



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter

Autumn Term

13th November 2020



Dear Parents and Friends,

This time of year is always an important one for the Royal Russell community as we dedicate our time to the memory of members of the School whose lives have been taken during times of conflict, and all those who have suffered and lost their lives to war.

It can be a sombre time, however, our approach in the Junior School ensures that Remembrance is relevant to all of our children and allows space for reflection in the full schedule of the school day.

Our assembly on Monday morning was led by Mrs Austin who focused on how those who fought and died in war did so in the service of others and we reflected on how we can honour their memory by being of service to those around us.

Our small service in the chapel on Wednesday was shared with the school community across Microsoft Teams and a representative from each year group placed a small cross with a poppy in the Memorial Garden alongside the wreath laid on behalf of the Junior School by our Heads of School, Tegan and Ava.

The children in Year 5 have also created the most wonderful poppies from clay as part of their Art lessons. The individual approach, attention to detail and care that have been put into their crafting have created a thought provoking display. My thanks to Miss Ciccone for leading this endeavour.

Alongside the reflection and thoughtfulness that surrounds Remembrance Day, there is always an enduring sense of hope. Hope that those lives taken, the sacrifices made and the service given were not in vain. A hope that by honouring those who died, that we will continue to strive for peace and to resolve differences without conflict. This hope is rooted at the very heart of Royal Russell and is as important today as it has ever been.

Where there is hope, there is the room for kindness. Although Friday the 13th may not be the most auspicious of dates, it is World Kindness Day today and in our Celebration Assembly, Mrs Pain asked our community to think about how we can show kindness to each other. However we choose to show that kindness to others, now is an important time to do so.

I hope that you enjoy the window into the life of the Junior School that the newsletter brings this week.

My best wishes for a relaxing and lovely weekend,

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School



Don't Forget...

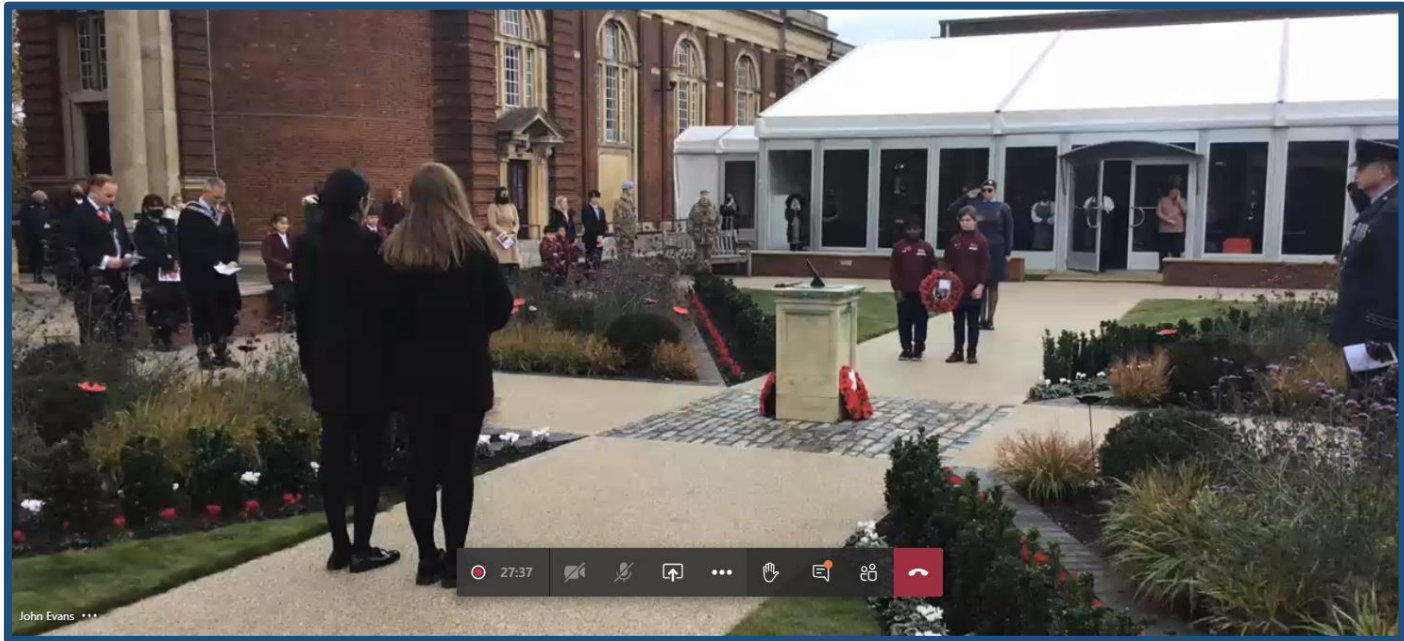
it's **oDD sOCks dAY**

On Monday 16th November

So remember to wear your most outrageous odd socks



Remembrance Day



We held a very different Remembrance Service this year at Royal Russell, but we ensured that there was an opportunity for everyone to reflect and remember.

One child from each year group represented their peers by attending the Service in the Memorial Garden,. Our two Heads of School, Ava and Tegan proudly placed the wreaths on behalf of the Junior School.



Ophelia, Year 11, sang a beautiful solo of ***'Oh rest in the Lord'*** in the Chapel.

The remainder of the school, children and staff alike, avidly watched the service on Teams, following proceedings with their Order of Service.



Art Remembers

Year 5 have celebrated Remembrance Day by creating poppy sculptures in the style of artist Paul Cummins MBE. Taking inspiration from the incredible poppy installation by Cummins at the Tower of London, Year 5 have designed and sculptured their own individual poppies to show their respect and celebrate remembrance. It has been a delight to see the creativity and collaboration of Year 5 during our War Art project and to hear the positive and thankful conversations the pupils have been having throughout. Very well done.



The Importance of Conversation

Talking and listening to children brings about a multitude of benefits. Chatting about everyday things is an excellent way to help develop language and communication skills, which is an important life-skill.



By hearing people's thoughts, we consequently learn and observe facial and body expressions that show emotions.

Conversation, by its nature, advances self-reflection and enriches confidence and self-esteem. Furthermore, it is a physical connection between people. With technology being an ever-present aspect of our day-to-day lives, we need to remain mindful of screens not replacing face-to-face interactions and find an appropriate balance.

Undoubtedly, speech and communication lie at the heart of classroom practice. At Royal Russell, teachers and teaching assistants support oracy in the classroom in a multitude of ways.

So, what makes a good conversation and where can we find those opportunities?

Perhaps during dinner, you might discuss age-appropriate news articles, or make analogies for one another. Discussing the best part of one's day or planning the next dinner are just some examples.

Perhaps you have a family game night in the week or a book that you are sharing.



Here are a few questions to get you started at your next family dinner:

1. Can you guess the ingredients in the meal tonight?
2. What do you like better: waking up in the morning or going to bed at night?
3. Would you rather be a giant rodent or a tiny elephant?
4. What would you do if you had a million dollars?
5. If you had to eat a worm, how would you cook it?
6. What is a weird habit that you have?
7. If you had this week to do over again, what would you do differently?
8. Would you rather go without television or junk food for the rest of your life?
9. If a genie granted you three wishes, what would they be?
10. If money were no object, where would you like to go on vacation?
11. Where is the most interesting place you have ever been to?
12. Would you rather swim with stingrays or explore the jungle?
13. If you could make any vegetable against the law, which one would it be?
14. Would you rather not hear or not see?
15. Would you rather wrestle a lion or fight a shark?
16. If you were sent to live on a space station for three months and only allowed to bring three personal items with you, what would they be?
17. If you had your human body, but the head of an animal, what animal would you pick?
18. What is one favourite thing you do by yourself?
19. If you could read one person's mind, whose would it be?
20. What two things do you consider yourself to be very good at?
21. Do you believe in extra-terrestrials or life on other planets?
22. What is your favourite smell? What memory does it remind you of?
23. What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?
24. If you could be one character from a book for a day, who would it be and why?
25. What's the last thing that made you laugh?
26. Tell me about something that made you happy today.
27. What does a perfect day look like to you?
28. If you could have any animal for a pet, what would it be?
29. If you could be in the movie of your choice, what movie would you choose and what character would you play?
30. Would you rather wear your pants backward or your shoes on the wrong feet?
31. What did you do to help someone else today?
32. What makes our family special?
33. What three words would you use to describe yourself?
34. What is your favourite song?

Ruth Bannon

Deputy Head, Learning and Teaching

(<https://redtri.com/20-questions-to-ask-at-the-dinner-table/>)

Maths Week

The whole Junior School became enthusiastically involved with additional maths activities to celebrate **Maths Week 2020**. The children learned that Maths isn't confined to classroom lessons and how they can find Maths everywhere.

The *Numbertaker* appeared and the Lower Juniors thought about why we need numbers, and what life would be like, without time, money, or birthdays!



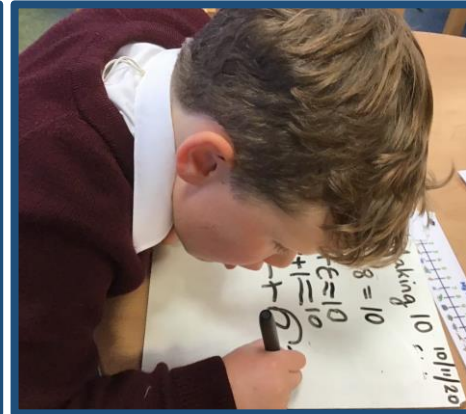
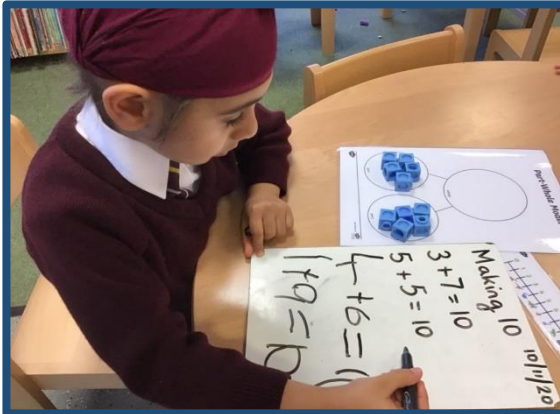
What could happen without numbers?



The **Nursery** children enjoyed a Shape Hunt.



Reception had fun working with numbers adding up to 10.

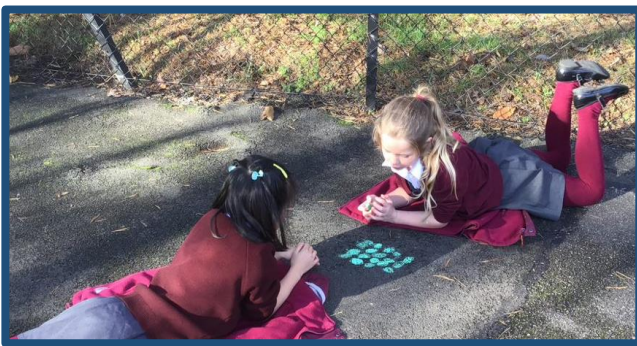


Year 1 have been working really hard on subtraction this week. They have been using jottings, number lines and hundred squares to help subtract and challenged themselves by solving some tricky word problems.

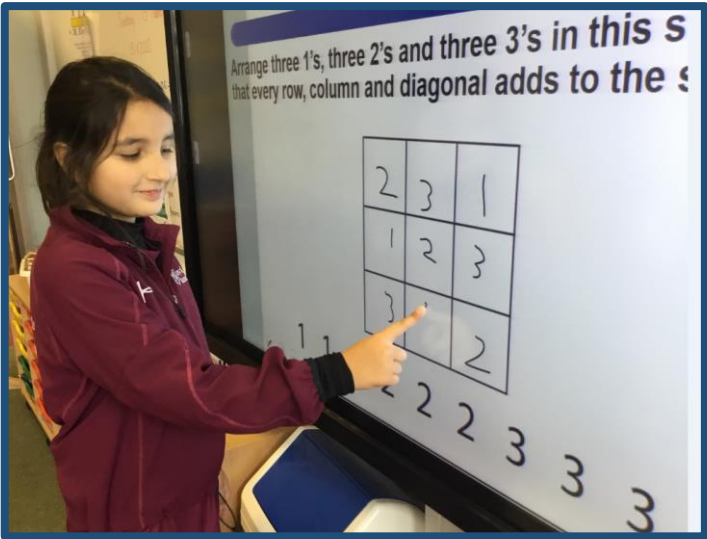
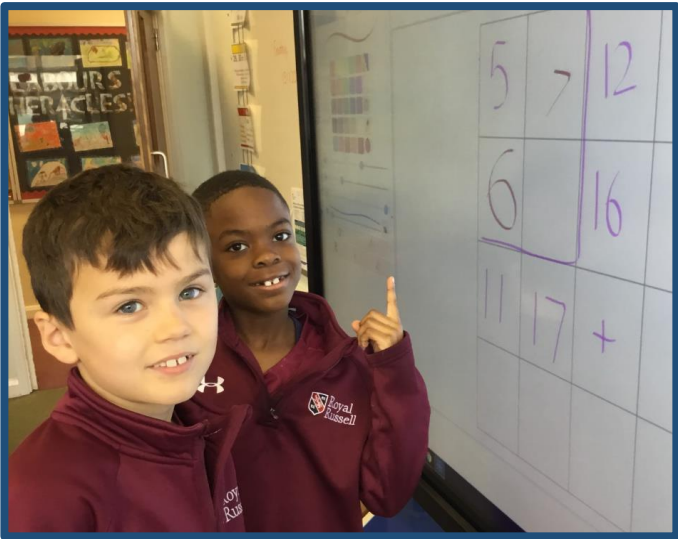
They practised recording number sentences neatly in their books and then created some fabulous maths hats decorated with super subtraction number sentences.



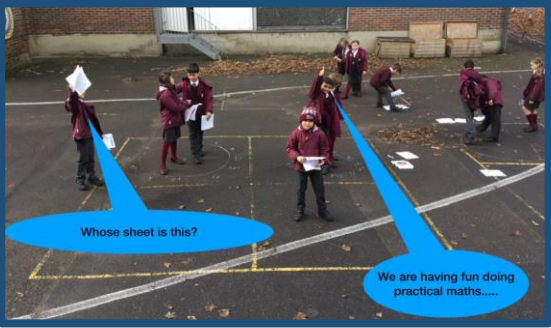
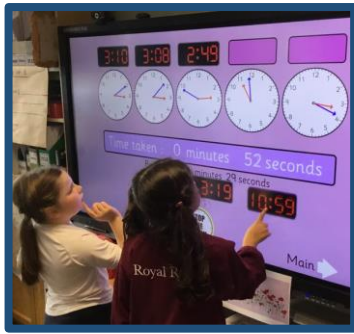
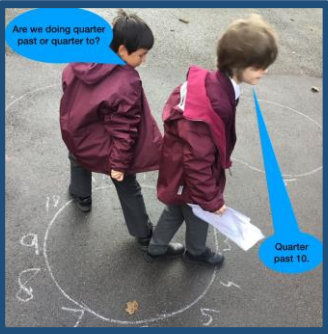
Year 2 have been learning about multiplication this week. After some games and challenges in the classroom, we decided to take our learning to the great outdoors. We collaborated with our classmates and created lots of amazing arrays on the playground using chalk. Then we wrote the multiplication calculations to accompany them.

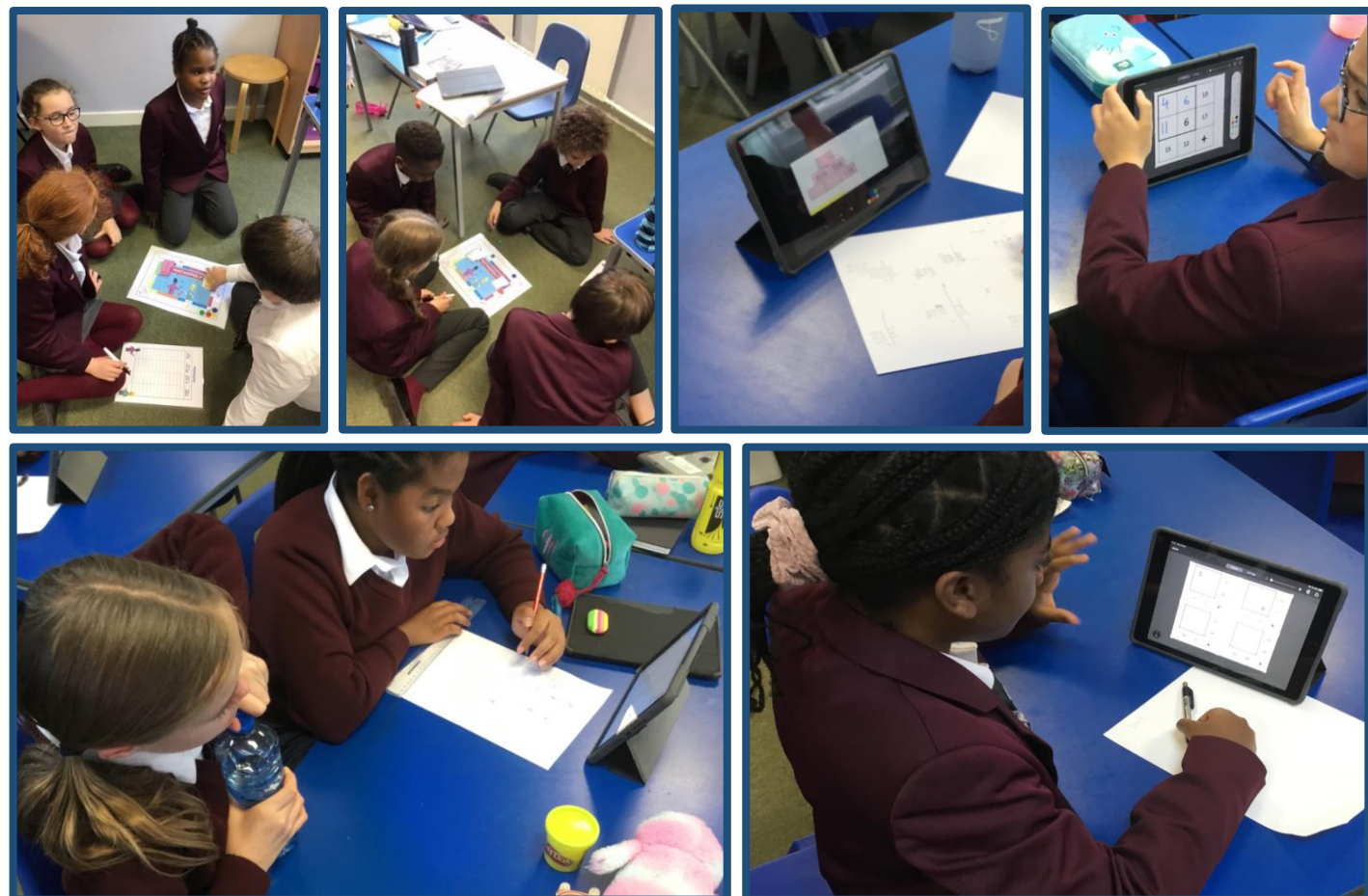


During their Maths journey, the **Upper Juniors** also learned about incredible Maths prodigy Katherine Johnson who worked for NASA, using just pen and paper calculations to check her bosses work. She was instrumental in safely landing a spaceship on the moon. They discovered that unfortunately, she does not come up on a Google search for ‘mathematicians’.



The **Upper Juniors** enjoyed daily Maths questions and tackled **Yohaku** puzzles, **Doodle Logic** problems and played **Mathopoly**, a fun take on the popular Monopoly game. **Year 3** especially enjoyed Magic Squares and using their problem solving skills. **Year 4** completed an outdoor Maths challenge, estimating time and using their bodies to display the time on giant chalk drawn clocks.





Next week is Anti-Bullying Week

You can read what happens in next week's Newsletter

We start with **oDD sOCks dAY**
On Monday 16th November

So remember to wear your most outrageous odd socks



Tonight (Friday 13th) is last chance for a DISCOUNT

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

ON SALE NOW

25% OFF

ORDERS PLACED BY

13th November 2020

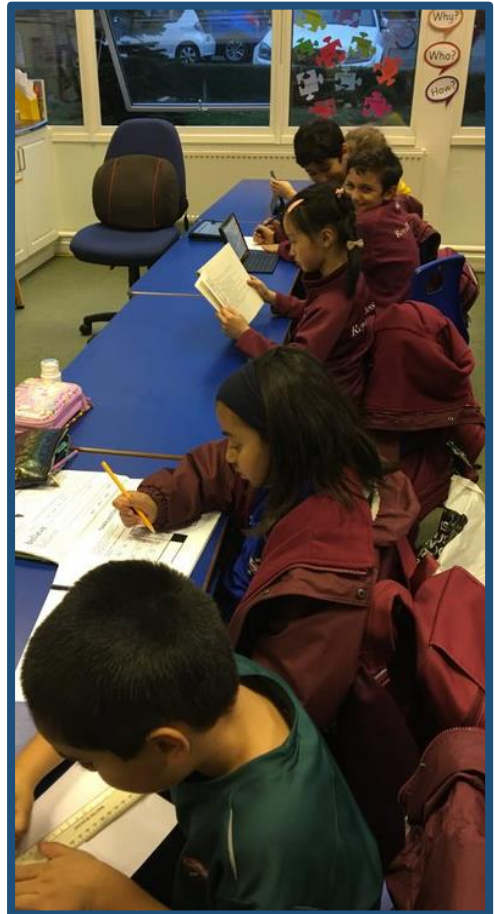
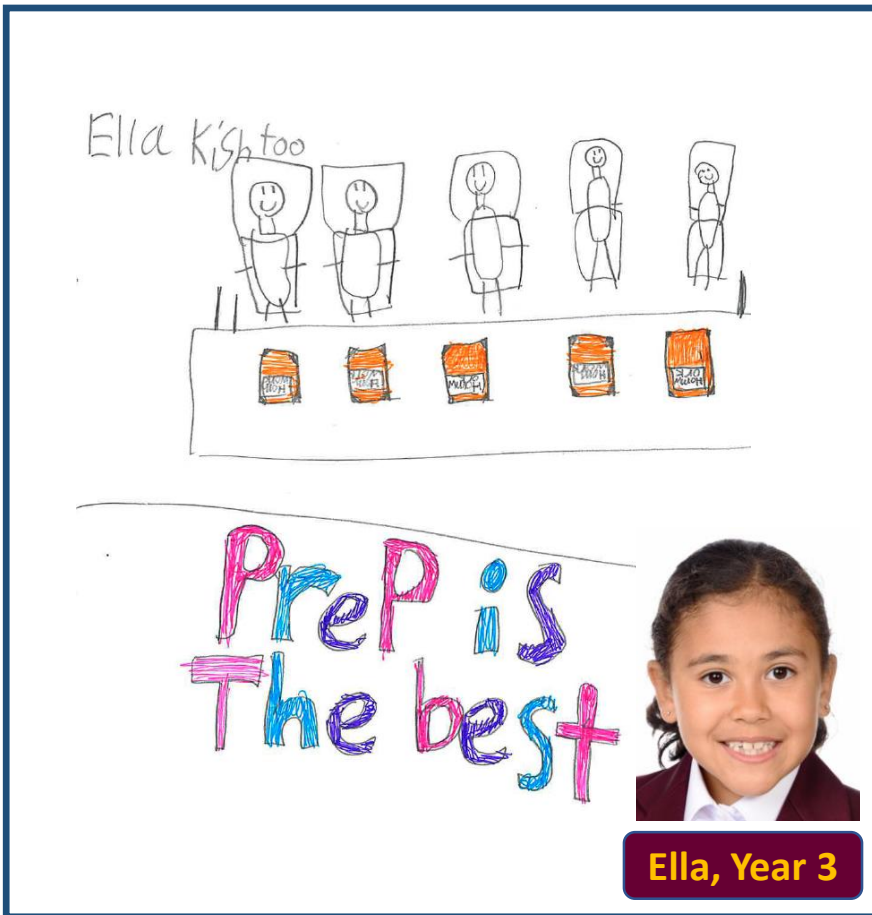
Lost your unique Sitting ID? Ask the school office or contact
customerservice@pret-a-portrait.net or 0800 021 7626

www.pret-a-portrait.net

When is a Club not a Club... Prep?

Our Year 3 and 4 Prep club takes place every day after school, from 3.30pm until 4.40pm. The children really enjoy starting the session with a 15 minutes play outside with their friends before settling back down in class.

They are given the opportunity and encouragement to do their home learning, Doodle Maths, reading or any work that has been set by their teacher. Mrs O'Gorman is there to supervise and support them.



Here is what some of the children wrote about Prep.

We really like Prep because we get time to do our homework and get help from Mrs O'Gorman and have more free time at home. We also get to do Doodle Maths. I like that we get 15 minutes to play outside before we do our homework.

Sofyan and Isa, Year 4



I like Prep because you get breaks and Mrs O’Gorman is very nice and helps the children when they are finding the work hard. I also like Prep because you get to finish work and don’t need to do it all at home.

Zara, Year 4



I love Prep because we get to do homework and play. I’m really stressed about not handing my homework in on time so Prep helps me do it on time. ALSO The teacher is so nice. She always has a smile on her face.

PREP IS AWESOME

Juliet, Year 3



I like Prep because it is quiet and you can do your work and it gives you time to play at home.

Alara, Year 4



Mrs O’Gorman and Wednesday’s Prep



CHRISTMAS CARD

Art Competition

Can you design the Royal Russell Junior School's Christmas card for 2020? Take on the challenge of creating an A5 Christmas card design using the materials and creative process of your choice e.g. drawing, painting, collage, digital drawing, mixed media.

The winner of the competition will have their art work shared with our Royal Russell community and will receive a special **ART PRIZE**.

Hand in your entries to Miss Ciccone or your class teacher by **MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER**. Include your full name and class on the back of your card in pencil.

Digital entries should be sent to Miss Ciccone :
cciccone@royalrussell.co.uk

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!





Christmas Trees

DELIVERED!

The 1853 Society Parents' Association have paired up with *Christmas Tree Express* to offer beautiful, real Christmas trees, delivered **straight to your door** with a £5 discount.

If you buy a Christmas tree through www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk this year you will receive **£5 off** any tree, in addition, **Christmas Tree Express will donate £5 to the 1853 Society**, benefitting all the children at Royal Russell School.

Ordering is simple, just use the code **RRS20** and your £5 discount will be added.

Choose from 4Ft, 6Ft and 8Ft trees

Remember your
code

RRS20

For your
£5 discount

www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk

The code is valid until 29th November, or until stocks run out so please order ASAP!

The 1853 Society AGM

The 1853 Society (Royal Russell Parents' Association) would like to invite you to attend our AGM which will be held on Wednesday 25th November at 7.30pm.

The Society is currently in its 48th year and is a friendly and inclusive group of Mums and Dads who became involved to meet other parents and to organise several events throughout the year to not only raise funds but also to bring together the whole school community.

This year we are having to do things a little differently as we can't meet face to face, so if you would like to attend and learn more then please email 1853society@royalrussell.co.uk and I will then send you a link which can be used to join the meeting.

As in previous years, all officers and members resign and are re-elected during the meeting, so if you would like to apply for one of our officer positions or to become an ordinary member of the association then please email the address above and we can send you a nomination form. If you are interested in applying for one of our Officer roles then applications need to be with us by Wednesday 18th November so that they can be communicated in the Headmaster's newsletter.

Many thanks

Emma Thistleton

Chair of The 1853 Society (Royal Russell Parents' Association)

Croydon Gymnastics

Join us at our brand new facility, it is state of the art that is purpose built and will run full time. Offering fantastic facilities, high level coaches and an enthusiastic team to offer a range of classes to suit your child.

We currently run pre school, recreational classes, squad programs and home school sessions.



Paintwork being
done ready for the fit out.
We will be open after lockdown!



For more information on classes available
and to sign up please contact:

info@croydongymnastics.org

