

Russell Street School

Newsletter



Autumn (First Half Term) 2025



Message from our Headteacher

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break. A warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception families.

As we open for the academic year, I would like to remind all families about the importance of regular attendance in school. Attendance is arguably one of the most important indicators of academic success. You cannot learn when you are not in school to learn.

Schools set their minimum required attendance percentage at 96.5% because evidence tells us from when a child enters their Reception class:

Attendance of **95.3%** attendance yearly equates to not reaching end of KS2 standards.

Attendance of **96.5%** yearly means reaching expected end of KS2 standards.

Attendance of **97.3%** yearly means reaching higher end of KS2 standards.

This transfers through to achievements at GCSE level.

P.E. days

Reception: P.E. days are flexible in Reception. Children should therefore leave their P.E. kits in school. This is a useful spare set of clothes if your child ever needs them.

Year 1: P.E. takes place on Monday afternoon & Wednesday afternoon. Year 2: P.E. takes place on Monday morning & Friday afternoon.

Year 1 and 2 children should come to school wearing their P.E. kits.

To protect children who have allergies to nuts, **we are a nut-free school**. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school. This includes packed lunches brought into school from home.

Our school development plans as well as a wealth of other supportive material can be found on our school website. [Russell Street School - Home \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://russell-street-school.co.uk). Year group guides detailing everything your child will be learning can also be found on our website [Russell Street School - Year Group Guides \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](https://russell-street-school.co.uk)

This newsletter contains a brief summary of some improvements across the school, followed by some dates to note for this half term. Each week year group leads will send you more in-depth information specific to classes through their weekly 'Sway', so that you will be able to fully support your child at home.

Kind regards

Mrs Robinson



We started to create a **Nurture Room** in September 2024. This was developed across the year to the room you see in the photograph above. This room is used to support children and families in a wide variety of ways.

We completed our **ARC and PINS** training last academic year (see below), successfully achieving the ARC Bronze Award. The nurture room supports the work of these projects as well as the work of our social worker Lydia Read. Please remember if you need to speak to Lydia for support for any reason however small, you can email her directly lread@russell-street-school.co.uk

ARC - All staff received trauma informed training to increase awareness of attachment and trauma needs. This positively influenced the school environment, enhanced wellbeing and ultimately improved learning and educational outcomes for our children and families.

PINS - Partnership of Inclusion for Neurodiversity in Schools. This programme helped shape our SEND provision, helped us to provide early interventions at a whole school level, upskilling school staff.

Quality Learning Areas- We have continued to develop our learning areas to ensure our whole school environment feels safe and welcoming, is a reminder of learning and provides realistic hands-on learning opportunities for our children. Some examples of learning areas are below.



LEARNING



'RSS Quality Arts Offer' – Thank you for supporting our wonderful Parents' Association last year. Because of your support, the PA were able fund activities to ensure that children across school, at an age appropriate level, took part in the below **'RSS Quality Arts Offer'**

As a minimum, all children yearly will:

- Watch live music
- Take part in a year group performance (planned to be progressive year on year)
- Have their Art/D.T. work shown in a gallery
- See live theatre (in school)
- Take part in weekly singing assemblies
- Be given the opportunities to progress their talents through weekly music, art and D.T. lessons/opportunities
- Be signposted to external arts opportunities (through weekly Sways).

As a minimum, all children will (by the end of Year 2):

- Learn to play a musical instrument (the recorder – will be taught for a whole academic year)
- Visit an art gallery (out of school)
- See live theatre (out of school)
- Be offered the opportunity to take part in MK Elfin string/brass lessons and take part in a massed concert
- Take part in the MK Infant Music festival.



French and British Sign Language Teaching (Third Year)

Following on from our successful first and second year of French and British Sign Language teaching, we now move into our third year where year 2 children who have already experienced the first two years of this curriculum will further enhance their knowledge.

A French after school club will continue to run and children and staff will continue to communicate using taught BSL around school wherever possible.

We will continue to share the French and BSL curriculum with you on our weekly Sways.

Our French and BSL curriculum can be found here:

[Russell Street School - French \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](http://russell-street-school.co.uk)

[Russell Street School - British Sign Language \(russell-street-school.co.uk\)](http://russell-street-school.co.uk)



Forest School (Orchard and Science Garden)

Forest School continues across the school again this year led by Mrs Clack. Thank you to everyone who supported the development of our orchard and science garden last year. All children thoroughly enjoyed using these areas to take part in a wide variety of activities. Forest School lessons make a difference in the following ways:

Confidence: children have the freedom, time and space to learn and demonstrate independence.

Social skills: children gain increased awareness of the consequences of their actions on peers through team activities such as sharing tools and participating in play.

Communication: language development is prompted by the children's sensory experiences.

Motivation: the outdoors tends to fascinate children and they develop a keenness to participate and the ability to concentrate over longer periods of time.

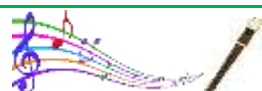
Physical skills: improvements are characterised by the development of physical stamina and gross and fine motor skills.

Knowledge and understanding: children develop an interest in the natural surroundings and respect for the environment.



Birthdays

Your child may wear non-uniform clothes to school on their birthday. If your child has missed being at school for their birthday during the first few days of September, they are able to still have a non-uniform day of your choice in school. If your child has P.E. on their birthday, you may wish them to wear their non-uniform items on a different day. Please note, we are not able to hand sweets out on birthdays.



Year 2 Recorders

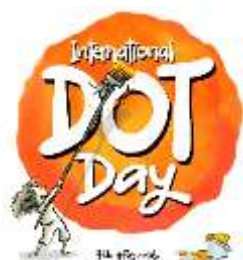
Every child in year 2 will be taught how to play the recorder. There will be no charge for these lessons. Children will be given their own recorder.



Houses

Children in Years 1 and 2 will continue to work in Houses and will be awarded house points for their work, behaviour and much more. Year 2 children will all have the opportunity to represent their house as a House Captain during the year. House Captains support a variety of areas in school such as Reception lunches, Nursery Forest School, Eco awareness, Buddy Bench and much more.

Dates – Autumn – First Half Term



International Dot Day – Being celebrated in school on Monday 15th September. Celebrate Creativity, Courage & Collaboration!

International Dot Day is a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration that began when teacher **Terry Shay** introduced his classroom to Peter H. Reynolds' book *The Dot* on September 15, 2009.

The Dot is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to 'make her mark'. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe.

We will be reading this book to the children and encouraging them all to 'make their mark!'

[International Dot Day](http://www.internationaldotday.com)

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