**MARCH NEWSLETTER**

March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our March newsletter. These newsletters are sent out on a monthly basis to keep you informed about what is happening in school. If you ever want to contribute an ‘article’ or suggest information that should be on the newsletters, I would be delighted to hear about them.

*Please note events that are underlined and in italics are new or amended since the previous newsletter.*

**Wednesday 26th March -** Year 2 Fire Station visits

**Thursday 27th March -** Year 3 Easter in a Box session x 1, PTA Discos this evening, *Foundation Stage Visit to Ampthill (am)*

**Friday 28th March -** Year 3 Easter in a Box session x1, *PTA Mother’s Day Flowers*

***Saturday 29th March -*** *Community, PTA and School Council litter pick, starting in FS playground, 9:30 - 10:30 and 10:45 - 11:45 am*

**Monday 31st March -** Year 3 Easter in a Box session x1, Governors’ Meeting at 6:30pm

**Tuesday 1st April -** Year 4 Swimming (am)

**Wednesday 2nd April -** Condover Meeting for Year 4 parents at 9am, Egg Competition Judging

**Thursday 3rd April -** Easter Activity Morning - from 9am to 10am come and join your children in class having ‘crafty Easter fun’, PTA Eco Challenge begins

**Friday 4th April -** Break up for Easter today

**Easter Holiday - 7th April - 21st April 2025, with Premier Holiday Camps**

**Monday 21st April - BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Tuesday 22nd April -** Summer term begins for all children - everyone back to school - **NO** INSET DAY

***Wednesday 23rd April*** *- 2:45pm - Parent Volunteer session (see below)*

***Monday 28th April -*** *Governors’ Meeting at 6:30pm*

***Wednesday 30th April - Friday 2nd May -*** *Condover residential trip for Year 4*

***Thursday 1st May -*** *Year 2 Tennis Festival for some children (am)*

***Friday 9th May -*** *Year 4 Cricket Festival for some children (am)*

***Monday 12th May -*** *Computing workshops for all children across the school*

***Tuesday 13th May -*** *Computing workshops for all children across the school*

***Wednesday 14th May -*** *Year 4 Full House Park Theatre Visits*

***Thursday 15th May -*** *Year 3 Full House Park Theatre Visits*

***Friday 16th May -*** *Year 4 Transition Festival (am)*

***Friday 23rd May -*** *Break up for half term*

**May Half Term Holiday - 26th May - 30th May 2025, with Premier Holiday Camps**

***Monday 2nd June -*** *Everyone back to school -* ***NO*** *INSET DAY*

***Wednesday 4th June -*** *Year 3 Quad Kids Festival for some children (am)*

***Friday 6th June -*** *9am Inclusion Coffee Morning - Neurodiversity*

***Thursday 12th June - 6:30pm -*** *New Intake Meeting for FS 2025*

***Friday 13th June -*** *2pm Ladybirds Sports Day on Russell’s field, Father’s Day gifts out*

***Wednesday 18th June -*** *6:30pm - Ladybirds AGM at Russell*

***Friday 20th June -*** *Ladybirds birds of prey display (pm) - Russell field*

***Saturday 21st June -****Russell Lower School PTA Summer Solstice Ball at the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill*

***Tuesday 24th June -*** *Year 2 Cricket Festival for some children*

***Wednesday 25th June -*** *Russell’s Sports Morning with PTA refreshments (am)*

***Friday 4th July -*** *Middle School Transition Day (Y4 to Alameda/Woodlands etc.), also Russell ‘Class Swap’ morning and Stay and Play sessions for new FS 2025 children*

***Saturday 5th July -*** *Ladybirds’ Summer Fayre at Russell*

***Monday 7th July -*** *6:30pm Governors’ Meeting*

***Tuesday 8th July -*** *Year 2 to Marston Vale, Year 4 Performance to Parents (2:15pm and 6pm)*

***Wednesday 9th July -*** *Year 2 to Marston Vale*

***Thursday 10th July -*** *Choir to summer concert at Alameda - afternoon (rehearsal) and early evening (performance)*

***Friday 11th July -*** *Sunflower Competition ends,* **Ampthill’s Big Tent Weekend** - 11th/12th/13th July - lots more information to follow

***Monday 14th July -*** *2:30pm Russell Open Afternoon*

***Tuesday 15th July -*** *Foundation Stage Visit to Herrings Green Farm, 9:15 - Year 4 Leavers’ Assembly to parents, 1:30 - 3:30pm - Year 4 Leavers’ Party*

***Friday 18th July -*** *Children break up for summer holidays*

**Summer Holidays - Premier Holiday Camps for the first 4 weeks of the holidays**

**More detailed information on the above events will follow in due course**

**Dates:**

We have tried to include as many dates as possible right up to the end of the year for you in this edition.

**Russell turns 65!**

Thank you to all the very many of you who helped us get a huge turnout for our birthday celebrations. The event was wonderful and a really special evening. Thank you.

**Thank you very much again:**

Thank you for helping us raise more money for good causes. Recently, we raised £220 for the Rotary Polio Appeal and £372.15 for CHUMS. We will let you know soon how much we raised for Red Nose Day too - thank you all for your generous support.

**Safety requests:**

Please can you leave the school site promptly after school? We need to get our after-school sports clubs and Aviary provision up and running quickly and cannot do this safely whilst children who should be heading home are still on site. Thank you for your support.

Please can you also make sure that siblings of Year 3 children are not going up onto the terrace (up the steps) at the beginning and end of the day? It causes issues for the Year 3 children and teachers arriving/leaving. Please make especially sure that children are not riding bikes and scooters up there: it is very dangerous. Thank you for your support.

**Next Parent Volunteer Workshop - 2:45pm on Wednesday 23rd April:**

If you haven’t volunteered in school before, but would like to, we would love to see you at our next volunteer information session coming up in April (see calendar above) – please sign up using the following Google Form and then just turn up - thank you!

<https://forms.gle/K5digYsqWdi6YqFx5> Everyone MUST attend an induction session, but only if you have not attended one already and MUST have a DBS in place before volunteering with the children.

**Reminder - School meal prices:**

I am really sorry to say that we will have to increase school meal prices to £2.60 from 1st April 2025 (from £2.50). You will be aware of the increase in employers NI/the living wage and the ever-increasing food prices. Sadly, we are not immune to these pressures. As you know, all children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are able to have school meals for free. These year groups are unaffected. We apologise for this rise, but it is totally unavoidable. Thank you for your understanding.

**Russell Lower School Values:**

Each half term, we teach the children about a different value. We then have a weekly ‘values’ assembly where we celebrate the demonstration of this value. The values this term are:

**Spring 2:** Happiness

**Summer 1**: Trust

**PE and festivals news:**

We are super excited to announce that plans are now coming together for the remarking of the KS1 playground following KS2 being completed last year. **Thanks to the PTA** we have managed to secure a grant of £10,000 from GrantScape that will go towards the resurfacing cost of the playground first to ensure the longevity of the markings. The new markings will then follow. The last time these were updated was around 9 years ago and we cannot wait to see our plans come to life and support our children in becoming even more active during our break and lunchtimes.

**Online Safety/ESafety update:**

As part of our Online Safety Policy and procedures, we aim to reinforce the importance of children being safe online, both at school and out of school. In each newsletter we will be using one page poster guides from National Online Safety to highlight areas that we think are relevant to our children and families, helping you to keep up-to-date with what's going on in the world of online safety. We hope that this will help you gain the confidence and skills to have age-appropriate, informed discussions with children to keep them safe, healthy and resilient to life beyond the school gates.

**March - Roblox (see poster attached to the email)**

**Community information and events:**



**And finally:**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your on-going support.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Nicki Walker

Headteacher