



Royal Russell Junior School



Newsletter

Autumn Term

4th December 2020



Dear Parents and Friends,

What is more exciting, opening the present under the tree or knowing that the present is there, waiting to be opened? 5-year-old me knows, with absolute certainty that it is option one. My current (slightly) less youthful self is firmly in the second camp and the anticipation of the festive season is where the excitement lives. This week has seen an enjoyable building of enthusiasm as Christmas starts to gather pace in the Junior School.

We began our week by lighting the first candle on our Advent wreath and explored that the emphasis of this week of Advent is that of hope. An important focus for the world at the moment. During the week, children have been singing, reading, acting, filming and preparing to celebrate Christmas in our productions which will be shared next weekend. I hope that you have booked a slot in your diary to watch these fantastic shows with your families.

During lockdown and the restrictions that we now find ourselves in, it has become apparent that birthdays were becoming almost impossible to celebrate. Imagine then, the surprise in Year 5 when a sternly introduced writing assessment turned into a surprise birthday celebration for all of those children who had been celebrating their birthdays at this time of year, complete with cupcakes courtesy of our wonderful catering department. It was a great way to celebrate with friends and end the week. All year groups will plan to celebrate these birthdays on a regular basis throughout the year, and I will plan to sneak away with as many cupcakes as possible.

I would like to thank everybody who entered the annual Christmas card competition. Miss Ciccone and I were amazed with the variety and quality of the entries from every year group in the School. The time and care that the children spent in creating these entries was obvious. I am delighted to announce that the winner of this year’s Christmas card competition is Lana in Year 1. Her beautiful rainbow and Christmas tree will bring lots of joy to those who receive a Christmas card from Royal Russell this year. There were also several runner up entries that will be printed on the inside of the card.

From the Royal Russell Christmas card to the Christmas cards that our pupils love to share. To remain safe and secure this year, pupils may post their cards in the Junior School red post boxes next week. The final posting date will be Friday 11th December. The cards will then be sorted and distributed throughout the school on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th by our Prefects.

In spite of all of the festivities, there has still been plenty of time for learning and taking part in the wide range of activities that are available across the School. I hope that you enjoy this week’s newsletter and have a relaxing and safe, if slightly chilly, weekend.

With best wishes,

John Evans
Headmaster, Junior School

Music Awards

Some of our Upper Junior pupils received their music board exam results this week. We are extremely proud of their achievements and hope that they will be too.

Name	Instrument	Board	Grade	Mark
Saya	Piano	ABRSM	1	Pass
Sachi	Piano	ABRSM	1	Pass
Isabella	Piano	ABRSM	1	Pass
Yasmin	Piano	ABRSM	2	Pass
Ashanthy	Piano	ABRSM	Prep	
Emily	Music Theatre	LCM	2	Distinction
Isabella	Music Theatre	LCM	1	Distinction
Nicholas	Music Theatre	LCM	1	Merit
Maria	Music Theatre	LCM	2	Distinction

Your Guide to Christmas 2020

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

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/>

Year 6 Virtual Pantomime in the Auditorium from 9-10am.

Christmas Lunch

Whole School Christmas Assembly

Term ends 15:30pm.

There will be no Clubs, Prep or Tea



Christmas Card Competition Winner



Lana's Christmas Rainbow was a wonderful choice and will appear on the front cover of this year's Junior School Christmas Card... Congratulations Lana.

Runners Up



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

Artwork by:

1. Lucas, Year 1
2. Sophie, Year 6
3. Tegan, Year 6
4. Molly, Year 3
5. Alexandra, Year 3

Congratulations to all our fantastic runner up entries.

Our magical Library

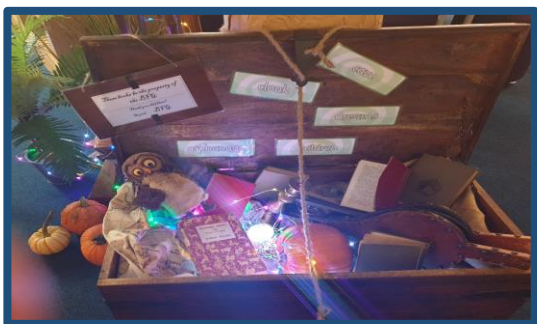
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... in our very special and magical space, the **LIBRARY**.

We have decked the Library out with some festive scenes, from penguins from the South Pole to bears in the frozen North. Santa and his reindeer are watching over all our cracking Christmas story books and our Advent Calendar is counting down the days.



The festive season is still a time for hard work and focus and we welcome many groups of children.

From classes changing their library books, to focused groups, we are still making sure we stay on the 'good list'



We have dedicated 'zones' in the Library for absolutely all year groups in which the children can find all the books they need.



We all sanitise our hands before and after visiting the library and teachers cleanse all tables in between visits, so that should also keep the teachers on the 'good list' too!



We are continually adding new, exciting and unusual books for the children to take pleasure in and wish to thank all of you who take time to share your children's library books at home, especially our younger children who are starting out on their reading adventure.

No Baking Cookery Club

A cookery club with no baking caused a great deal of intrigue at the beginning of term. The children have had no end of fun using some classic 'end of baking' decorating skills and tools for icing and piping etc. They have also enjoyed some festive activities.



"I love that I can enjoy eating what I make afterwards. I liked making the icing and learning how to pipe it on to the biscuits.
Molly, Year 4



"I enjoyed learning to pipe the icing to make my biscuit house."
Lily, Year 4





"I really enjoy Cookery Club especially working with my partner. I enjoyed making my gingerbread house and it was very funny when it kept falling down."

Isa, Year 4



"My favourite recipe was making cheesecake. I love cooking and it is great that we get the opportunity to do it at school."

Max, Year 4



It has been a wonderful way for the members of this club to bring their school week to an end and wind down ready for their weekend ahead.

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>

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





Offer extended

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

DISCOUNT OFFER
EXTENDED UNTIL
13TH DECEMBER
SO ORDER
YOUR REAL
CHRISTMAS
TREE
NOW!

Remember your
code

RRS20

For your
£5 discount

www.christmastreeexpress.co.uk

The code is valid until **13th December**, or until stocks run out so please order ASAP!