

# Russell Street School

## Newsletter

Spring

Spring Term 1 2023



## Message from our Headteacher

We all hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas & a very happy New Year.

We start this term with a very exciting trip for our Year Two children to Holdenby House. Once Elizabethan England's greatest house, then a royal palace and a prison to King Charles I. [History | Holdenby House](#). Year Two will be experiencing a Victorian day at Holdenby to enrich the start of their learning about life in Victorian times.

Please remember to apply for Reception and Year 3 places by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January. You do not automatically gain a place in our Reception classes because you attend Nursery at Russell Street School.

Cost of living support advice is sent to us on a weekly basis from Milton Keynes Council. We will share this with you through our weekly Sways. A wealth of information about how to support your child at home is also contained on our Sways. If you would like to read the Sways from other year groups, they are shared weekly on our Twitter account:

@school\_russell

This newsletter contains a brief summary of some of the school improvements being introduced across the school this term. Further information about everything we do is always contained on our website.

Kind regards  
Mrs Robinson

### Holdenby House - Year Two Trip – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January Life Below Stairs (The Victorians)

It is 1891. Lady Annaly, the owner of Holdenby House is hiring servants to run the household. Children may be under the strict supervision of:

- Mrs Bumbridge, the housekeeper, who will tell the children precisely what she expects.
- Mrs Crumpet, the cook, who will teach the children how to cook and will expect help in her kitchen.
- Mr Rhett, the butler, who rules the servants with a rod of iron.
- A housemaid or Mr Legg, the footman, who will instruct the children in their duties.

Children from the workhouse will be taken around the house, allocated jobs, told their conditions of service and taught deportment and manners. In the afternoon they will present themselves to her Ladyship.

Further information about this event has already been sent to Year 2 families.



IF YOU CAN  
DREAM IT,  
YOU CAN  
DO IT.

- Walt Disney

### Make Your Dreams Come True Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We know that listening to other people's stories of success can inspire us to reach for our own dreams, so on 13<sup>th</sup> January we are going to research and find out who has had to work hard to make their own personal dreams come true and see if their stories inspire us all.

### Closing Date for Reception and Year 3 Admissions – 15<sup>th</sup> January

[Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2023 | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

The Citizens Portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 for parents and carers to apply online for a primary or junior school place. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and all applications must be made before the closing date to receive a school place offer on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (national offer day).



### Chinese New Year – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

We will be celebrating the Year of the Rabbit in school. Children are invited to wear red items of clothing or traditional Chinese clothing to celebrate.

### National Handwriting Day – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

We will be carrying out a variety of fun activities to strengthen the children's grip and improve their fine motor control such as dough disco, pen disco, weaving and threading.

Happy  
National  
Handwriting  
Day!



### Big Garden Birdwatch 2023 weekend 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January / Big Schools Birdwatch

Big Garden Birdwatch 2023 is coming on 27-29 January! Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour. At school we will all be counting the birds on our school grounds on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. You can take part by counting the birds for one hour in your garden and submitting your count. To find out more visit:

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#) | [The RSPB](#)

### National Storytelling Week – Week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> January

Making up our own stories is an important part of storytelling week. Every child in school will have the opportunity to let their imaginations go wild. We will be looking at the amount of different ways that stories can be told.



### Children's Mental Health Week – Week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> February

Children's Mental Health Week 2023 is taking place from 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**This year's theme is 'Let's Connect'.**

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we will be encouraging the children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.



**Safer Internet Day 2023** | **Tuesday**  
**7 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](https://saferinternetday.org.uk)

### Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

The theme this year is –

**'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.**

We will be discussing the time they spend online with the children.

We will be discussing with children the time they spend online and examples of what they access safely. The way that they are kept safe online and the types of appropriate games they should be playing. Please remember, children should be supervised at all times when online.



### Dress to Express – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

To celebrate the end of Children's Mental Health Week, we are inviting all children to 'Dress to Express' and help raise vital funds to help us support more children and young people with their mental health. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, children can come dressed to school in an outfit that allows them to express themselves.

Please ensure the children wear warm, suitable clothes and footwear, (KS1 still have P.E. on this day).