

Russell Street School Newsletter

Spring

Spring Term 1 2026



Message from our Headteacher

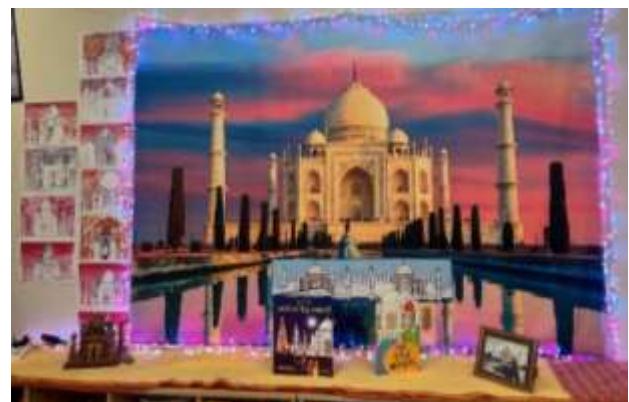
We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas & New Year.

What an enjoyable end to the Autumn Term we had with our fabulous Reception Nativity, Toscana Strings and Royal Ballet soloist Laura Tye in school who introduced the string family and the concept of ballet to the children, and Year 2's Oxford Natural History Museum trip where the children were able to handle actual dinosaur bones!

This half term looks to be just as exciting as we have our Year 2 production of Oliver! Our Year 2 children were thoroughly inspired when they recently went to The Radcliffe School to watch their production of Oliver. To ensure we can cover the costs of props and costumes for Oliver each year, and so that wider family members can also enjoy the performance, we will be selling tickets for an additional performance of Oliver on Wednesday 11th February at 3pm.

We continually strive to develop our curriculum and the children will notice more examples of art around school that link to key pieces of music from the Model Music Curriculum. Global music such as English folk, African drumming, Indian classical, Caribbean and Chinese music has been threaded through our units of work and these have all been linked to key pieces of art. Classical examples such as Mozart, Bach and Tchaikovsky linked to artists such as Monet, Vermeer and Osman Bey, as well as 20th/21st century music and art will be played and discussed during weekly singing assembly. Please see the example photos below to show you some of the areas of study.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson





Closing Date for Reception and Year 3 Admissions – 15th January 2026

Starting primary or junior/middle school in September 2026 | Milton Keynes City Council

Applications must be submitted online via the [Citizen Portal](#) by midnight on 15th January 2026. If you are not able to apply on the Citizen's Portal, a paper application can be available on request from primaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Please note, if you apply with a paper application you will not receive an email with the offered school on national offer day, you will receive a letter in the post.



Energy Saving Week – 19th – 23rd January

We will all be learning 'energy saving' actions to use in school and at home as well as learning why saving energy is good for the planet.



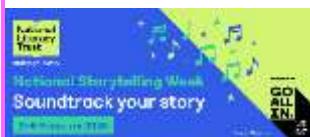
National Handwriting Day – Friday 23rd January

We will be carrying out a variety of fun activities to strengthen children's grip and improve their fine motor control such as write dance, dough disco, pen disco, weaving and threading.



National Lego/Puzzle Day – Thursday 29th January

Research suggests that Lego and other construction toys can improve a wide range of mental aptitudes in young children, such as spatial intelligence and hand-eye coordination. We will be combining Lego Day with National Puzzle Day, challenging our creativity in a wide variety of ways.



National Storytelling Week – 1st – 9th February

The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is 'Soundtrack Your Story'. Everyone has their own musical story - whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.

Throughout the week, we will explore the magic of storytelling through sound, lyrics and rhythm. Nursery and Reception will learn about 'rhyme, rhythm and wriggles' through singalong and story time videos with poet Simon Mole and musician Gecko. Year 1 and 2 children will build stories through sound with Annemarie Anang.



Children's Mental Health Week – 9th–15th February

The theme this year is: 'This is My Place'

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing. To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference. Through our STARS values, we will be ensuring that all children understand that they are part of the Russell Street School family and that they are STARS: safe, together, achieve, are resilient and are very special.



Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on the 10th of February 2026, with learning based around the theme 'Smart Tech, Safe Choices'. This Safer Internet Day we are exploring the impact of technology on all of our lives, looking at how it can be used purposefully, and giving guidance to children about how to use technology safely and responsibly.



Oliver – Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February – both shows at 9:30am

We are very excited that Year 2 children will be performing Oliver as their class assembly for their families. This involves learning many songs and the use of an actual theatre script. We are sure you'll be joining in with the songs at home!

To ensure we can cover the costs of props and costumes each year, and so that wider family members can also enjoy the performance, we will be selling tickets for an **additional performance of Oliver on Wednesday 11th February at 3pm**.



Chinese New Year – Celebrated on Friday 13th February in school.

We will be celebrating the Year of the Horse in school. Children are invited to wear red items of clothing or traditional Chinese clothing to celebrate.