



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our February 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.

**Thursday 13th February** - Year 3 swimming (am), Year 4 Tag Rugby festival for some children (am - you will be notified if this involves your child nearer the time)

**Friday 14th February** - Year 4 Bikeability and break up for half term

**Half term 17/02 - 21/02 with Premier Sport running a holiday camp**

**Monday 24th February** - Children back to school - NO INSET DAY

**Tuesday 25th February** - *Year 4 swimming (am) starts at Flitwick Leisure Centre for 6 weeks*

**Wednesday 26th February** - Book Fair at Russell (more information to follow)

**Thursday 27th February** - Key Stage 1 Open the Book Assembly

**Tuesday 4th March** - *Year 4 Swimming (am)*, Kidditch sessions for the whole school, Last day of Book Fair

**Wednesday 5th March** - Kidditch sessions for the whole school

**Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day - children and staff come to school dressed as their favourite book characters - get ready for lots of fun!

**Friday 7th March - Russell's 65th Birthday** - David Powell (ex-Head) Assembly for all children, 6:30 - 8:30pm - Birthday Cheese and Wine Night (provided by the PTA) for former Russell pupils (who are now adults) and staff), Year 3 girls Football Festival for some children (am - you will be notified if this involves your child nearer the time)

**Sunday 9th March** - *Civic Service at the St Andrew's church - 3pm*

**Monday 10th March** - British Science week begins, Governors' Meeting at 6:30pm

**Tuesday 11th March** - *Year 4 Swimming (am)*

**Wednesday 12th March** - Year 4 trip to Verulamium

**Thursday 13th March** - Key Stage 2 Open the Book assembly

**Tuesday 18th March** - *Year 4 Swimming (am)*, Year 3 Hockey festival for some children (am - you will be notified if this involves your child nearer the time)

**Wednesday 19th March** - Inclusion Coffee Morning at 9am - more details to follow

**Thursday 20th March** - PTA AGM, 7:30pm at the Wingfield Club - everyone welcome!

**Friday 21st March** - Design an Egg Competition Begins, Comic Relief 'Red Nose' non-uniform Day

**Monday 24th March** - Big Walk and Wheel week, Easter Assembly with Ampthill Baptist Church, 6:30pm Governors' Meeting

**Tuesday 25th March** - *Year 4 Swimming (am)*, Year 1 Woburn Trip



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

**Thursday 27th March** - Year 3 Easter in a Box session x 1, PTA Discos this evening

**Friday 28th March** - Year 3 Easter in a Box session x1

**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** - Condoover 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**

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* 21st June 2025 -Russell Lower School PTA Summer Solstice Ball** at the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* Ampthill's Big Tent Weekend** - 11th/12th/ 13th July - lots more information to follow

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

## **Parents' Evening - Thank you:**

Thank you for your support and attendance at these important meetings this week. Also, your feedback to governors was really helpful. If you have not yet seen your child's class teacher then please contact them via the class email address to make an alternative appointment. We do chase parents for this as we consider the meetings vital. Thank you again.

## **Pencil Cases and other items:**

Please can we kindly ask you **not** to provide your child with a pencil case or any stationery items for school. We provide all of these for the children and, as a result, they are all exactly the same. You wouldn't believe the amount of time and upset this saves in class. Thank you so much for your support. The same is also true of jewellery (bracelets/necklaces), temporary tattoos, nail varnish, even 'fashion' shoes and boots - please support us by adhering to our uniform policy as it causes so much upset and wasted time. The policy can be found here: [https://www.russell-lower.co.uk/school\\_policies](https://www.russell-lower.co.uk/school_policies)

## **Russell turns 65!**

As you already know, on Friday 7th March, Russell Lower School will be 65 years old and we want to trace and invite any current or former staff, governors or pupils (who are now adults) to our celebratory Wine and Cheese night (6:30-8:30pm), where we will also be entertained by the wonderful Quintessential, Ampthill's brass quintet.

If you know anyone who may fit the bill, could you please pass on this information and ask them to complete the Google Form by scanning the QR code to say that they would like to join us? (see below) Alternatively, please ask them to contact the school office and we will do this for



them. Thank you so much for your help. We look forward to welcoming them back to a school that has changed a lot since 1960!

## **Safe arrival and departure:**

Please be aware that all children need to be walked to/collected from their **classroom doors or The Aviary doors by an adult (over 16)** please. This enables one adult to 'handover' to another and ensure the safe arrival and departure of all our children. Thank you for your support.

## **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.

## **Volunteering at Russell:**

As you know, to volunteer at Russell all adults are required to attend a short 'induction' and undertake a DBS check. This ensures that all our volunteers are safe adults to be around our children. This costs over £50 per volunteer. We will willingly pay for this but do request that you then 'use' this to do at least some volunteering in school. Thank you for your support.

## **Russell Snack Policy:**

Please be reminded that our snack policy is that children may bring in one snack from home a day: this is either chopped fruit or vegetables, or cheese (on its own). Again, this keeps everyone the same and minimises disruption and upset. Thank you

## **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 1:** Courage

**Spring 2:** Happiness

## **PE and festivals news:**

Please don't forget about the exciting 'adoption' offered to us through Flitwick Leisure Centre and Everyone Active. If you have not yet signed up for your two-week complimentary gym, classes and swim membership you still have time! Simply scan the QR code below (Community Information and Events section) to get signed up. Please remember that all children who attend Russell can also swim for free for all of February, including over the half term break!

## **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.

**February - In game chat and the dangers (see poster attached to the email)**

**Community information and events:**

We hope we are telling you something you already know about ...  
the **AMPTHILL BIG TENT WEEKEND**.

A MASSIVE tent has been hired for the weekend of 11th-13th July so that Ampthill can enjoy three days of events based on live music, for all ages and tastes. Russell Lower School Choir, children and PTA will be involved too. Save the dates and come and join us on the Alameda Sports Field.

**(see information attached to the email)**

Please see further posters and information below

**And finally:**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for all your on-going support. Have a wonderful half term holiday.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Nicki Walker  
Headteacher

**Community information and events:**



**WHO WANTS TO TRY RUGBY?**

**UNDER 10 GIRLS**

OPEN TO GIRLS IN YEAR 4 & 5!

FROM 26TH FEBRUARY

**EVERY WEDNESDAY 6PM-7PM**

**AT AMPHILL RUGBY CLUB**

**HAVE FUN & MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

• AMPHILL RUGBY CLUB, WOBURN STREET, MK45 2HX  
• [WWW.AMPHILLRUGBY.COM/TEAMS](http://WWW.AMPHILLRUGBY.COM/TEAMS)  
• [@AMPHILL\\_RUGBY\\_51PLS](https://www.instagram.com/AMPHILL_RUGBY_51PLS)

# Russell Lower School

Challenge • Enjoy • Respect • Succeed



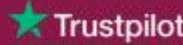
**FEBRUARY  
HALF-TERM**

## **PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS**

 **INSPIRING  
ACTIVITY**

### **BEDFORD**

 **SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**  
or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

 **Trustpilot**  
  
Based on over 20,000 reviews

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## VENUES

- Russell Lower School

## TIMINGS & PRICES:

- 8:00am - 5:30pm (£44.00)
- 9:00am - 3:30pm (£36.00)

## DATES

- 17th February - 21st February

**15%  
SIBLING  
DISCOUNT**

Mix it up this half term with our multi-activity holiday camps!

These camps are a perfect blend of activities for all ages, combining different sports with a variety of team games.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from archery - arts and crafts.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!



**SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION**

or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](http://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

**Ofsted**  
Registered

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## Wrap Up



everyone ACTIVE  
**HAS ADOPTED  
YOUR SCHOOL!**  
KEEPING **EVERYONE** ACTIVE  
everyoneactive.com

Everyone Active is committed to getting children active. To help with this we have chosen to adopt YOUR school for a month!

- All children who attend the school can swim for free for the month
- Employees of the school and parents of children who attend the school receive a two-week complimentary gym and swim membership

Scan the QR code to get started!



everyone ACTIVE



**CLAIM A FREE 6 MONTH**   
WHEN YOU ENROL ON  
SWIMMING LESSONS\*

AND SAVE UP TO **40% OFF**\*\*  
CINEMA TICKETS

\*Terms apply \*\*Terms apply

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Do you have any coats or ski clothing that are no longer required?

Wrap Up UK is a project that Ampthill and District Rotary Club are supporting.

If you are able to donate a Winter Coat or Ski Clothing in good condition to help the homeless, please bring it to school and place it in the receptacle in the office foyer. Thank you.



Rotary Great Britain & Ireland Working with Hands On UK Charity

**WE NEED UNWANTED WARM COATS**  
Coats you no longer need can make a real difference to people in need during winter time. Donating a coat for a person in need will not only keep them warm, it will also unlock a huge opportunity for a charity to connect with someone who may not otherwise ask for help.

**WE NEED CHILDREN'S WARM COATS AND SNOW SUITS**  
There are more charities supporting children and babies at risk involved in Wrap Up each year, and demand is increasing. All-in-one snowsuits have been specifically requested for young children and infants.

**WE ONLY ACCEPT COATS, SO DON'T DONATE OTHER ITEMS**  
While we really appreciate the good intentions, please don't send us any other clothing items. We can only accept coats.

**PLEASE RESPECT PEOPLE AT RISK**  
Only send coats you would be happy to receive. Dirty coats with buttons missing and a broken zip aren't nice for anyone - especially someone currently living in crisis.

[www.wrapupuk.org](http://www.wrapupuk.org)