

Russell Lower School

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our latest 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 30th April - Friday 2nd May - Conover residential trip for Year 4

Thursday 1st May - Year 2 Tennis Festival for some children (am), KS1 Open the Book Assembly, FS NHS height and weight checks

Tuesday 6th May - Alameda assembly to Y4 (TBC)

Friday 9th May - NHS Behaviour workshop for parents 9:05 - 10:05am (please see details and sign up below) 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)

Wednesday 21st May - Foundation Stage 'Pirate Day' (no accessories please) and visit to Ampthill Library

Thursday 22nd May - KS2 Open the Book Assembly, Year 2 visits to the Roald Dahl Museum

Friday 23rd May - Year 2 visits to the Roald Dahl Museum, 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

Monday 9th June - Year 3 visit to Celtic Harmony

Thursday 12th June - 6:30pm - New Intake Meeting for FS 2025, Drumming Assembly

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)

Headteacher: Nicki Walker BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Russell Lower School, Queens Road, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 2TD

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Thursday 26th June - KS1 Open the Book assembly

Thursday 3rd July - KS2 Open the Book assembly

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

Exciting NHS Children's Behaviour Workshop for Parents/Carers:

We are very excited to offer a highly sought-after NHS MHST (Mental Health Support Team) Behaviour workshop for parents and carers at Russell Lower School on **Friday 9th May, 9:05 - 10:05 am** in the main hall. Parents from other local schools will be invited to join us too. We believe that this is a brilliant opportunity to understand positive parenting techniques and strategies further to support you with behaviour management - we all know how tough that can be, at times. Please do sign up using this 2 second form

:<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhJelpMBmlHtJsNbtFY79otXI0Rn4nlBRW1rNsevyrfprV3w/viewform?usp=sharing> and join us for a really well-spent hour of input from the NHS. Thank you.

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Parent/Carer Workshop for Children's Behaviour



09.05.25

09:05-10:05

Russell Lower School



Flitwick Mental Health
Support Team (MHST)



This workshop will provide
positive parenting
techniques and strategies
to support behaviour
management.



**We care
We respect
We are inclusive**

We would love to see you
there! We have ample
resources that could
support you and your
children.

NHS

East London

NHS Foundation Trust



A couple of pleas please:

Having had our previous goal posts broken by children moving them and swinging on them before and after school, we have invested in new posts this term. Please can we ask for your support in requesting that children do not use **any** of the equipment before and after school? We simply cannot afford to keep replacing damaged equipment and our clubs (Aviary and Sports) are desperate to get outside at this time of year. We will have to remove the goal posts from the field altogether if they suffer any further damage and this will be devastating to the children, particularly at lunchtime. All children and parents should be off site swiftly after school, but definitely by 3:40 pm please. In addition, can we please remind you of our before and after school policy regarding playing on or with school equipment and scooters and bikes on the school grounds. Please ask your child to dismount their scooter or bike on entering the school gates. This is for safety reasons; there are simply too many little people around at that time of day and they frequently get hurt. Also, just as with the football equipment, we ask that children do not play with or on any of the school equipment at the beginning or end of the school day. This avoids costly breakages and damage as well as injuries. Thank you for your support.

Equality and Diversity:

Equality of opportunity is at the heart of our values and 'Russell Rights' (The right to be safe, learn, be included and happy). We would like to take this opportunity to restate that at Russell Lower School, we are against all forms of discrimination – whether that be on grounds of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age or anything else. We oppose all forms of intolerance towards any group or individual, however these may manifest themselves. At Russell Lower School, we have zero tolerance of any form of discrimination or prejudice. Please do come and let us know, if you have any further suggestions to enhance our practice further and thank you for your support.

Book Fair and Design an egg competition:

Thank you for your support with the book fair. We received over £420 of commission for school – which we are excited to 'turn into' books for the children – thank you so much.

Thank you also for the INCREDIBLE 'egg' designs. The effort and enthusiasm, as well as the imagination and exceptionally high quality of entrants, was evident again this year. So many designs had moving parts and even electronics! Highly impressive. Watch this space for photos to be updated with this year's entrants: <https://www.russell-lower.co.uk/easter-egg-competition-2025-1>

Easter Egg Design Competition - winners - 2025

Well done to everyone; the entries were amazing and we found it incredibly hard to judge the winners. All entries received a prize!

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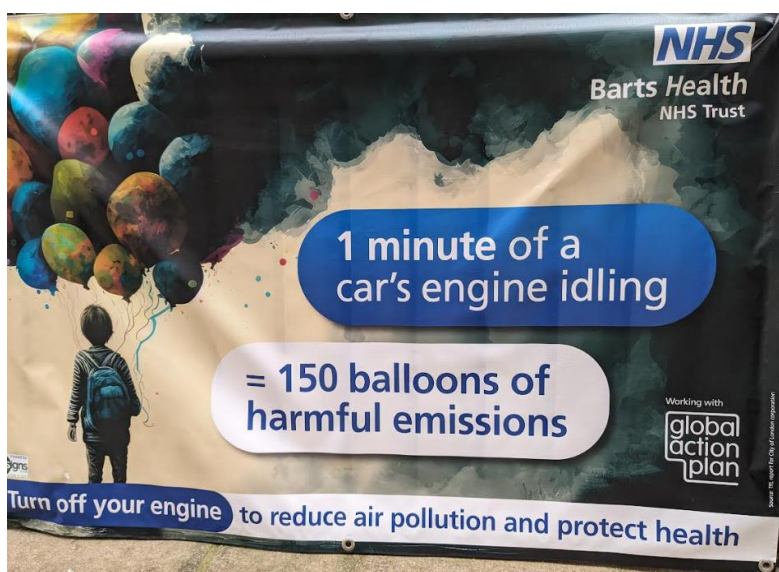
Swans	Evelyn and Jonah
Doves	Hanna and Francesca
Swifts	Violet and Maxwell
Owls	Fynn and Louis
Wrens	Hope and Harrison
Puffins	Max and Annabelle
Penguins	Imogen and George H
Robins	Oscar P and Violet
Greenfinch	Henry C and Ivy W
Blackbirds	Frankie and Anna D
Nightingales	Georgia and Ezra
Goldfinch	Pippa and Harrison
Woodpeckers	Sylvie and Violet
Starlings	Nancy and Teddy
Kingfishers	Noah and Rhaya

Eco Schools and Green Flag

Can you help us keep our school Green Flag by being mindful of not having your car's engine idling? Together we can cut emissions around Russell quickly! Thank you for your support.

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Sports Morning - Wednesday 25th June:

Russell Lower School sports morning (see calendar above). Although more detail will follow regarding this event, to help you with planning time off, the timings will be as follows:

Foundation and KS1 (Years R, 1 & 2)

Sports Events 9.30 am – 10.30 am

KS2 (Years 3 & 4)

Sports Events 10.45 am – 11.45 am

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 coming term coming will be:

Summer 1: Trust

Summer 2: Tolerance

PE and festivals news:

We can also now confirm that the KS1 playground will be resurfaced during the May half term which is great news! We are now busy finalising the new markings that will hopefully go down over the summer holidays ready for the new academic year in September 2025. The new markings will be funded through our sports premium as a means of supporting children in being active during their playtimes.

We are also funding all Premier clubs this half term (and hopefully next half term too) through the use of our sports premium meaning that you can sign up to them **for free!** Please get in touch with the office via the appropriate Google forms to secure a place for your child.

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Online Safety/E-Safety 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.

April - YouTube [\(see poster attached to the email\)](#)

Community events:

Please see lots of exciting opportunities and activities **below**.

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



EVERYONE WELCOME - COMMUNITY EVENT.

LADYBIRD FOREST PRE-SCHOOL

BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY 9TH MAY

BINGO **RAFFLE** **BASKET MEALS**

MUST BE PREORDERED BY 2ND MAY

**RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL, AMPHILL,
MK45 2TD**

DOORS OPEN - 7:00PM EYES DOWN - 7:30PM

£15 PER PERSON

PRICE INCLUDES ONE BINGO BOOK, MEAL & ONE RAFFLE TICKET
YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING ALCOHOL & SNACKS

CASH ONLY EVENT ON EVENING
OVER 18S ONLY

ADVANCED BOOKINGS NEEDED: 01525 406703
WHATSAPP: 07790 34291

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We at Ampthill Cultural Events are organising this event,

Back for the third year with a change of venue! **5th May 10am -12pm**

Ampthill VE80 Children's Mayday event to be held in the Nottingham Performance area, Ampthill Great Park.

These younger members of the community will make and decorate garlands and headdresses, get glitter tattoos etc ready for party celebrations, singing and storytelling and painting the canvas depicting The Spirit of Ampthill

Pre-booking is essential tickets £5 per child, on sale from 5th April at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EQAA>

Parents/carers MUST accompany children at all times.



Ampthill's VE 80

CHILDREN's MAY DAY

**Nottingham Performance Area
Ampthill Great Park**

10-12.30pm, £5 per child

Bring cash for extras

Pre-Booking Essential

Tickets at [trybooking.com/UK/EQAA](https://www.trybooking.com/UK/EQAA)

***Crafts including garland & mask making,
singing, dancing, story telling,
painting, glitter tattoos and more...***



*Donations for the
Mayor's Charities*



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Ampthill vs Cancer 5k:

We are reaching out to invite Russell Lower School families to be a part of something truly special this summer. On Sunday, 29th June the Ampthill community will come together for the first-ever *Ampthill vs Cancer 5K*—an event designed not only to raise vital funds for local cancer charities, but to bring our town closer together through solidarity and hope.

While the event is open to everyone, we are especially excited to invite your students to participate in the **Golden Hare Mile**—a fun, family-friendly race where children (aged 12 and under) can run, jog, or walk in honour of a loved one or simply to show support. This special event is inspired by the legendary treasure hunt from the book *Masquerade*, which once led to the discovery of a golden hare right here in Ampthill Park.

In addition to the Golden Hare Mile, we also have a full 5K race for adults and family members. But it's not just about running—it's about coming together as a community to support three amazing charities that help our neighbours and loved ones who are battling cancer:

- **The Primrose Car Service** (part of Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends) offers free transport for local cancer patients to Addenbrooke's Hospital and is run by a team of volunteers.
- **Willen Hospice** provides comfort and care for those with terminal illnesses.
- **Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust**, which is the cancer hub for our region, supports pioneering cancer research and life-saving treatments.

Every step taken during this event will help fund these vital services.

We would love your support in spreading the word to pupils and their families.

Attached is a flyer about the Ampthill vs Cancer event, and the Golden Hare Mile that provides more information about the event. We kindly ask if you can share it with parents and carers via school communications.

The Golden Hare Mile is a wonderful way for children to get active, and be part of a cause that will make a real difference in the lives of local families affected by cancer. It's also a great way to inspire a sense of community and solidarity in our next generation.

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We hope your school can be part of this exciting, meaningful event.

As a team of volunteers putting this event on, we are open to any suggestions in raising awareness for this event amongst your pupils and their families. We would welcome the opportunity for one of our team to come in to the school to meet with a member of your team to discuss this further, and the possibility of an event in school for all children to take part in the lead up to the main event.

Here is our website: [Ampthill vs Cancer – Run, Walk, Support](https://www.ampthillvscancer.co.uk)

Thank you for your time and support.

The poster features a photograph of a smiling man and woman at the top. Below them is a yellow hare logo. The text 'AMPTHILL VS CANCER' is prominently displayed in white on a purple background, with '5K RUN, WALK, SUPPORT 2025' in yellow below it. The date and location 'SUNDAY, 29TH JUNE 2025' and 'AMPTHILL GREAT PARK' are listed. A QR code is provided for more information, along with the website 'ampthillvscancer.co.uk'. A purple circle highlights 'PLUS LIVE MUSIC, PICNIC IN THE PARK, FOOD STALLS, AND MORE'. At the bottom, logos for supporters like Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust, Willen Hospice, and Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends are shown, along with marketing support from Bonfire and Jnk.

AMPTHILL VS CANCER
5K RUN, WALK, SUPPORT 2025

SUNDAY, 29TH JUNE 2025
AMPTHILL GREAT PARK

Join us for a fun community day and help fight cancer.
Run, walk or cheer - every effort supports local charities.

Kids can take part in their own
'Golden Hare Mile' too.

Scan the QR code with
your phone camera to
learn more, or visit
[ampthillvscancer.co.uk](https://www.ampthillvscancer.co.uk)

PLUS
LIVE MUSIC,
PICNIC IN THE PARK,
FOOD STALLS,
AND MORE

Proud to support

act Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust

Willen Hospice

Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends
Primrose Car Service

Marketing support

Bonfire creative intelligence

Jnk limited marketing solutions

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VE DAY[©]

80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

An evening of
music and dance
with the
**GARY WOOD
SWING BAND**

BAR | RAFFLE

7.00 for 7.30pm | Friday 2nd May 2025 | Parkside Hall, Ampthill

Tickets £15 available via the QR code
or at trybooking.com/uk/EMXR

In aid of Ampthill Cultural Events



CEILIDH

with the
**Spring Loaded
Ceilidh Band**

Suitable for all ages & abilities
No previous ceilidh experience necessary

MUSIC | DANCING | BAR | RAFFLE

FRIDAY 16TH MAY | 7.30PM
PARKSIDE HALL
AMPHILL MK45 2HX

TICKETS £15
AVAILABLE VIA THE QR CODE
OR FROM
[TRYBOOKING.COM/UK/EOKZ](https://trybooking.com/uk/EOKZ)



In aid of



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