



Royal Russell Junior School

Newsletter

Spring Term

24th January 2020



Dear Parents,

It turns out that, if I were a bird, I would be a pigeon. I revealed this to the pupils on Monday in assembly. I was hoping to encourage all of our pupils to take part in the RSPB 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. This is a project that is now in its 40th year and the data is used to monitor and promote the populations of birds in the UK. All of the information can be found on the RSPB's website which also contains the quiz to decide which bird you would be. I must admit that, after sharing this information with colleagues and pupils, that I began to feel a little low about my new feathered friend, the humble pigeon. Why wasn't I a striking goldfinch or beautiful robin? It wasn't until I delved deeper into the matter that I started to feel more excited about being a pigeon, they are amazing creatures. They can fly at the altitude of 6000 feet and at speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour. They move their wings up to ten times per second and have the ability to identify objects at a distance of 26 miles. I'm actually feeling quite smug about being one now. I urge you to see which garden bird you are most like and sign up to take part in this year's bird watch.

This week, we were delighted to be able to delve deeper into the world of speech and language therapy with a visit from two of the therapists from 'Kids First'. There is some interesting and vital work being done in this space and promoting pupil progress across the board. I have included some of the useful tips and tricks from the meeting in the newsletter and encourage you to contact Mrs Smith for any further information.

If you are a big fan of delving deeper then I would like to draw your attention to the 1853 quiz on the evening of the 8th of February, further information is enclosed.

Delving deeper is always a good idea and I hope that this week's newsletter will allow you to see under the skin of some of the amazing activities that are happening in the school community.

As ever, I hope you and your families have a happy and restful weekend.

Best wishes,

John Evans
Junior School Headmaster

Junior School Sports Snapshot



Southern Zonal Schools Trampoline Competition

The Southern Zonal Schools competition took place last Sunday, 19th January, giving our enthusiastic trampolinists the opportunity to compete alongside their Senior School comrades.



The 27 strong trampoline squad headed for Gillingham for the qualifying event, gaining a medal at this level qualified the pupils to the National Trampoline finals on 14th March.

The day started really well with Max competing 2 excellent routines, unluckily a small error placed him 4th individually just missing out on the National finals. In the U11 novice group the girls all bounced well with Maria, Izzy and Sarah and finishing 9th and 10th respectively. The A team finished in a credible 3rd place and the B team 5th.



U11 Intermediate Champions through to the National Finals



It was great to see all the hard work paying off and now it is time to learn some somersaults!

The U11 intermediate girls finished the day on a high winning the team competition and securing a place at the National finals, individually Nina finished 7th, Oneli 9th and Isabel 12th.

Thank you to the coaches and officials for supporting the competition and the parents for taking the pupils.

Speech and Language Tips and Tricks



For Speech, Language and Communication Development at home

- ♦ **Use your child's name** before talking to them and ensure you have their attention.
- ♦ Speak in your **home language** if that is most comfortable for you and your child.
- ♦ Keep **instructions short and clear**. Break information into chunks.
- ♦ Use **demonstration** or **gesture** to reinforce your meaning.
- ♦ Give your child **time to process** information and respond.
- ♦ Give your child **full attention** when they are speaking.
- ♦ **PUT DOWN** your phone, **TURN OFF** the tv, and **TALK!**
- ♦ **Comment** on what your child is doing/playing rather than asking lots of questions (e.g. You're climbing!).
- ♦ If your child says something incorrectly, **repeat it back** in the correct way, but don't pressure them to copy you.
- ♦ **Play** Simon Says, Chinese Whispers, I Spy, I went shopping and I bought...
- ♦ **Read** with your child and **discuss** the books.
- ♦ Play board games or use other activities that encourage your child to **take turns**. Have some 'no screen time'.
- ♦ If your child is struggling to think of a word, encourage them to **describe** what they are talking about.

Silver Star Awards



Jojo

5J

For being very polite and courteous to a Senior School member of staff.

Only a fortnight to purchase your tickets for the **1853 Quiz Night** on Saturday 8th February

* Only £10 a ticket and teams up to 10. Enquire 1853society@royalrussell.co.uk or mel@bruguier.net

* You can bring your own drinks, alternatively there is a licenced bar

* Doors open 7pm at the Great Hall. 7.30pm start

School Uniform Sale Friday 31st January

If you need any items of uniform...

Or your children are simply growing out of everything...

It's worth checking out the Second Hand Uniform Shop

Donations are always gratefully received.



Tickets available for £15 from 'Eventbrite' - [click here](#) to purchase

Royal Russell Presents

JAZZ

An Evening with Claire Martin OBE

With the Nikki Iles Trio - A Tribute to Tony Bennet and Bill Evans

Thursday 29 April : 7.00pm : Auditorium

