



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

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.

Monday 6th October – Parents' Evening 3:45pm to 7pm, Walktober Week, Rotakids Assembly

Tuesday 7th October – Parents' Evening 3:45pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday 8th October – New Intake Meeting (FS 2026) at 9:30am

Thursday 9th October - Y1 hearing tests

Monday 13th October - Kingfisher environment walk.

Tuesday 14th October - Woodpecker environment walk

Wednesday 15th October - Starling environment walk

Thursday 16th October - Open the book assembly for KS2

Friday 17th October - Year 1 and 2 - Learn to ride a bike sessions for some children - TBC, 9 - 10am - SEND Parents Coffee morning at Russell

Monday 20th October – School Council and Blue Cross Animal Assembly, Finance and Resources Governors' Meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday 21st October - Individual School Photos

Thursday 23rd October - PTA Discos - more details to follow

Friday 24th October – PTA Pre-loved uniform sale after school, Break up for half term

Premier Holiday Camp over October Half Term

Monday 3rd November - **INSET DAY - NO CHILDREN AT SCHOOL - STAFF TRAINING**

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday and Parade (Alameda Cenotaph at 11am)

Monday 10th November - Road safety week, Y4 SHEU survey, Park Runs assembly, Rotary Shoe boxes collected

Tuesday 11th November - 2:45 Parent Volunteer session (please see below)

Thursday 13th November - 7:30pm PTA meeting at the Wingfield Club - do come and join us - everyone welcome!

Friday 14th November - Children in Need Day - challenge yourself to 25 - non-uniform day where children will do one challenge involving the number 25 during the day to raise money for this worthy cause

Sunday 16th November - Park Run - Foundation Stage Challenge (more information to follow)

Monday 17th November - Anti-bullying and UK Parliament Week, Curriculum, Learning and Standards Governors' meeting at 6:30pm

Russell Lower School

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Thursday 20th November - Open the Book assembly for KS1

Friday 21st November - Inclusion Coffee Morning (more information to follow)

Sunday 23rd November - Park Run - Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2) Challenge (more information to follow)

Monday 24th November - Santa Challenge begins

Wednesday 26th November - Foundation Stage Maths workshop to parents - 9:15am, main hall, KS1 and 2 Maths workshops to parents, 2:30 - 3:15pm, Year 4 Science enrichment (pm) with Alameda at Russell

Thursday 27th November - New Intake meeting (Foundation Stage September 2026) - 9:30am

Friday 28th November - Y4 WW1 enrichment day, PTA Mistletoe Mingle, 3:30 - 4:15pm (KS1 playground and Nathan's Garden)

Sunday 30th November - Park Run - Key Stage 2 (Y3 and Y4) Challenge (more information to follow)

Wednesday 3rd December - Year 3 festival for some children (More information to follow)

Thursday 4th December - Open the Book assembly, KS2

Friday 5th December - Christmas jumper and activity morning - come in and join us until 10am!

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th November - St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival all weekend - our Y4 choir will be performing on Sunday lunchtime - please save the day!

Monday 8th December - Full governors meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday 9th December - Foundation Stage Nativity to parents at 9:30am - more information to follow

Wednesday 10th December - Christmas lunch day, Foundation Stage Nativity to parents at 2:25pm (and then the children can go home)

Thursday 11th December - PTA Elfridges begins, Year 2 Christmas Performance to parents at 2:15pm and 5:45pm (children can go home following performances)

Friday 12th December - PTA Elfridges continues

Tuesday 16th December - Year 4 visit the Theatre (am), Year 1 visit the Theatre (pm)

Wednesday 17th December - Year 3 visit the Theatre (am), Foundation Stage (Swan/Doves/Swifts) visit the Theatre (pm)

Thursday 18th December - Year 2 visit to the Theatre (am), Year 4 choir visits to local care homes (pm)

Friday 19th December - Rotakids 'break the rules day' - more information to follow, break up for Christmas holidays

Monday 5th January 2026 - INSET DAY - school CLOSED for staff training

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - Children return to school after the Christmas break

Wednesday 7th January 2026 - Year 3 Faith Tour, Foundation Stage Vision Screening

Thursday 8th January 2026 - Mental Health Schools Team in to support Year 1 children and staff with emotion coaching

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

Governor Vacancy

Russell Lower School is looking to recruit a co-opted governor to join the full board, at what is an exciting time for the school with the appointment of a new Headteacher from January 2026. The

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

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board's role is to: develop a vision and strategy for the school; oversee the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent; ensure that every pupil has the best possible education and to engage with pupils, staff, parents and the school community to understand their views.

The commitment would be to attend 6 meetings a year, which are held on a Monday from 6:30pm and normally last for up to 2 hours, plus completing preparatory reading of documents received ahead of the meetings. In addition, a willingness to undertake some visits to the school to help monitor the work that is done and to engage with stakeholders.

Induction training is provided for new governors and there are lots of opportunities for ongoing development. To be eligible to volunteer you need: the time to contribute; to be aged 18 or over; not to be disqualified under the relevant rules and procedures.

If you would like to apply or require further information, please contact the clerk on clerk@russell-lower.co.uk Deadline for applications is 31st October 2025.

*****NEW*** Term Dates 2026/27:**

These have now been agreed with all lower and middle schools in Ampthill, Flitwick and Maulden and can be found on the website and **attached** to this email. Thank you for not booking holidays in term time. We really appreciate it.

MHST Workshops

Thank you to all the parents who came to the workshop on Friday 26th September - they (and we) were delighted with the turn out.

The MHST (Mental Health Schools Team) are brilliant! They are running further sessions this term - do try and take advantage of them, if you can.



Central Bedfordshire Community Access Service

Upcoming Events

Online Workshops for Parents & Caregivers
Click on each to sign up or scan the QR code!

DATE	TOPIC	TIME
OCTOBER 07	Understanding & supporting mental health in children & young people for parents & caregivers	4-5 PM
NOVEMBER 11	Understanding the teenage brain & supporting sleep age 11+ for parents & caregivers	4-5 PM
NOVEMBER 19	Sleep Hygiene age 5-11 years for parents & caregivers	12-1 PM
DECEMBER 02	Supporting your child's low mood for parents & caregivers	12-1 PM

We care
We respect
We are inclusive

NHS
East London
NHS Foundation Trust

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Parent helper?

The next Parent Volunteer Session will be running on **Tuesday 11th November at 2:45pm** (please come to the office on arrival). This is aimed at anybody that would like to help out in the classroom that has not completed one of these sessions before.

You will need to attend this session alongside having a current Russell School DBS check (which can be arranged via the office) before you are able to help in class.

Please note, you do not need to attend this session to qualify as a helper on occasional school trips/festivals.

If you would like to attend please complete this Google Form

<https://forms.gle/5ecgN7B7xcJz7JsUA> by **Friday 7th November**. Thank you in advance.

Modeshift Stars:

Modeshift STARS is the Centre of Excellence for the delivery of Effective Travel Plans in Education, Business and Community settings. The STARS Education scheme recognises schools and other educational establishments that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel. We are delighted to report that Russell has just been awarded this in recognition of all our collective hard work - thank you and well done, everyone!

Do you want a definitive guide on childhood illnesses and whether to go to school? Please see here:

For NHS-recommended advice on common childhood illnesses and guidance on when your child should stay off school, visit [Patient.info](https://patient.info)

Does your child go to swimming lessons at Flitwick Leisure Centre (FLC), or want to?

Did you know every child that signs up for Swimming Lessons or Sports Courses at FLC gets a FREE 12-month Kids Pass! You can join today by calling 01525 493131 and press option 1 for the membership team to enquire about availability!

<https://joinonline.everyoneactive.com/lessons>

ALSO... This winter, your child's swimming journey could lead to something truly unforgettable, a magical family trip to Lapland! Simply enrol your child in swimming lessons with FLC before 14th December, and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win this magical experience.

Already learning with FLC ? Great news – you're already in the draw!

Find out more: <https://www.everyoneactive.com/lapland>

Ampt Hill United Charities (AUC):

This year AUC is looking at offering support not just to the elderly, but also families and those most in need. Please see the attached information and know that it is available to anyone in need.

[Attachment](#)

Free School Meals 'Census' Day

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A huge thank you for your support with our Census Day - we had a whopping 91% of children have school meals that day, which means that we are able to reach our maximum budget allocation in the area - thank you all again for your support.

Safeguarding at Russell:

Safeguarding is of paramount importance at Russell Lower School. Russell Lower School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Our safeguarding and child protection procedures can be found in our Safeguarding Policy under our policies section on the website.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Sarah Knight (Inclusion Lead)



The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Louise Bunney (Deputy Headteacher) and Nicki Walker (Headteacher)



Louise Bunney



Nicki Walker

The Governor responsible for Safeguarding is Mrs Hannah Leech.

You can speak to the DSL/DDSLs in person, by calling the office on 01525 755664 or by emailing safeguarding@russell-lower.co.uk

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Headteacher Recruitment update:

Governors were delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Mr Glenn Young last week - as you will have seen, we are a lucky school! Over the coming months, Mr Young will be joining us at school to meet key stakeholders and to enable a thorough handover. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support throughout the process. We are excited for the future!

REMINDER - School admissions to Foundation Stage in September 2026 and Middle Schools:

It's that time of year again! Even though the children have only just started in their new year group, you need to make your applications now:

Children born between 01/09/21 and 31/08/22 are due to start school in September 2026.

Parents/ carers need to make an application to CBC **by 15 January 2026, even if their child attends a nursery/pre-school on the school site.** All the information you will need regarding your Starting School 2026 application is available on the CBC website (see hyperlink below).

Year 4 parents, please bear in mind that applications for **Middle School are also needed within the same timescales i.e. before 15th January 2026.** Please note: this will not just happen automatically.

[School admissions | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

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 half term is:

Autumn 1: Respect

Autumn 2: Thoughtfulness

PE and festivals news:

We now have our Year 4 Sports Leaders in place and they have received their first session of training via Redborne Sports Partnership. They will be working with Mrs Cox over the next half term to get up and running in leading fun and active sessions across the school over lunch times.

Our sports leaders for this year are:

Woodpeckers - Anna, Zara, Grayson, James

Starlings - Georgia, Harrison, Mia

Kingfishers - Ajama, Joey, Jack

Well done to them all!

Community events:

Please see below

And finally:

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

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Many thanks and kind regards,

Nicki Walker
Headteacher

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**WITH
SPRING LOADED
CEILIDH BAND**

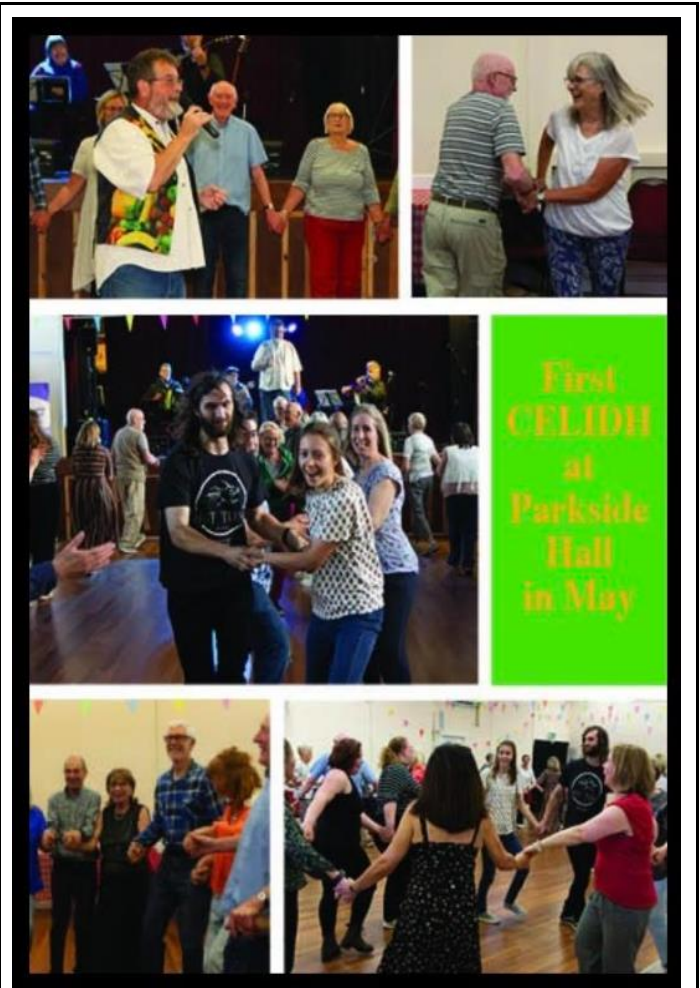
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER | 7.30PM
PARKSIDE HALL, AMPHILL MK45 2HX

MUSIC | DANCING | BAR | HOT DOGS | RAFFLE

TICKETS £15 AVAILABLE FROM
NO.14 AMPHILL (CASH),
TRYBOOKING.COM/UK/FELS
OR THE QR CODE

All payments at event by
card please

**amphill
cultural
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Thursday 9th - Sunday 12th July 2026
Alameda Sports Field, Ampthill

Please join us for a

Big Tent Weekend 2026 **Information Evening**

Tuesday 14th October 2025

The Marquee, Ampthill Rugby Club

8pm

Come along and get involved...whether you are interested in **sponsoring, volunteering** or maybe you want to **learn more about our plans so far** and have **some ideas to add** in the mix, you will be very welcome!

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Greensand Community Methodist Church communities

Our Come and Try evenings are returning on the following three Thursdays 9th, 16th and 23rd. These evenings are completely free.

Please share the attached file with your families

Thank you in anticipation of your support

Flitwick Boys Brigade & Girls Association



Our "**COME & TRY**" evenings are back.

Starting Thursday 9th October and continuing 16th and 23rd October.

Meeting at **Greensand Community Methodist Church** in Chapel Road Flitwick MK45 1EA

All sessions are free of charge

Spaces in all age groups:

Anchors (age 5 to school year 3) and

Juniors (School Years 4-6)

6. 15pm - 7.30pm

Please email 1flitwickBBGA@gmail.com to register your child's place and for more details

Bedfordshire Ballerz - October Half Term Camp

We have our October half term activities running in the below areas;

- Flitwick - Flitwick Lower school, Temple Way, Bedford MK45 1LU
- Bedford - Hazeldene School, Stancliff Road MK41 9AT
- Dunstable - Beecroft Academy, Westfield Rd, Dunstable LU6 1DW

The link below will also lead parents and guardians to our website for more information.

[Holiday Courses](#) | [Creative Sports Coaching](#)

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