

Royal Russell Junior School

Newsletter

Spring Term

6th March 2020



Dear Parents,

The Junior School has been awash with the power of books this week. From Monday's amazing assembly where we discovered two wonderful stories, through to Thursday's extravaganza of excitement, costume and shared narrative through video, song, poetry and dance. Books have breathed colour and energy into our lives this week more than usual and we are the richer for the experience. Please do see some of the amazing experiences that your children have enjoyed this week. My thanks go to you for your participation with costumes and photographs, to my colleagues for sharing their love and passion for books, and, to the children, for whom I hope that reading has become even more of a pleasure.

Once again, inspired by the written word in the form of an article in the newspaper, during our assembly on Friday I shared an amazing story about my grandmother with the Upper Junior pupils, with Sunday's International Women's Day in mind. She was a wonderful woman who did all of those exciting things that Grandmas do so well. She was also, uncompromising in what she believed and would not pass by anything that she believed was wrong. She was an inspiration to me, and I have asked the pupils to think about women who have had a profound impact on their lives.

With a brief ray on sunshine to finish off a soggy week, I hope that you and your family have a relaxing and wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

John Evans
Junior School Headmaster

String Soiree

Our young string musicians started this week off with a concert for the parents at our String Soiree.

Olivia (6E) has written her account of the experience:

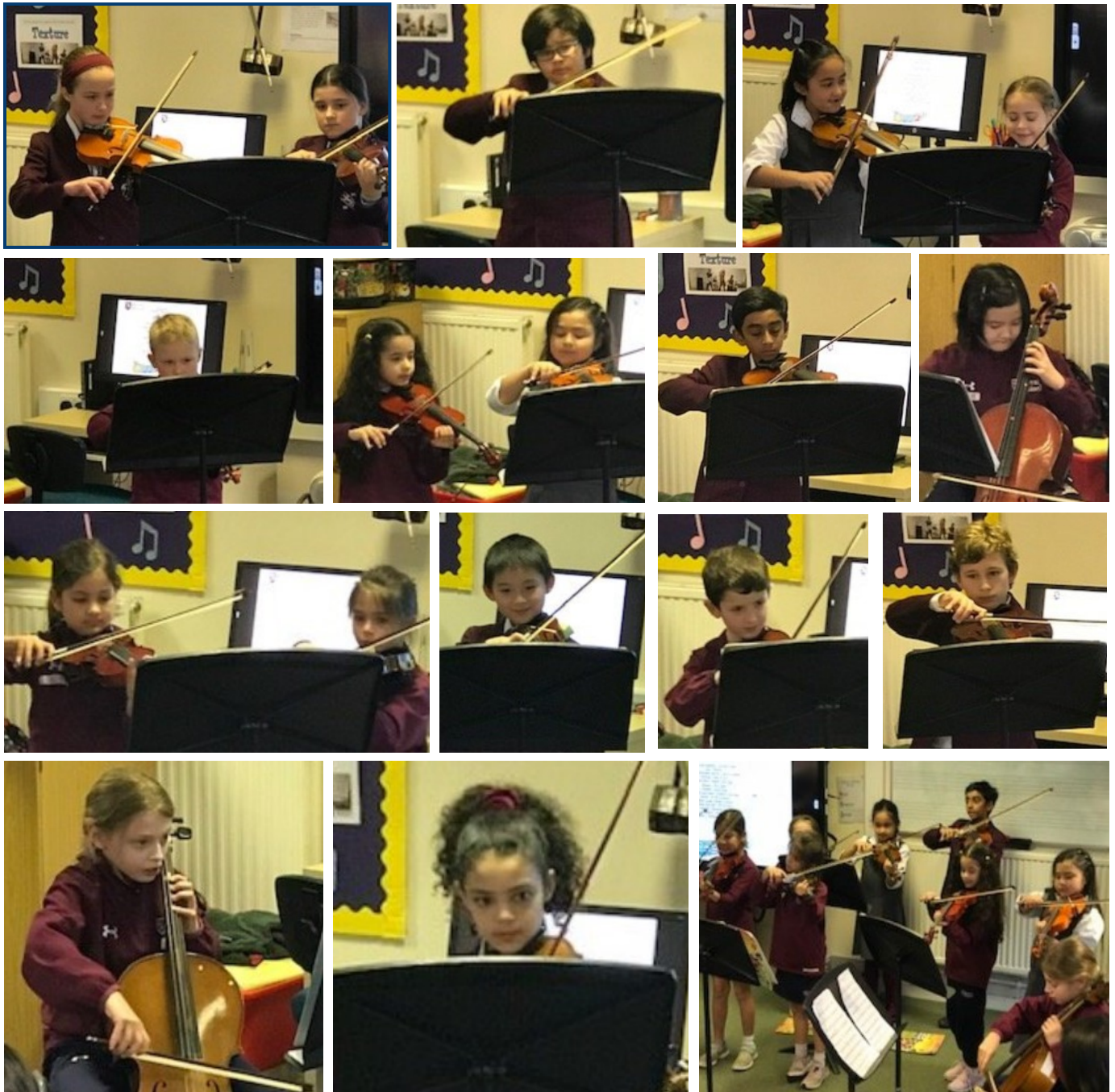


First string soir e – by Olivia Powell 6E

I really enjoyed the first time that the school did the string soir e because it was just to celebrate all of the people that play violins and cellos and their achievements.

We all took turns to do solos, duets and even trios and at the end we all came together to play Captain Jack’s Hornpipe. I performed a duet with Isabella F and we played Carrions Crow. The best thing about the experience, though, was how everyone played a piece, from Y2 to Y6, beginner to advanced and it all sounded beautiful.

Some of us were a bit nervous but the others who were confident helped us, and everyone was so supportive it was really nice. We were constantly using all our Russell powers, originality to choose our song when we first found out, to persistence and resilience to play our pieces in the end. I think the school should do more of them and with other instrument families - let’s just say that it was a wonderful experience.



Junior School Sports Snapshot



U11 Sports Hall Athletics

The U11 Sports Hall Athletics team headed off to represent Croydon and Royal Russell at the London youth games semi-finals before half term. The team had trained hard for the event and with an expanded squad we were up against some tough opposition.

Three pupils took part in each of the field events jumping and throwing brilliantly and on the track there was a mixture of pure running relays and also more complex obstacle and over & under. In our heats we smashed several of the races winning by a mile or coming a close second. However there were 2 heats and the other heat was also quick. It was finally results time and when they announced ROYAL RUSSELL as third we were super excited, the top 3 teams from each semi-final go head to head in the London Youth games finals in March! Well done to all Y6's who were outstanding on the day producing some awesome results.



U11 Netball:

WHAT A WEEK!

TUESDAY: U11AB Croydon Schools Tournament

U11A went unbeaten to win the qualifier and go through to the finals next week.

WEDNESDAY: U11 'Sisters in Sport' Event

The U11A had a mixed day with some excellent play.

THURSDAY: IAPS Qualifier

The team played an excellent indoor tournament resulting in becoming Plate Winners!



CANTERBURY TALES

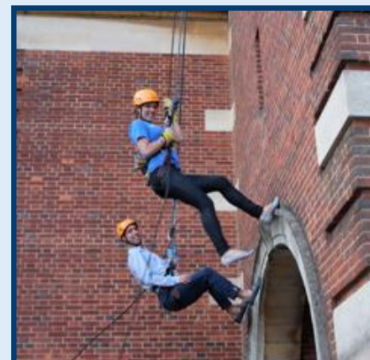
Royal Russell School is undertaking a series of exciting challenges this year, culminating in a Grand Finale celebration in June 2020. The concept, like the famous stories, *'The Canterbury Tales'*, is that we are all travelling together, but have our own tales to tell and our own challenges ahead.

Canterbury Tales' Chapel Tower Abseiling Challenge *'We Dare You!'*

On Sunday 14th June (5pm - 9pm), we are hosting an event where we challenge you to Abseil from the top of Chapel Tower. There will be music, a BBQ and you could be the entertainment!

If you're ready to show your children what you are made of, sign up.

- ◆ Between 5pm and 9pm, 40+ people will have the opportunity to abseil off the Chapel Tower
- ◆ In order to qualify for the event you will need a minimum of £100 sponsorship. If you raise a large amount, you can choose your own charity to receive a donation.
- ◆ This is open to all members of our Community (a minimum age of 14 applies)
- ◆ The event will be run by one of the most experienced abseiling companies in the country.
- ◆ Note: to access the tower there is also a steep ladder inside. This challenge is not for the faint hearted!
- ◆ To register your interest, email mtanner@royalrussell.co.uk to receive your forms.



Canterbury Tales' Swimming Challenge

As part of a whole school initiative, the Junior School will be taking part in a **'Swimming Challenge'**.

We are using this idea to raise awareness and donations for causes we care about.

Throughout March, every width or length swum during lessons and swim squad sessions will be recorded and will count towards an overall number of miles for our group, The Junior School.

We're competing against the Senior School (including staff) and Swimming Pool Members + outside lets.

The Challenge

- * Royal Russell School to Canterbury is 63 miles.
- * 64 lengths of the pool = 1 mile
- * 63 miles x 64 lengths = 4032 lengths

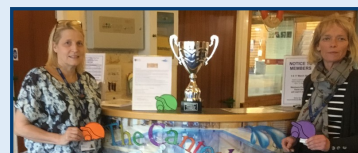
We believe as a community, we can swim to Canterbury and back three times or $4032 \times 6 = 24,192$ lengths

The children can also complete a small *'swimmer's arm'* postcard to tell your tale! e.g. 'I am swimming because...'

These will be available at the swimming pool reception desk and then stuck onto the desk.

Fund raise / donate – This is voluntary. The chosen charity is Dementia UK and there will be a Just Giving page set up shortly which will add to the school's total, or you could simply donate to your own chosen cause.

Who will be the first to get to Canterbury and back?



Book Week



This year, we have been busy sharing the joy of books with other people. Reading a book on your own is one thing, however, sharing that enthusiasm and passion for reading with other people can be a far more satisfying experience.

The week kicked off with an amazing whole school assembly, where books were shared with the children in a variety of different ways. It was a great experience for the children, and indeed the teachers who took part!

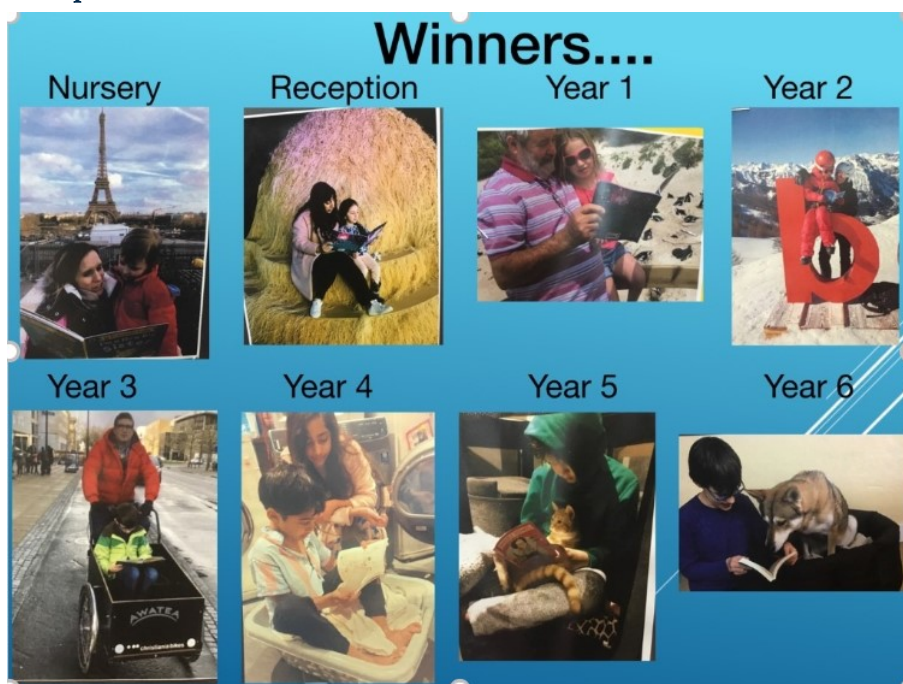


Sharing a book with others photo competition.

Each child was set a challenge to think of an interesting or unusual place that they could share a book with someone else.

It was very difficult to choose winners, however, after much deliberation, here are the winners for each year group.

Well done to them, and also to all who took part in the competition.



Our Book Fair

The children have had the opportunity to browse and purchase books from the book fair.

All of the books at the book fair were really good, I have already read both of the ones I bought.

I really enjoyed the book fair. It's nice to be able to go and buy new books with friends.

It has been great to see the choices that the children have made.



Sharing Books with Other Year Groups



"I really enjoyed reading to Krish, he liked the book and I hope I can read to Reception children again one day". Marie-Louise



I really liked doing something with the younger children. It made a nice change from working with children your own age.



World Book Day Dressing Up

The children all made such an effort to dress up in a costume relating to their year group book sharing performance and the judges, Mrs Jones, Mr Ward and Mrs Parkin, had a very tricky time deciding which year group to award the prize to, however the winning year group was Year 3.



Everyone enjoyed dressing up in their year's themes immensely, especially our fun-tastic staff!

Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?

Teacher's Favourite Book Competition

All the teachers and support staff shared their favourite book with the children, by way of a photo of them reading that book. However, to challenge the children to guess which book it was, all of the titles were covered up.

The children in their classes had to use their Russell Powers of curiosity, along with communication and collaboration to find out all the missing titles. The winning classes were 6E and 5C.



Well done though to all who made good effort within their classes, participating in this book week activity.

That's it for another year, until 2021 we thank you for all your support and hope the children continue to enjoy reading, wherever it may be, remember to use your World Book Day token in a bookshop near you!



Support Marie Curie

From Monday 9th March through to 13th, our Prefects will be on hand outside the Junior School entrance, selling Marie Curie Daffodils, in support of the Marie Curie charity.

Marie Curie provide support and care for people living with terminal illnesses, particularly cancer. Every donation made, mean they can care for more people. Thank you.

Birthday Books

We are super cautious on behalf of our children with allergies, and as such are a nut free school and do not allow food from home to be brought in.

We won't risk cakes or sweets being brought in from home, so when it's a child's birthday, we encourage the donation of a book to the library instead.

An inscription with your child's name will go into the book for everyone who reads it to see, to mark the special occasion.

This is completely voluntary.

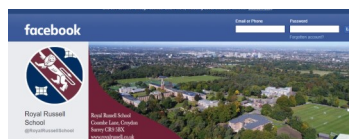
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