

Russell Street School



Newsletter

Autumn (Second Half Term) 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Welcome back to the second half of our Autumn Term. Last half term we had a whole school local authority evaluation. Some of the comments from the evaluation are below.

- Behaviour at Russell Street is outstanding because, policies are clear, and practice aligns with that policy. All staff share the same high expectations and model this to children through a shared language.
- There is a tangible ethos and culture of high expectations and respect supporting children to build towards higher executive function.
- Children demonstrate consistently high levels of self-regulation and low-level disruption is rare.
- Safeguarding has a high priority with exemplary practice.
- Every classroom, outdoor space and social time is productive and focused with excellent routines and expectations.
- Interactions between adults/children and children/children are purposeful and polite and the learning environment, conducive to high quality learning.
- The school immerses children in learning, vocabulary, stories and knowledge through its' continuous provision, displays and high-quality resourcing in every cleverly designed space.
- The EYFS curriculum has been designed as the foundational knowledge and skills for pupils to be ready to access the curriculum in Y1 and then develop this into Y2.
- GLD continues to be significantly above MK and national (89% 2024 compared to 67% National and 70% MK 2023).
- Transitions between each phase and year group are strong because of staff knowledge of the children.
- Staff have high expectations for all pupils and adult/child interactions are learning and vocabulary focused.
- There are clear expectations of pupils' phonic progress term by term from Reception to year 2.
- Pupils are given sufficient practice in reading and re-reading books so that they develop fluency.
- Great thought has gone into developing the reading curriculum.
- Writing and maths outcomes and the quality of children's work is exceptionally high as shown in moderated examples of Y2 work.
- Leadership at Russell Street is characterised by a relentless commitment to the children and their development, and this is in evidence throughout the school. There is a cohesion and consistency across the school which demonstrates the skilful way in which the Head's vision has been embedded. With total dedication from her staff, she has carefully prioritised and implemented learning experiences that enable all children to thrive.

This newsletter contains some of the main things happening this half term. Further detail will always be provided in your child's year group Sway.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson



SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 school places for September 2025 is Wednesday 15th January 2025. You can apply on-line now. Please see the link below for more information.

[Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2025 | Milton Keynes City Council](#). The Local Authority deals with applications for school places and all parents, including nursery parents, must apply by the deadline date.

We are more than happy to answer any questions you have about the admissions process.

Poppy Appeal

Poppies plus other related items will be for sale on the KS1 & Reception gates and Nursery door during morning drop-off. Items can also be purchased from the school office.



Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day – Tuesday 12th November

Odd Socks Day marks Anti-Bullying Week. We will celebrate what makes us unique and special with a focus on spreading kindness. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality.

World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c Monday 11th November

Every year during World Nursery Rhyme week, 5 nursery rhymes are chosen to learn and sing. The 5 official rhymes for 2024 are: Twinkle Twinkle, Old Macdonald, The Big Ship Sails, Incy Wincy Spider and 5 Currant Buns.

On Tuesday 12th November Nursery children will be starting the week dressed as a nursery rhyme character.



Author Visit – Wednesday 13th November

Jeanne Willis is a fabulous author and will be providing an immersive and engaging experience for Year 1 children to learn more about the 'Bog Baby' character. Children will create the Bog Baby and a suitable habitat for the creature too. Reception and Year 2 will also attend the author assembly in the morning.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November

Children may wear Children in Need items or their own non-uniform clothes to school on Friday 15th November and make a donation to Children in Need.



Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings are being held during this half term. We are going to trial holding some parents' meetings during the day.

All appointments will be face to face, however if you prefer an online appointment, please contact the school office and we will arrange this for you.

Tuesday 19th November (am) – Year 1 only – both classes.

Wednesday 20th November (am) – Year 2 only – both classes.

Wednesday 20th November (pm) – Nursery only.

Thursday 21st November (am) – Reception only – both classes.

Thursday 21st November- 3:00-6:00pm - All year groups.

Booking information will be sent one week before this event.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Wednesday 27th November

Every Coffee Morning makes a difference!

Donations from thousands of Coffee Mornings, big and small, help raise vital funds to support the 3 million people in the UK living with cancer, from the moment they are diagnosed, throughout treatment and beyond. We will be holding a coffee morning in the school hall on Wednesday 27th November from 8:50-10am. Make a donation of your choice for this event.



Christmas Nativity – Reception 4th and 5th December

Reception classes will be performing a Christmas Nativity. Other year groups in school perform concerts at different times of the year.

Our Reception Nativity will take place on: 4th December (where Otters take the main roles) and on 5th December (where Bees take the main roles). Both performances start at 9:15am.

Further details will follow.

If anyone has any Christmas costumes they would like to donate to school, these are always gratefully received.

Christmas Jumper Day & Hobbs Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 11th December

Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday 11th December and make a donation to Save the Children.



Christmas Cinema – Wednesday 11th December

Children are invited to stay to watch a Christmas film after school on Wednesday 11th December (3:00-4:00pm) This is a fundraising event. All money raised will be spent by your child's year group specifically on items for your children.

Christmas Pantomime – Friday 13th December

M&M Productions return once again this year to perform their current pantomime 'Cinderella'.



Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will be taking place in school on the following dates:

Nursery – Tuesday 17th December (am)

Reception – Tuesday 17th December (pm)

Year 1 – Thursday 19th December (am)

Year 2 – Thursday 19th December (pm)

Children may wear party clothes to school on these dates, with sensible outdoors shoes.

School Closes on Friday 20th December