improve outcomes for our children. The projects aim to enhance the work already taking place in school. All children will experience use of the nurture room. Our social worker will use the room for targeted interventions with children and a nurture lunch group will take place daily led by our Nurture Room Lead, Miss French.



'RSS Quality Arts Offer' - Using the evidence and ideas from the **'the power of music to change lives – a national plan for music'**, we aim to enhance our current music, art and DT offer to create an **'RSS Quality Arts Offer'** for all children.

As a minimum, all children yearly will:

- Watch live music
- Take part in a year group performance (planned to be progressive year on year)
- Have their Art/D.T. work shown in a gallery
- See live theatre (in school)
- Take part in weekly singing assemblies
- Be given the opportunities to progress their talents through weekly music, art and DT lessons/opportunities
- Be signposted to external arts opportunities (through weekly Sways).

As a minimum, all children will (by the end of Year 2):

- Learn to play a musical instrument (the recorder – will be taught for a whole academic year)
- Visit an art gallery (out of school)
- See live theatre (out of school)
- Be offered the opportunity to take part in MK Elfin string/brass lessons and take part in a massed concert
- Take part in the MK Infant Music festival.



French and British Sign Language Teaching (Second Year)

Following on from our successful first year of French and BSL teaching in 23/24, we now move into our second year where year 1 and 2 children will further increase their knowledge in these areas.

A French after school club will continue to run and children and staff will continue to communicate using taught BSL wherever possible.

We will continue to share the French and BSL curriculum with you on our weekly Sways.

Our French and BSL curriculum can be found here:

[Russell Street School - French \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://russell-street-school.co.uk)

[Russell Street School - British Sign Language \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://russell-street-school.co.uk)



Forest School (Orchard and Science Garden)

Forest School continues across the school again this year led by Mrs Clack. Thank you to everyone who supported the development of our science garden last year. All children thoroughly enjoyed using our orchard and science garden to take part in a wide variety of activities. Forest School lessons make a difference in the following ways:

Confidence: children have the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence.

Social skills: children gain increased awareness of the consequences of their actions on peers through team activities such as sharing tools and participating in play.

Communication: language development is prompted by the children's sensory experiences.

Motivation: the outdoors tends to fascinate children and they develop a keenness to participate and the ability to concentrate over longer periods of time.

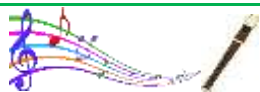
Physical skills: improvements are characterised by the development of physical stamina and gross and fine motor skills.

Knowledge and understanding: children develop an interest in the natural surroundings and respect for the environment.



Your child may wear non-uniform clothes to school on their birthday

If your child has missed being at school for 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.



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. House assemblies will now be taking place in Years 1 and 2 and children will work together on weekly targets to achieve.

Dates – Autumn – First Half Term 24/25

	<p>International Dot Day – Being celebrated in school on Friday 13th September. Celebrate Creativity, Courage & Collaboration!</p> <p>International Dot Day is a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration that began when teacher Terry Shay introduced his classroom to Peter H. Reynolds' book <i>The Dot</i> on September 15, 2009. <i>The Dot</i> is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to 'make her mark'. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe.</p> <p>We will be reading this book to the children and encouraging them all to 'make their mark!'</p> <p>International Dot Day</p>
	<p>Curriculum Sharing Sessions</p> <p>To ensure you know how to fully support your child/ren with their learning, curriculum information sharing lessons will take place on the following dates:</p> <p>Reception – Wednesday 25th September Year 1 – Wednesday 2nd October Year 2 – Wednesday 9th October</p> <p>Times will be confirmed in weekly Sways.</p>
	<p>International Day of Sign Languages – 23rd September</p> <p>Each year on 23rd September people celebrate International Day of Sign Languages to recognise the importance of sign languages around the world. The aim of this special day is to remind big companies, worldwide organisations and global governments of the importance and significance of sign languages.</p> <p>We will be watching a variety of signed stories and practising as many of the signs we have learnt as possible. Many signed stories are available here: signed stories bsl - Search Videos (bing.com)</p> 
	<p>European Day of Languages – 26th September</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
	<p>The October 2024 Big Draw Festival</p> <p>For the Big Draw festival this year, we are going to revisit 'The Dot' book shared across the school on the 13th September, and share another book by the same author – 'ish'. This is an inspiring, encouraging story for budding artists everywhere. This book tells the story of Ramon, who loves to draw. Anytime. Anything. Anywhere. Drawing is what Ramon does. It's what makes him happy. But in one split second, all that changes. A single remark by Ramon's older brother, Leon, turns Ramon's carefree sketches into joyless struggles. Luckily for Ramon, though, his little sister, Marisol, sees the world differently and she opens his eyes to something a lot more valuable than getting things exactly right...</p> <p>We hope the children will be inspired to draw. Anytime. Anything. Anywhere.</p>
	<p>Recycling Week 14th – 20th October</p> <p>This year's Recycle Week theme is 'Rescue Me'. The campaign will run from 14th-20th October 2024, focusing on rescuing recyclable items from heading to the rubbish bin. Recycling at least one extra item as part of our daily recycling routine will make a huge difference.</p> <p>We will be teaching the children how to check whether items can be recycled, and what they should do with the item to recycle it.</p>
	<p>World Values Day – Thursday 17th October</p> <p>The theme for this year's campaign is Bringing Values to Life.</p> <p>If we can all bring our values to life as individual citizens, families, groups, organisations and communities, we can change the world for the better.</p> <p>We will be revisiting our Russell Street School Values: Russell Street School children are STARS - Safe, Together, Achieve, Resilient, Special.</p> <p>Each child will choose a Value and put that value into action.</p>
	<p>Diwali – Friday 25th October</p> <p>We will be learning about Diwali in school on Friday 25th October. Children are invited to wear traditional Indian dress to school or bright pieces of clothing.</p>