



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter



Autumn Term
16th October 2020



Dear Parents and Friends,

Time, as ever, continues to be one of our most precious commodities. The pace of the school year always surprises me, however, this half term has seemed, if possible, even more fleeting than before. However, with the benefit of a short period of reflection, I can see how much we have achieved in just a few weeks.

In Monday's assembly, I challenged the pupils to think about how proud they were of their own achievements. As you might expect from Royal Russell, these ranged from academic success to wonderful displays of caring for each other and achievements in the arts and sport. They have a lot to be proud of. The real challenge was for them to think about what they were collectively proud of, as classes. Their responses were still diverse, however, they captured the huge amount of success that has been achieved in all areas and how proud they were of each other. It has been a lovely way to end our half term together.

I would like to say thank you and a fond farewell to Mr Millward, our director of Music, as he and his family head for pastures new. Mr Millward has been involved in so many events for the Junior School and we have benefitted from his leadership in many areas over the years. We wish him every success in his new role.

I have felt extremely proud of all of our pupils and also of the wider community who have worked so hard to keep each other safe. I hope that you manage to find some time for peace and rest over the next two weeks and thank you for all of your support of the School this half term.

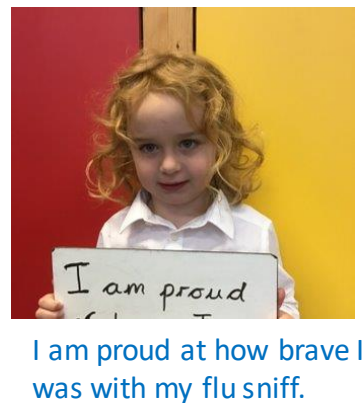
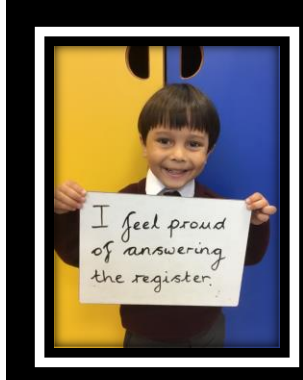
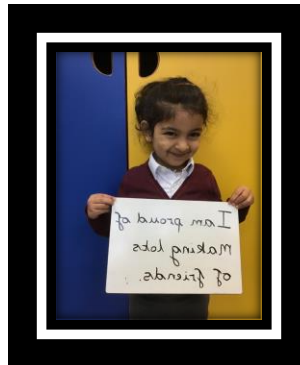
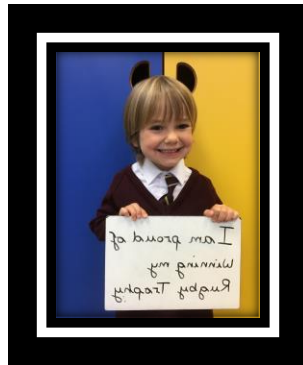
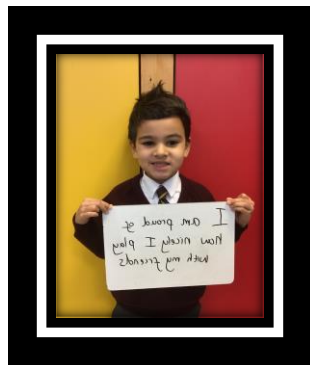
Very best wishes.

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School

Proud Moments

This week Mr Evans started the week by introducing the theme of 'Pride' in our whole school assembly. Being proud of what we do and where we belong naturally leads to many positive outcomes both in children's learning as well as releasing dopamine, a hormone associated with happiness.

It takes just a few moments to walk around the Junior School to see the many contributions that the children make to the community, all of which they should be proud of.



We hope you enjoy a selection of Reception pupils across the Junior School sharing moments from this half term which have made them proud.

Year 3

In maths, Year 3 have been studying 3D shapes. We have learnt the properties and made our own shapes from straws and blu tack. We have also created our own shapes from nets.



Saturday Sport Festival

An incredible amount of fun was had by all the children taking part in our Saturday morning fun sport festival. In the absence of competitor inter schools sport fixtures, it was wonderful to hear the echoes of children's animated voices across the site over the weekend.

The pupils enjoyed lots of match play with 3 goals to score in on the hockey pitch and the girls' football goals worth 5 points. Well done to everyone, it was such a pleasure to see so many happy smiley faces enjoying Saturday morning sport.



U8-11 Mixed Cross Country Event

What a fantastic run for the cross country squad who did a great job at the Croydon Schools event on Thursday morning.

It was lovely to see them all running with big smiles and determination on their faces.

Well done to all for being fantastic and trying your best!

First finishers:

Arabella O and Thomas M

Betty and Ollie

Xavier and Matilda

Molly and Oliver

Full results to follow after half term, once they have been collated.



Music Café

This week, we were so excited to present our first **Autumn Virtual Music Café**. Meet our budding young musicians in Years 3 and 4.



Parents were treated to an online concert, with a huge amount of talent across a range of instruments and vocals.



Isabella



Xavier



Abigail



Arionas



Molly



Emily



Raaj



Prisca



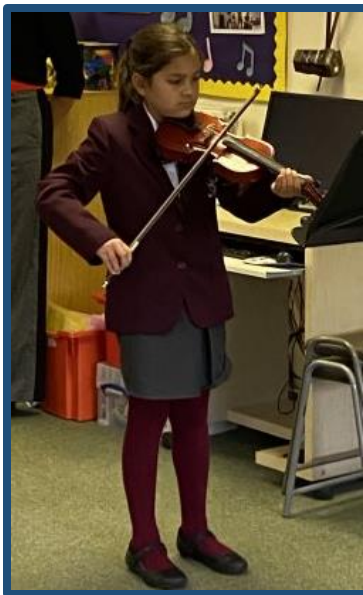
Performing made me feel a bit nervous but excited, too. I like playing piano music and I performed two pieces at the Music Café, called 'Dusty Blue' and 'Arabesque'.

Isabella



I played a violin piece called 'In the Groove'. Performing at the Music Café Concert was very exciting.

Abigail



I enjoyed watching my friends performing and I played a piece on the violin.

Xavier



I love the sound of the piano and I really enjoyed playing the big piano, in the Music Room.

Performing in the Music Café made me feel really proud.

Arionas



Performing made me feel proud and fantastic! I sang a song called 'My Grandfather's Clock' and it went well.

Molly

Music Café



I sang a song called 'Edelweiss' and performing at the Music Café made me feel very happy and proud.

Emily



I really enjoyed playing my guitar at the Music Café; I like to play in front of an audience.

Raaj



I played a piano piece called 'The Swing'. I thought that I played well and I really enjoyed hearing the other performers, too.

Prisca

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Socially Safe Taekwondo

Our Taekwondo Club which is run by Karl James had to undergo a few changes to follow the latest social distancing guidance. Using cone zones, the children are kept a safe distance apart and are still able to learn the core skills, moves and stances whilst having tons of fun.



There are a few spaces in Taekwondo Club if you are in Year 5 or 6 and would like to join, email upperjuniorclubs@royalrussell.co.uk to express an interest.

A Poetry Inspiring Walk

Year 6 took a leisurely walk around the grounds looking at and listening to the signs of Autumn.

The weather was crisp but sunny, it was a glorious Autumn morning and perfect conditions for what we had planned.



The children thought about the different figurative language we could use to describe what they were seeing and feeling.

Some examples included: gnarled tree trunks, a carpet of leaves, acorn cases opening to reveal the secret inside, cases as spikey as a hedgehog.



We will be using this inspiration to create Autumn poems.