Russell Street School Newsletter



Autumn (Second Half Term) 2026



Message from our Headteacher

Welcome to our Autumn 2 Newsletter
What a magical time of year this is for the children! This half term they will enjoy seasonal crafts, songs, theatre, dance and much more.

We are especially looking forward to our Reception children's **Nativity performances** on **Wednesday 9th December**, when **Otters** will take the main roles, and **Thursday 10th December**, when **Bees** will take the main roles. **Both performances begin at 2pm.**

Parents' Meetings
Our face-to-face parents' meetings will take place this half term, with a mixture of morning and after-school appointments:

- **Year 2:** Tuesday 3rd November, 8:45–11:00am
- **Reception:** Wednesday 4th November, 8:45–11:00am
- **Nursery:** Wednesday 4th November, 12:50–2:30pm
- **Year 1:** Thursday 5th November, 8:45–11:00am
- **All year groups:** Thursday 5th November, 3:10–5:30pm

Welcome to Mrs Echcharki
We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Echcharki**, our **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)**. Her role is to help children understand their feelings, build confidence and develop positive relationships.
Mrs Echcharki works with children individually or in small groups, using stories, games, drawing and talking. Support may focus on managing worries, recognising emotions, developing friendships or coping with change. As a qualified teacher, she will also be supporting Year 2 children's learning.

Thank You for Your Support
Thank you for your support in helping all our children settle into school during the first half term of the school year.
Please continue to read our **weekly Sways**, which contain information to help you support your child's learning, alongside important weekly messages from year group leads.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson



School Applications

The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 school places for September 2027 is Friday 15th January 2027. 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.



Parents' Meetings 3rd, 4th, 5th November

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

Tuesday 3rd November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year 2.**
Wednesday 4th November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year R.**
Wednesday 4th November:**12:50 - 2:30pm – Nursery.**
Thursday 5th November: **8:45 - 11:00am – Year 1.**
Thursday 5th November: **3:10 - 5:30pm – All Years.**



Poppy Appeal - w/c Monday 2nd November

Poppies plus other related items will be for sale on the KS1 & Reception gates and Nursery door during morning drop-off.



Diwali – 8th November (being celebrated in school on Friday 6th November)

We will be learning about Diwali in school on Friday 6th November.
Children are invited to wear traditional Indian dress to school or bright pieces of clothing.



World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c Monday 9th 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 2026 World Nursery Rhyme Week runs from **9th-13th 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. **The 5 official rhymes for 2026 are:** Hickory Dickory Dock, Doctor Foster, Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, Row Row Row Your Boat and 12345.



Children in Need – Friday 13th November

For BBC Children in Need's 2026 Appeal, we are taking the dance challenge. All children will be dancing daily and where they are able, they will be completing the 'Strictly Daily Dance Challenge'. Children may come to school on Friday 13th November wearing non-uniform clothes or Pudsey related items. Donations for Children in Need will be collected on the KS1 and Reception gates and the Nursery door.



Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day – Monday 16th November

This year's Anti-Bullying Week theme is 'Break the Silence', encouraging children to understand the importance of speaking up if something is upsetting them, making them feel uncomfortable or affecting their friendships.
Throughout the week, we will reinforce the message that children should always feel safe and confident to talk to a trusted adult. As part of our ongoing safeguarding work, children regularly revisit their Safety Network, or 'helping hand', where they identify five trusted adults in school they can talk to about anything that worries, upsets or makes them feel unsafe.

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will encourage open conversations about bullying and difficulties within friendships, helping children understand that breaking the silence can begin with a small action, and that every small action matters. By giving children the language, confidence and opportunities to speak up, we can continue to foster a kind and supportive environment where everyone feels that they belong, are safe and are valued.

We also use our daily circle times to check in with children and explore feelings together. We refer to The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas as an age-appropriate way of helping our younger children recognise, understand and express their emotions.
Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November will provide a fun way to launch the week, celebrating what makes each of us unique and reinforcing the importance of kindness, respect and belonging.

Christmas Pantomime – Monday 30th November

M&M Productions return once again this year to perform their current pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty'. This takes part during the school day.





Christmas Nativity – Reception Wednesday 9th (Otters) and Thursday 10th (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: Wednesday 9th December (where Otters take the main roles) and on Thursday 10th December (where Bees take the main roles). Both performances start at 2pm. Further details will follow.

If anyone has any Christmas costumes they no longer use and would like to donate to school, these are always gratefully received.



Christmas Cinema – Tuesday 15th December

Children are invited to stay to watch a Christmas film after school on Tuesday 15th 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.



Christmas Jumper Day & Hobbs Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 16th December

Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday 16th December and make a donation to Save the Children.

Please book a Christmas lunch online Russell Street School – Hobbs School Catering



Christmas Parties

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

Nursery – Tuesday 15th December (am)

Year 2 – Tuesday 15th December (pm)

Reception – Wednesday 16th December (am)

Year 1 – Thursday 17th December (pm)

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

School Closes on Friday 18th December