



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter



Autumn Term

27th November 2020



Dear Parents and Friends,

It has finally happened. After many years of resisting the encroachment of Christmas into November, I can admit that I have allowed myself to feel a little festive earlier than usual this year. As Christmas decorations have started to appear and children hum or sing phrases from favourite carols, I can sense that the magic of Christmas is just around the corner. A little Christmas cheer is in good order this year and I have included the details of our Christmas programme in the newsletter.

Although bells are jingling, there is still an awful lot left to do this term. On Friday I was invited to talk to the Reception classes as part of their topic, People Who Help Us. I am not sure that I have faced a grilling like that for quite some time. The children asked some excellent questions, and I could tell that they had been thinking very carefully about all the people who help them, both in our school community and beyond.

As we slowly turn our minds towards the close of the year, I share the bittersweet news that Mrs Moseley is retiring at the end of this term. Mrs Moseley's association with Royal Russell has spanned a very considerable amount of time and we cannot overstate the impact she has had on so many young lives and the joy that she has brought to the school community through music and her passion for teaching. I know that Mrs Moseley is excited about her plans for retirement and, eventually, making more permanent use of her home in Cornwall. We will make sure that we say goodbye to Mrs Moseley properly in a few weeks' time. Miss Fox and the team in the Junior School have been planning for January and beyond and I am pleased that we will be making use of the considerable talents of our Music team from across the School as we look to continue Mrs Moseley's outstanding work.

Covid Update

Next week, we will emerge from our current national lockdown into a revised tier system across the country. Details of the Government's winter plan are laid out in the document linked below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-winter-plan/covid-19-winter-plan>

We continue to be extremely mindful of the risk that Covid – 19 poses to all in our extended community. We are continuing with all necessary measures in school to keep our children and colleagues safe. Please can I ask you to be as vigilant as ever when you are on site and help us to maintain the health and safety of all members of our community throughout the coming weeks and months.



I know that many families are keen to show their appreciation to my colleagues at this time of year. In light of our current circumstances, we would ask that any Christmas gifts you may wish to bring in are clearly labelled and brought to the Junior School Lobby area before the end of term so that they may be safely distributed.

I hope that you enjoy this week's newsletter and the picture that it paints of the exciting and busy life of the Junior School. Whether or not tinsel, baubles and fairy lights are making an early entrance into your homes, I hope that you all have a safe and restful weekend.

With best wishes,

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School

Road Safety Awareness Week

This week was Road Safety Awareness Week in the Junior School.



The Nursery children impressed us with their knowledge of Road Safety. They enjoyed practising new road crossing skills when Mrs Vallance drove her 'car' to the crossing at Royal Russell.



The Nursery children enjoyed learning a 'catchy' new song called ***'When I walk across the road'***

*When I walk along the street
Oh when I walk along the street
I have to hold hands with a grown up.
When I walk along the street
And now before I cross the road,
I said before I cross the road
I have to stop, think, look and listen.
Before I cross the road
Look to the right, look for the left and I look to the right again
When it's safe and there's no cars coming, we'll walk across right then
Let's go.*

"Crossing the road
holding someone's hand,
that means we're safe."

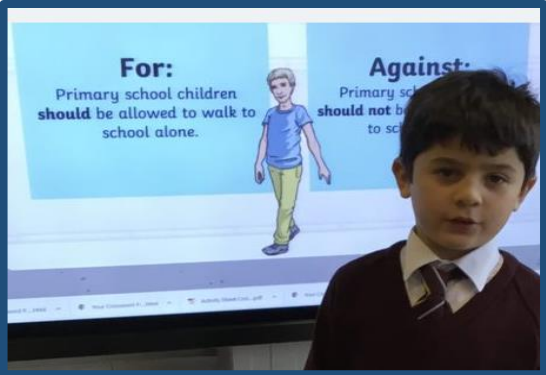
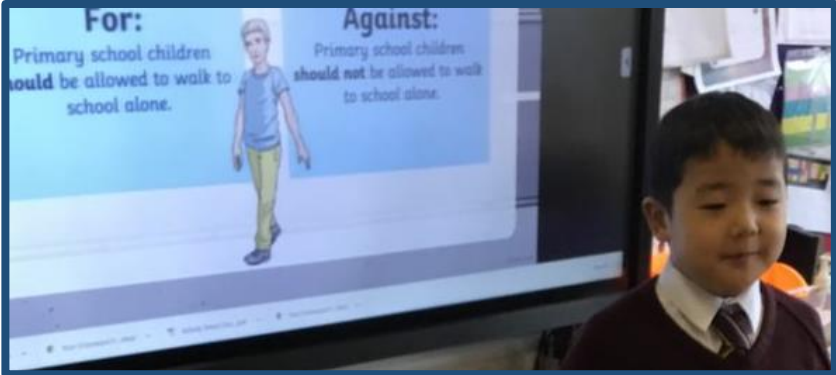
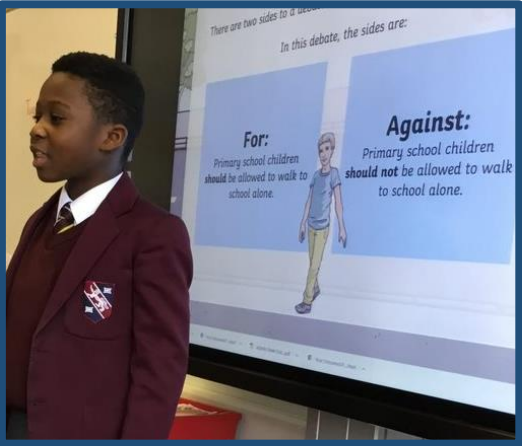
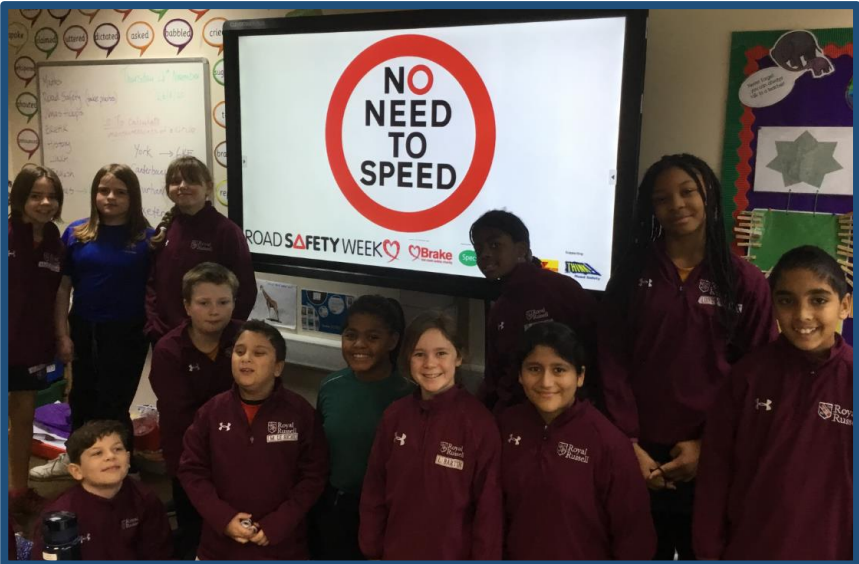
Shanaya



Road Safety Awareness Week

Many children chose to do a debate on whether primary aged children should be allowed to walk to school.

In Year 3, they split into groups who chose to speak “against” it while another group chose to speak “for” it.



What are Russell Powers and why do we need them?

Our Russell Powers are, in a nutshell, learning powers that provide the opportunity to make the 'implicit' learning skills 'explicit' within the classroom. These implicit learning skills, so key in life, are being made explicit to the children and are showcased across the Junior School. They provide children with life-long skills that they will need to be equipped with for successful futures, and importantly they provide a common language for learning across the school.

I have had the pleasure of visiting several classrooms over the past weeks to discuss why our children find Russell Powers helpful. We talked about the exciting prospect of the jobs that they will be doing as successful 25-year-olds that might not even exist yet - we likened this with the creators of popular technology products today and how those jobs did not exist once upon a time! The world is very much a blank canvas in terms of what the children may do, but whatever it is that they end up doing, they will certainly need key skills, or powers, to do it successfully. It was warming to hear from the children about the number of times they have used Russell Powers, whether in school or out of school, and also of the limitless life-span of these powers as they, when asked how long they would need to use their powers for, they simply said, "Forever!".

In the Junior School, we have seven 'Russell Powers' that are embedded into all aspects of school life to build these vital skills from the earliest age. We love using these Russell Powers across all areas of our learning. All of our teaching staff are committed to making these Russell Powers as effective as possible, and as such over the past academic year have undertaken a review so as to maximise their impact. As a result of this, we will be 'tweaking' our Russell Powers and aim to launch this fully in January... so watch this space! In the meantime, you may wish to talk to your child about how they have used their Russell Powers this week!

Forest School

We are so lucky to have our very own Forest School at Royal Russell within our School grounds. The children love being outside in most weather conditions and getting muddy as they are dressed appropriately.

The children use their Russell Powers at every session and it is so lovely to see them in an outdoor environment and the creativity they have.



Currently Nursery and Reception are visiting Forest School once a week and Year 1 and Year 2 visit alternate weeks.



The children take part in a focus activity run by the Forest School Leader which might include sawing, whittling, fire lighting, drilling, campfires and cooking.

They also enjoy the choosing and learning activities available to them.



"I like everything about Forest School, especially lighting fires with the Forest School Leader."

Clara, Year 2

We also observe the seasonal changes when entering each week.



The types of choosing and learning activities are: bug hunting and observing, den building, tree painting, clay modelling, collages, mark making, bird feeders and wormeries.



"I like climbing trees."
Zakariya, Year 1



The children thoroughly enjoyed making their own dinosaur footprints in the Forest.



"I like digging for treasure."
Lucas, Year 1

Charitable Causes



<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TomHudson5DayCharityChallenge>

Our very own Head of Boys' Sport, Mr Tom Hudson is completing a series of challenges in December to raise money for 5 charities and has raised £2,000 to date. The 5 charities are Meningitis Now, MIND, Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and STEPS (lower limb condition charity).

The challenges are as follows:

Day 1 - Climb the height of Ben Nevis on a step climber

Day 2 - Row the distance of the channel

Day 3 - Complete 1000 press ups/bench press, sit ups and squats in a day

Day 4 - Cycle 100 miles

Day 5 - Run a marathon

If you would like to support Mr Hudson in his challenges, please click on the link or visit the page on the virginmoneygiving website.



Our Running Club and Basketball Coach Mr Graham Swann recently completed the first exciting virtual version of the London Marathon.

Thank you to those who sponsored Mr Swann. Unfortunately he is a little short of his target, so if you would still like to support his chosen charity, Sense, please visit his page on justgiving.

20%

£350
raised of £1,700 target
by 17 supporters

Give Now

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/graham-swann2020>

Prefects set a Christmas Challenge!

On Monday morning our wonderful Heads of School and Prefects led our whole school assembly, via Teams. Adorned with Christmas feather boas, Lucas, Arabella, Maria, Tegan, Nicholas, Ava, Freddie and Sophie spread some early Christmas cheer exploring the meaning of the word 'tradition' and revealing some interesting Christmas traditions around the world. Our Heads of School and Prefects also set the whole school a House challenge for this week; to work together as a team to create a **House Christmas hoop**! A huge congratulations to our Heads of School and Prefects who delivered their assembly with confidence. We can't wait to see the finished decorations up in the Junior School Hall next week.



Meanwhile... in the background, our staff have been working hard, preparing to officially welcome Christmas into School. Miss Lewer has been stringing up baubles to hang all around the school and everyone, including the Caretakers have rallied around this afternoon to help erect the amazing House Christmas Hoops.



IAPS Virtual Sports Championships

Royal Russell were invited to take part in IAPS's Virtual Sports Championships this half term. The sports department have been busy running various championship events in both hockey, football and gymnastics, during sports clubs and Games afternoons.

This has allowed the children the chance to participate in this original, virtual competition, with a focus on the competitive nature of competing, running parallel to the enjoyment factor of participating in sport.

The autumn virtual championships include various activities such as **'Paired Keepie Uppies'** (with a soft hockey ball and stick), **'Crossbar Challenge'** and **'Plank Challenge'**, all of which have been enjoyed by everyone in the Upper Juniors.



Your Guide to Christmas 2020

We are delighted to be able to provide you with the details of our Christmas events.

Monday 30th November

Pupils may bring unwrapped Christmas donations of gifts or food hamper items for the Salvation Army from Monday 30th November to be placed under the Christmas Tree in the foyer. The last day for donations will be **Friday 11th December** so that gifts may have a period of quarantine before collection on the 14th December.

Friday 11th December

Last day for Salvation Army Christmas donations.

Lower Junior Christmas Performance Extravaganza Recording will be released to parents from Nursery to Year 2.

Sunday 13th December

Upper Junior Carol Service Recording will be released to parents from Year 3 to Year 6.

Monday 14th December

Year 3 and 4 Virtual Pantomime in the Auditorium from 9-10am.

Year 1 and 2 Virtual Pantomime in the Auditorium from 2-3pm.

Nursery/Reception/Year 5 visit to Father Christmas's Grotto.

Tuesday 15th December

Year 5 Virtual Pantomime in the Auditorium from 9-10am.

Nursery and Reception Virtual Pantomime in the Auditorium from 2-3pm.

The Nursery Team will be in touch separately.

Year 1/Year 2/Year 3/Year 4/Year 6 – 1.00pm visit to Father Christmas's Grotto.

Wednesday 16th December

'Christmas Jumper Day' - All members of the Junior School community are invited to wear 'mufti' and a Christmas jumper for the last day of term. A suggested donation of £2 will support 'The Croydon Nightwatch'. This Charity has been chosen by the prefects and is a lifeline to homeless people living in Croydon.

<http://croydonnightwatch.org.uk/>

Christmas Lunch

Whole School Christmas Assembly

Term ends 15:30. There will be no Clubs, Prep or Tea



Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

After the success of our recent support of The Salvation Army Vine Food Hub in New Addington for Harvest Festival, we would very much like to support their Appeal this Christmas. The Salvation Army are especially asking **for new toys, games, books, and toiletries** for children of various ages.

They will also be thankful for any food donations. Unfortunately, this year due to COVID **the gift items cannot be wrapped** as in previous years, however the children will still be able to place these under the school Christmas Tree.

The last date to send these items in will be on **Friday 11th December 2020**. These donations will then be distributed by the Salvation Army within our local community to children and families that are in need at this time. Thank you as always for all your support.

**Gifts Books Toys
Games Toiletries**

**BRAND NEW
& UNOPENED
PLEASE!**

**FOR CHILDREN
& ADULTS!**

**PLEASE DON'T
WRAP THEM!**

ITEMS NEEDED FOR HAMPERS

Sachet of custard powder

A bottle of Shloer or similar

A carton of fruit juice

Carton of long life milk

*Cheese straws or
breadsticks*

Christmas cake

Tin of biscuits

Chocolate Log

*Box of
chocolates*

Bag of sweets

Bag of sugar

Coffee

Jam

Pringles

Tea

Thank you

NEW ADDINGTON
SALVATION ARMY
COMMUNITY CHURCH





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!