

# Russell Street School

## Newsletter

Autumn (Second Half Term) 2021



## Message from our Headteacher

We have been working hard to enhance our learning environment for our children. Renovations start in our Nursery building next week. Nursery staff are very excited. The plan is to see our Nursery children back in their new enabling learning environment when they return in January.

If you have items you feel you no longer need at home or could collect items on autumn walks, we would be incredibly grateful for any resources that could be donated to be used in school - see below for ideas.



It is incredibly important to us that we try to recycle and reuse as many items as possible. Please leave any donated items by the Reception gate, Nursery door or the KS1 playground climbing wall. Thank you all so much for recycling your resources, enhancing the education of our children and protecting our environment.

Parents' evenings will take place in school this half term. Social distancing measures will be in place. Parents who still wish to have their parents' evening online will be able to do so. Parents' curriculum workshops will now take across the academic year with social distancing measures in place. The first workshop is a phonics training for Reception parents.

Reception children will be performing our Nativity this year. Other year groups will all perform concerts at different points during the year. The following pages of this newsletter list many more exciting things happening during this half term.

Kind regards  
Mrs Robinson



### Poppy Appeal

Poppies plus other related items will be for sale on the KS1 & Reception gates and Nursery door during morning drop-off from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Items can also be purchased from the school office.

### Diwali – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November

We will be learning about Diwali in school on Thursday 4<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 15<sup>th</sup> November

Odd Socks Day takes place on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week each year to help raise awareness of bullying. All children are invited to wear odd socks to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications for Year R and Year 3 school places for September 2022 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. 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-junior-middle-school-in-september-2022>

The Local Authority deals with school places and all parents including nursery parents must apply by the deadline date.

I have been a Headteacher of a primary academy, a Church of England primary school and an all-through school (age 4-19) and have been responsible for my own admissions. If you have any questions at all about admissions and the admissions process, please feel free to contact me and I will fully explain the admissions process to you for any type of school.

SMSG are having an opening evening on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.



**St Mary and St Giles Church of England School Open Evening 10th November @7pm**



### Parents' Evenings – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November

Parents' evenings will be offered in school during this half term. Social distancing measures will be in place. Parents should only enter the building 10 mins before their appointment time and there will be a one-way system in and out of appointments. We ask that masks are worn by everyone in the building (unless you are unable to do so).

We are aware that COVID cases are currently rising and therefore to ensure everyone feels safe, we are offering online as well as face to face sessions.

Please be aware that some members of staff are considered to be clinically vulnerable and to ensure their health isn't compromised, I have said that they should only offer online sessions. Parents of children in these classes will still be able to enter school to see your child's work and see their classroom.



### EVIDENCE ME – Nursery & Reception

If you would like to send school observations of your child, you can use the 'EvidenceMe' parent submission tool. For example, your child may have been awarded a swimming certificate or started to ride a bicycle without stabilisers.

### Reception Parents Phonics Training Session – 16<sup>th</sup> November.


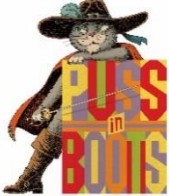

A variety of training sessions will take place across this academic year starting with phonics training for Reception parents on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 4:30pm. This training will be for one parent only per family. The information from the session will be sent to all parents.



### Children in Need – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Children may wear Children in Need items or their own non-uniform clothes to school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November and make a donation to Children in Need.



	<p><b>Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p>Everyone is invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December and make a donation to Save the Children.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Nativity – Reception</b></p> <p>Reception classes will be performing our Nativity. Other year groups in school will be performing concerts at different times of the year.</p> <p>The dates for our Reception Nativity this year are: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am.</p> <p>Further details will follow.</p> <p>If anyone has any Christmas costumes they would like to donate to school, these will be gratefully received.</p>	
	<p><b>Christmas Parties</b></p> <p>Christmas parties will be taking place in school on the following dates:</p> <p>Nursery - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (am)</p> <p>Reception – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>Year 1 – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (pm)</p> <p>Year 2 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>Children may wear party clothes to school on these dates, with sensible outdoors shoes.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Pantomime</b></p> <p>All children will be watching a Christmas Pantomime by a live theatre group in school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. <i>Oh yes they will!</i></p> <p>9:30am – Nursery and Reception performance.</p> <p>10:30am – Year 1 and 2 performance.</p>	
	<p><b>Candlelit Walk to the Christmas Tree – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p>Children are invited to take part in a candlelit walk with their family to sing carols around the Christmas tree at SMSG Church. Families should meet on the SMSG north site carpark at 6pm to take part in this event.</p> <p>Please note that your children need to remain with you at all times.</p>
<p><b>Essence Christmas Lunch</b></p> <p>Essence Christmas lunch will be taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please book online.</p> <p><a href="http://www.essence-catering.co.uk">www.essence-catering.co.uk</a></p> <p>Children are invited to bring a Christmas hat or accessory into school to wear during lunch.</p>	
	<p><b>Additional Bank Holiday</b></p> <p>All schools have been directed to schedule an extra bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In consultation with SMSG, both schools will be closed on <b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>.</p>

## Date Overview – Autumn 2 - 2021

November		December	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Diwali Celebration	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Nativity
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance	9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Grandparents Christmas Carols
15 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day	13 <sup>th</sup>	Puss in Boots Pantomime
19 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need	14 <sup>th</sup>	Candlelit Walk
16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Parents' Phonics Training	15 <sup>th</sup>	Essence Christmas Lunch
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings	15 <sup>th</sup> (am)	Nursery Party
		15 <sup>th</sup> (pm)	Year 1 Party
		16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Party
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Party