

# Royal Russell Junior School



# Newsletter

## Autumn Term

### 4th October 2019



Dear Parents,

This half term, our assemblies have the theme of famous people and, on Monday morning, I shared the inspiring story of Ernest Shackleton and the hardships faced by the men of the 'Endurance' expedition. It certainly seems timely to talk about his Antarctic endeavours as the weather turns sharply autumnal. Through Shackleton's story we explored the ideas of courage, leadership and, perhaps most relevant to us at Royal Russell, the theme of putting others before oneself. The link to our school motto and our community is clear. I have encouraged pupils to find out more about Shackleton's story for themselves.

Shackleton knew the positive effects of routine on his men and I have been able to see the positive effects on our pupils here as the term's routines have fully established themselves. From assemblies to lessons and from clubs to sports matches, the rhythms of the school year allow our pupils to flourish as the halfway point of the term hovers on the horizon.

However, routine doesn't have to mean that we must keep doing the same. Certainly, I have found that no day at Royal Russell is like another and taking our learning somewhere else can be exciting. For our youngest children in Nursery, a break from the normal routine to visit our new boarding house building site was of fantastic educational value and enjoyment. There is something fitting about our littlest learners gazing up in wonder at the largest construction site on campus. As we know from our Harvest celebrations, the mightiest oaks grow from the smallest seeds.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend,

**John Evans**  
Junior School Headmaster

# MFL - The world of (Modern Foreign Languages)

It has been a busy start of term in the MFL department. In Nursery, the children have been introduced to **Camembear** who comes from France to teach the children French through lots of fun games and songs.



He has also visited Reception learning greetings and Year 1 where they have been learning animals.

In Year 2 the children are using their knowledge of greetings and introductions to write out a dialogue which they will be acting out and performing to the rest of the class.



Meanwhile in the Upper Juniors, there has been a lot of exciting learning taking place. The Year 3s are adjusting to having 2 lessons of French a week. They are learning French through **"Rigolo"** and are getting to know **Jake, Polly** and **Bof the dragon**.



In Year 4, as well as continuing with their French, the children can now learn Spanish! We have started learning about the Spanish alphabet and practising all the sounds and phonics.

In Years 5 and 6 we are covering lots of topics including; family, numbers, holidays and telling the time.

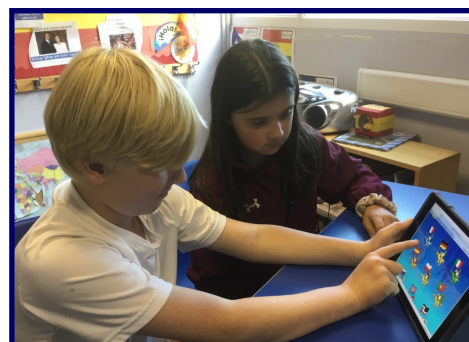
I liked when we decided, if you like, love, dislike and hate different places in French.



Lara (6E)

In Spanish I enjoyed when we learned about time and quizzed our partner.

The children are working really well and adapting to learning 2 different languages during the week. This will be good preparation for when they join the senior school.

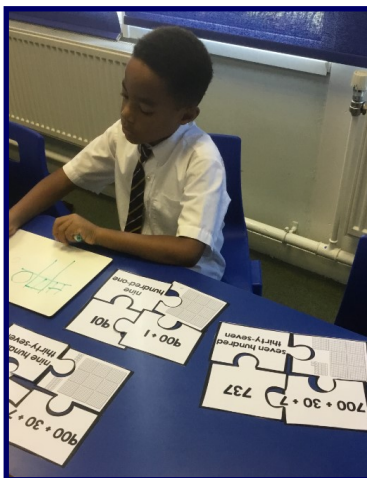




# What are we learning in Year 3?

In Year 3 we have been extremely busy. From learning about the Celts and Romans to exploring vast mountains and rivers of the United Kingdom.

Soon we are going on a trip to Addington Hills to investigate physical features in our local area.

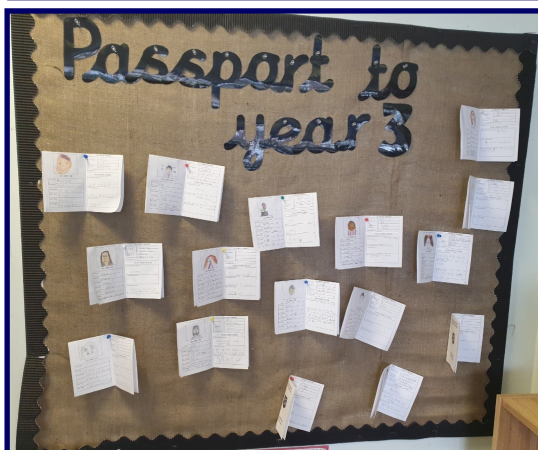
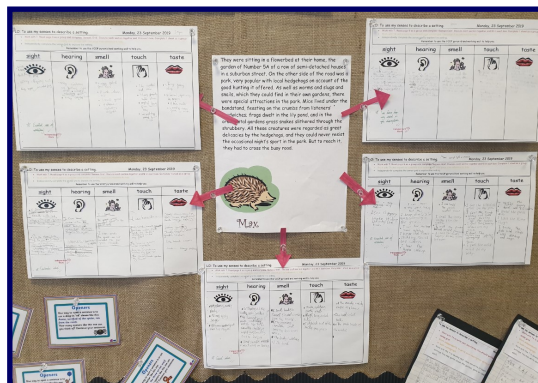
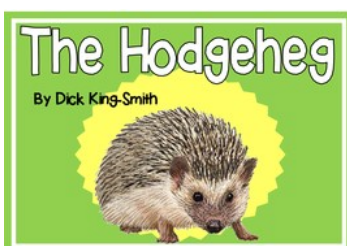
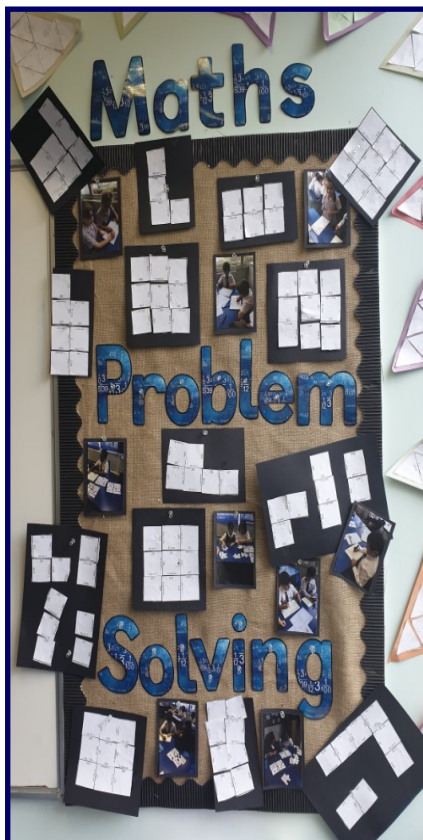


In Maths, problem solving has been a big focus and success this term. We recapped on place value and then provided hands-on learning engagements so the children could apply their skills. It was great to see the children use their Russell Powers of communication and collaboration and also resilience and perseverance to complete some really thought-provoking Maths puzzles. The children loved the challenge and applied their knowledge and understanding with confidence.



Our focus in English has been around the children's story book, 'The Hodgeheg'.

We used the book as a stimulus to investigate descriptive and figurative language. The children wrote the most CREATIVE similes, metaphors and descriptions of Max and the setting of the story. We were really pleased with the quality of their writing and the effort the children put in.



We have had a fantastic start to our Year 3 journey and looking forward to the year ahead.



# Junior School Sports

The children have been enjoying competing and simply taking part in a host of sporting fixtures and activities during the first half of Autumn term.

## Match Report: U11 IAPS Hockey Qualifier

The U11 squad travelled to CLFS (*City of London Freeman's School*) for the IAPS qualifier. We played 5 matches in the group stages, the squad worked really hard and improved so much throughout the day.

After a close loss and 2 draws we won against Hurst 1-0. In the final group match we made a great comeback from 3-0 to narrowly lose 2-3.

We made it into the plate finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> in our group, unfortunately we were knocked out in the first game but the day was still a good experience.

*Isabel Gironella*



## Open Morning Netball Workshop

The U8's had a great first taste of netball on open morning. They warmed up with some fun drills practising their netball skills and then played in some friendly matches against St Christopher's and Streatham & Clapham. The girls learnt a lot and had a lovely fun morning trying out new skills.





# Early Years' Visit to the New Building Site

The Nursery and Reception children had the most wonderful visit to the building site at the Senior School.



Reception children were on the lookout for repeating patterns such as stacks of bricks and scaffolding.



The children were very excited to see the site in action. They gave instructions to make the crane move and lift bricks, saw the digger with its hydraulics and all of the amazing building materials.



## ★ Silver Star Awards

Phoebe D (1D)

*For showing consideration and kindness to a friend in her class.*

## 1853 Comedy Night - Saturday 12th October



The 1853 Society presents

# Comedy Night

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**  
Doors open 7:45pm  
Show starts 8:15pm

**Tickets: £15**  
From Wisepay or [mel@bruguiet.net](mailto:mel@bruguiet.net)  
Includes table snacks

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