

# Russell Street School

## Newsletter

Spring

Spring Term 1 2025



## Message from our Headteacher

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas & New Year.

At the end of January, we will be celebrating two puzzle days. Research suggests that Lego and other construction toys can improve a wide range of mental aptitudes in young children, such as spatial intelligence and hand-eye coordination. We will be combining Lego Day, with National Puzzle Day, challenging the children's creativity in a wide variety of ways.

We end the half term with our fabulous Year Two Oliver production. To ensure we can cover the costs of props and costumes for Oliver each year, and so that wider family members can also enjoy the performance, we will be selling tickets for an additional performance of Oliver on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm.

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

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

Kind regards  
Mrs Robinson



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

[Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2025 | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#) The Citizens Portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 for parents and carers to apply online for a primary or junior school place. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and all applications must be made before the closing date to receive a school place offer on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (national offer day).

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

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



### Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 - 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Every Birdwatch counts** - Across the UK, over 600,000 people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2024, counting a whopping 9.7 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we’ve lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it’s more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don’t – count will give the RSPB a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring.

[Big Garden Birdwatch](#)

### National Lego Day – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Research suggests that Lego and other construction toys can improve a wide range of mental aptitudes in young children, such as spatial intelligence and hand-eye coordination. We will be combining Lego Day, with National Puzzle Day, challenging our creativity in a wide variety of ways.



### National Puzzle Day – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

National Puzzle Day is a delightful occasion that celebrates the joy of puzzles and brainteasers. It’s a day for puzzle enthusiasts of all ages to come together and indulge in their passion for solving puzzles, whether they’re jigsaw puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku, or riddles. We will be challenging our problem-solving skills and creativity through a variety of puzzles and games.

### Chinese New Year – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

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



### National Storytelling Week – 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February

The National Literacy Trust has a range of online events and resources for all ages to celebrate National Storytelling Week. We will be enjoying an online storytelling event with author Joseph Coelho on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and we will be visiting Stony Stratford Library during this week.

### Children’s Mental Health Week – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February

This year’s theme is: ‘Know Yourself, Grow Yourself’.

Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel JOY and what may cause us SADNESS. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way. During Place2Be’s Children’s Mental Health Week 2025, we will be using ‘Inside Out 2’ to help us explore our different emotions and grow ourselves.



### Dress to Express – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, we are inviting all children to 'Dress to Express' and help raise vital funds to help support more children and young people with their mental health. On Friday 7<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.



### Explorer Dome – Year 1 – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Explorer Dome: Space Show The awe and wonder of space in a Dome! A story-telling introduction to the earth, moon, sun and stars. Children will learn that the sun is a star, find out why the sun moves across the sky, look for different phases of the moon and discover how to spot the pictures and stories in the stars.

### Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.**

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year an online issue or theme is covered that speaks to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online.



### Oliver – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – both shows at 9:30am

We are very excited that Year 2 children will be performing Oliver as their class assembly for their families. This involves learning many songs and the use of an actual theatre script. We are sure you'll be joining in with the songs at home! To ensure we can cover the costs of props and costumes each year, and so that wider family members can also enjoy the performance, we will be selling tickets for an **additional performance of Oliver on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm.**