

# Russell Street School



## Newsletter

Autumn (Second Half Term) 2023



## Message from our Headteacher



**Pupils flourish at this exceptional school**

It is wonderful to be able to share our OFSTED report with you. The report has been sent to you via Weduc, and is also available on our website.

### Some comments from the report are below:

Pupils flourish at this exceptional school. This is a lively, happy and safe place where pupils develop curiosity and a love of learning. The environment around the school is carefully considered to capture pupils' interest. Pupils are kind and respectful. They have a keen understanding of fairness and equality. Warm, supportive relationships underpin all of the excellent work the school does. Pupils adopt the same calm and considerate manner that they see staff model. Ambition and high achievement are expected here. Pupils enjoy the challenge. They know the value of learning and say that they want to learn to read so they 'can read anything and learn anything' Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), achieve highly, including in national tests at the end of key stage 1. The school is relentless in its aim to ensure all pupils achieve highly. There is a palpable sense of purpose and ambition at this school, which is carried out exceptionally well. The curriculum is highly effective. From the age of three, children in the Nursery benefit from precise and expert support. Staff teach expertly so that pupils' knowledge builds securely over time. Early reading is taught with careful precision at the earliest opportunity. Consequently, pupils learn to read fluently very quickly. Pupils behave with remarkable maturity. They are taught safe and respectful routines early Adults have a deep understanding of child development. Pupils' broader development is as rigorously planned as the academic curriculum. They remember what they have learned and have a remarkably well-developed sense of right and wrong. Pupils have a detailed understanding of important issues such as mental health and well-being.

Primary School (Year 2 & Year 6) data has been released, and we are very proud have been placed within the top 85-96% of schools in the country.

Reading KS1 expected standard %	Sig above national and 91st percentile
Writing KS1 expected standard %	Sig above national and 85th percentile
Mathematics KS1 expected standard %	Sig above national and 96th percentile

This newsletter lists many exciting things happening during this half term.

Kind regards  
Mrs Robinson



### SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 school places for September 2024 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. You can apply on-line now. Please see the link below for more information. [Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2024 | Milton Keynes City Council \(miltonkeynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk)  
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 – from 31<sup>st</sup> October

Poppies plus other related items will be for sale on the KS1 & Reception gates and Nursery door during morning drop-off from Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Items can also be purchased from the school office.



### Holdenby House - Year Two Trip – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November Life Below Stairs (The Victorians)

It is 1891. Lady Annaly, the owner of Holdenby House is hiring servants to run the household. Children may be under the strict supervision of:

- Mrs Bumbridge, the housekeeper, who will tell the children precisely what she expects.
- Mrs Crumpet, the cook, who will teach the children how to cook and will expect help in her kitchen.
- Mr Rhett, the butler, who rules the servants with a rod of iron.
- A housemaid or Mr Legg, the footman, who will instruct the children in their duties.

Children from the workhouse will be taken around the house, allocated jobs, told their conditions of service and taught deportment and manners. In the afternoon they will present themselves to her Ladyship.

Further information about this event has already been sent to Year 2 families.

### Author Visit – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Jeanne Willis is a fabulous author and will be providing an immersive and engaging experience for Year 1 children to learn more about the 'Bog Baby' character. Children will create the Bog Baby and a suitable habitat for the creature too. Reception and Year 2 will also attend the author assembly in the morning.



### Diwali – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

We will be learning about Diwali in school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Children are invited to wear traditional Indian dress to school or bright pieces of clothing.

### Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Odd Socks Day marks the start of 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.



### Children in Need – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Children may wear Children in Need items or their own non-uniform clothes to school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November and make a donation to Children in Need.

### Parents' Evenings – 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Parents' evenings are being held during this half term.  
21<sup>st</sup> November- 3:00-6:00pm – meetings held in school.  
23<sup>rd</sup> November- 4:00-6:00pm – meetings held online.

Booking information will be sent one week before this event.

Please do not worry if for example you wish to have a face to face meeting and all of the sessions are booked, we will arrange a time with you for you to see you child's teacher.



### Christmas Nativity – Reception 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am.

Further details will follow.

**If anyone has any Christmas costumes they would like to donate to school, these will be gratefully received.**

**Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (This is the same day as Essence Christmas Lunch).**

Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and make a donation to Save the Children.



**Essence Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Essence Christmas lunch will be taking place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please book online.

[www.essence-catering.co.uk](http://www.essence-catering.co.uk)

**Christmas Cinema – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Children are invited to stay to watch a Christmas film after school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December (3:00-4:00pm) This is a fundraising event. All money raised will be spent by your child's year group specifically on items for your children.



**Christmas Pantomime – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

M&M Productions return once again this year to perform their current pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.



**Christmas Parties**

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

Nursery – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December (am)

Reception – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December (pm)

Year 1 – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December (am)

Year 2 – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December (pm)

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



**School Closes on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**