

Russell Street School



Newsletter

Autumn (Second Half Term) 2025



Message from our Headteacher

Welcome to our November–December Newsletter.

What a magical time of year this is for the children. They will be enjoying seasonal crafts, songs, theatre, dance, food, stories and much more. We are especially looking forward to our Reception children's Nativity performance on 3rd December (where Otters take the main roles) and on 4th December (where Bees take the main roles). Both performances start at 2pm.

As part of our RSS Quality Arts offer, a soloist from the Royal Ballet will be performing in school to live music from Toscana strings. Four workshops will take place across the day. Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Face to face parents' meetings will take place this half term. We will once again be offering a mixture of morning and after school sessions.

Year 1 - Tuesday 18th November: 8:45 - 11:00am. **Year R** - Wednesday 19th November: 8:45 - 11:00am.

Nursery - Wednesday 19th November: 12:50 - 2:30pm. **Year 2** - Thursday 20th November: 8:45 - 11:00am.

All Years - Thursday 20th November: 3:10 - 5:30pm.

Activities taking place this half term are:

w/c Monday 3rd November - **Poppy Appeal** - Poppies plus other related items will be for sale

w/c Monday 10th November (Nursery celebration) - **World Nursery Rhyme Week**

Friday 14th November - **Children in Need**

Monday 17th November - **Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day**

Wednesday 3rd (Otters) & Thursday 4th (Bees) December – **Reception's Nativity**

Wednesday 10th December – **Hobbs Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day**

Monday 15th December - **Toscana Strings** – 'alternative' Red Riding Hood (Year 2), The Nutcracker (Year 1), The Snowman (R & N).

Tuesday 16th December - **Christmas Cinema** – 3- 4pm (2:50-3:50pm Nursery)

Wednesday 17th December – **Year 2 Trip – Oxford Natural History Museum**

Christmas Parties: Nursery – Tuesday 16th December (am), Reception – Wednesday 17th December (pm),

Year 1 – Tuesday 16th December (pm), Year 2 – Thursday 18th December (am)

Kind regards

Mrs Robinson



School Applications

The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 school places for September 2026 is Thursday 15th January 2026. You can apply on-line now. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-juniormiddle-school-september> The Local Authority deals with applications for school places and all parents, including nursery parents, must apply by the deadline date. We are more than happy to answer any questions you have about the admissions process.



Poppy Appeal - w/c Monday 3rd November

Poppies plus other related items will be for sale on the KS1 & Reception gates and Nursery door during morning drop-off. Items can also be purchased from the school office.



World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c Monday 10th November (Nursery celebration)

World Nursery Rhyme Week is an annual celebration of nursery rhymes and the important role they play in supporting early childhood development and education. In 2025 World Nursery Rhyme Week runs from **10th – 14th November**. Each year World Nursery Rhyme Week selects five rhymes and runs a 'Rhyme a Day' challenge that invites pre-school settings to encourage their pupils to learn and sing one of the rhymes each day. The rhymes have been chosen to support development across key areas such as vocabulary, language and literacy skills; numeracy skills; and fine and gross motor development. This year's rhymes are: Sing a Song of Sixpence, Humpty Dumpty, When I Was One (I played the Drum), I Hear Thunder, Two Little Dickie Birds.



Children in Need – Friday 14th November

For BBC Children in Need's 2025 Appeal, schools have been asked to **Challenge Yourself to 25!** It's about choosing a fun sponsorable challenge – and doing it 25 times. Each class will come up with their own '25' themed challenge!



Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day – Monday 17th November

Odd Socks Day marks Anti-Bullying Week. We will celebrate what makes us unique and special with a focus on spreading kindness. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality.



Parents' Meetings 18th, 19th, 20th November

We will be once again offering parents a mixture of morning and after school sessions. Parents' meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 18th November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year 1.**

Wednesday 19th November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year R.**

Wednesday 19th November: **12:50 - 2:30pm – Nursery.**

Thursday 20th November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year 2.**

Thursday 20th November: **3:10 - 5:30pm – All Years.**



Christmas Nativity – Reception 3rd (Otters) and 4th (Bees) December

Reception classes will be performing our Nativity. Other year groups in school perform concerts at different times of the year.

Our Reception Nativity will take place on: 3rd December (where Otters take the main roles) and on 4th December (where Bees take the main roles). Both performances start at 2pm.

Further details will follow.

If anyone has any Christmas costumes they would like to donate to school, these are always gratefully received.



Christmas Jumper Day & Hobbs Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 10th December

Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday 10th December and make a donation to Save the Children.

Please book a Christmas lunch online [Russell Street School – Hobbs School Catering](#)



Toskana Strings – Monday 15th December

On Monday 15th December, Toscana Strings and Royal Ballet soloist Laura Tye will be in school introducing the string family to all children and the concept of ballet.

Year 2 children learnt about alternative versions of Little Red Riding Hood last half term, and this learning continues in this performance. *So let the story of Little RED Riding's H.O.O.D commence...* "RED enters the H.O.O.D. competition and with the help of the audience learns three different dance routines. When it comes to RED performing in the competition, she can't decide which dance to perform so asks the audience to vote for their favourite dance.

In Year 1 the origins of a nutcracker will be explained before the story starts and then everyone is taught a few dance moves which accompany the Waltz of the Snowflakes. Toscana Strings and Laura perform this abridged version of The Nutcracker, inviting the audience to join in during the Waltz of the Snowflakes. Royal Ballet soloist, Laura Tye, dances the parts of Clara and the Sugar Plum Fairy during this production.

In Reception and Nursery Toscana Strings will explain about word painting and how music can help tell a story by creating different sounds and effects. They then play a few sections of The Snowman music to demonstrate for example the little boy making big footprints in the snow and the revving of the motorbike engine. The audience is encouraged to use their imaginations when listening to the music to paint pictures in their minds. The audience is then taught a series of dance moves to the iconic theme of *We're Walking in the Air* and *The Snowman Dance*.



Christmas Cinema – Tuesday 16th December

Children are invited to stay to watch a Christmas film after school on Tuesday 16th December (3:00-4:00pm – Nursery times are 10 minutes earlier). This is a fundraising event. All money raised will be spent by your child's year group specifically on items for your children.



Year 2 Trip – Oxford Natural History Museum – Wednesday 17th December

We are excited to let you know that we have planned a Year 2 school trip to the Oxford Natural History Museum on Wednesday 17th December. This visit will take place within school hours and will be a fantastic way to celebrate the end of our Dinosaurs topic. The trip will give children the opportunity to deepen their understanding of prehistoric creatures and explore the fascinating world they lived in. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £13 per child to help cover the cost of the visit. Further details, including how to give consent and make payment, will be shared with you shortly. Thank you for your continued support — we're looking forward to a memorable and educational day.



Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will be taking place in school on the following dates:

Nursery – Tuesday 16th December (am)

Reception – Wednesday 17th December (pm)

Year 1 – Tuesday 16th December (pm)

Year 2 – Thursday 18th December (am)

Children may wear party clothes to school on these dates, with sensible outdoors shoes.

School Closes on Friday 19th December