

Russell Street School

Newsletter



Autumn (First Half Term) 2026



Message from our Headteacher

We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. A very warm welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to the children and families joining our Nursery and Reception classes. We are delighted to have you as part of our school family.

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind families of the importance of regular attendance. Being in school every day gives children the best possible opportunity to learn, build friendships and benefit fully from everything school has to offer.

Evidence shows a clear relationship between attendance from Reception onwards and children's later attainment:

- **95.3% attendance each year** is associated with children being less likely to reach the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2.
- **96.5% attendance each year** is associated with children reaching the expected standard.
- **97.3% attendance each year** is associated with children reaching the higher standard.

The impact of strong attendance continues throughout children's education and can also be seen in later GCSE achievement. Our school attendance target is therefore at least **96.5%**.

Thank you for the tremendous support you gave us last year. Our overall attendance was **96.6%**, placing us **first out of similar schools**.

Only **3.9%** of our children were persistently absent, meaning their attendance was below 90%. This is **8.2% better** than the national average.

This is an excellent achievement, and we are extremely grateful to our families for working in partnership with us to ensure that children attend school regularly.

We would kindly like to remind everyone, that to protect children with nut allergies, **we are a nut-free school**. Nuts and products containing nuts must not be brought onto the school premises, including in packed lunches and snacks from home. Thank you for helping us keep every child safe.

This newsletter includes a brief summary of some of the improvements made across the school, together with important dates for the half term ahead. Each week, year-group leaders will also share more detailed class information through their weekly **Sway**, helping you to keep up to date and support your child's learning at home.

We look forward to another happy, successful and exciting year together.

Kind regards
Mrs Robinson



Quality Learning Areas- Once again 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 new and improved learning areas are below.

New Dinosaur Area



Improved Space Centre



New Grace Darling Area



Improved Great Fire of London Area



New Ocean Room



Improved NEST



Improved Victorian Sitting Room



Nursery & Reception Enhancements





'RSS Quality Arts Offer' – Thank you for once again 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 our **'RSS Quality Arts Offer'** below.

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 music, art and D.T. lessons/opportunities
- Be signposted to external arts opportunities.

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 concert
- Take part in the MK Infant Music festival.



French and British Sign Language

We have now completed our curriculum for French and British Sign Language teaching, and this continues to be taught very successfully across the whole school.

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

We will continue to share the French and BSL your child has been taught 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. 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.

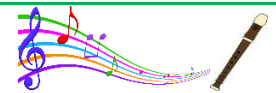
Physical skills: improvements are characterised by the development of physical stamina and gross and fine motor skills.

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 on 1st or 2nd of September, they are able to 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 out sweets 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 Nursery Forest School, Eco awareness and much more.



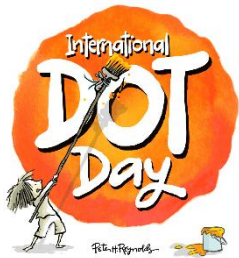
P.E. days

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.

Dates – Autumn – First Half Term



International Dot Day – Being celebrated in school on Tuesday 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](#)



Recycling Week 14th – 20th September

The Recycle Week theme 'Rescue Me' is once again being continued this year. Children will learn more about the importance of recycling and how they can make a difference in our school community. They will develop a deeper understanding of the impact of recycling on the environment and why it is essential to recycle regularly, not just during Recycle Week.

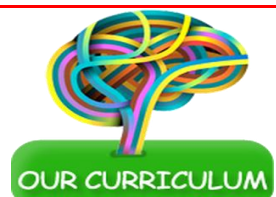
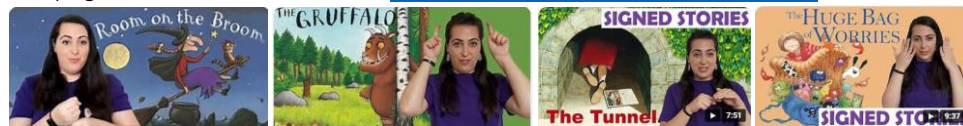


International Day of Sign Languages – Wednesday 23rd September

Each year on 23rd September people celebrate International Day of Sign Languages to recognise the importance of sign languages around the world. The aim of this special day is to remind big companies, worldwide organisations and global governments of the importance and significance of [sign languages](#).

We will be watching a variety of signed stories and practising as many of the signs we have learnt as possible.

Many signed stories are available here: [signed stories bsl - Search Videos \(bing.com\)](#)



Curriculum Sharing Sessions

To ensure you know how to fully support your child/ren with their learning, curriculum information sharing sessions will take place on the following dates:

Reception – Wednesday 23rd September

Year 2 – Wednesday 7th October

Year 1 – Thursday 8th October

Further information will be sent in weekly year group Sways.

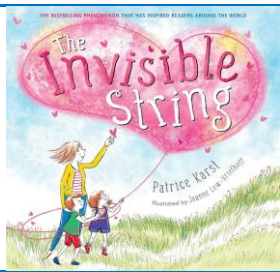


European Day of Languages – 26th September (celebrated in school on Friday 25th September)

Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 46-member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent.

We will be celebrating our diversity of languages on the 25th September. If you are able to come into school to share a language you speak with us, we would be very grateful.

Please let us know by emailing office@russell-street-school.co.uk



The October 2025 Big Draw Festival

Our Big Draw festival theme this year is **"We Are Connected"** based around the book – The Invisible String. Every one of us is unique, but none of us stands alone. Our relationships, friendships and acts of kindness connect us together.

Every child will draw themselves somewhere on a huge piece of paper. They will then draw lines connecting themselves to people who are important to them. Gradually, the lines will cross and overlap until the whole artwork becomes interconnected.



World Values Day – Thursday 15th October

The theme for this year's campaign is **Values and Volunteering**. Let's use our values every day to make our world a little bit happier and more connected by volunteering and being of service to others in whichever way we can. Volunteering is choosing to put our values into action, without compulsion or expectation of reward. It doesn't need to be done in a big organised group, but can just be a small unprompted everyday act of thoughtfulness or kindness. We will be volunteering to help each other across the whole school.

We will also be revisiting our Russell Street School Values:

Russell Street School children are STARS - Safe, Together, Achieve, Resilient, Special.



PA

The Russell Street School Parents' Association is a charity organisation that organises events and activities to raise funds for the benefit of Russell Street School and its pupils. The association plays a significant role in supporting the school's enhancements.

The association are currently looking for new members. This can be in any capacity; you do not need lots of time to contribute. Any time, skills and enthusiasm to raise funds for the school would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in becoming a valued member, we are keen to hear from you. Please email the office with your details and they will put you in contact with the appropriate PA/Staff member.

office@russell-street-school.co.uk

Russell Street School Term Dates

Term Dates 2026 - 2027

September 2026						
M			7	14	21	28
T		1	8	15	22	29
W		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	
F		4	11	18	25	
S		5	12	19	26	
S		6	13	20	27	

October 2026						
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		

November 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

December 2026						
M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		

January 2027						
M		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
W		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	

February 2027						
M		1	8	15	22	
T		2	9	16	23	
W		3	10	17	24	
T		4	11	18	25	
F		5	12	19	26	
S		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	

March 2027						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

April 2027						
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		

May 2027						
M		3	10	17	24	31
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

June 2027						
M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		

July 2027						
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		

August 2027						
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	31
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

INSET Day	School opening and closing days	Holidays	Bank Holidays
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