**JUNE NEWSLETTER**

JUNE 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our June 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 since the previous newsletter.*

**Monday 20th June** – Friendship letter home for Year 2 and Year 3 children (these two year groups will be the only ones where children are ‘mixed’ into new classes for the following year)

**Tuesday 21st June** – History off the Page visit Year 1

**Wednesday 22nd June –** *School Council litter pick,*PTA meeting at 7:30pm

**Friday 24th June** – Year 2 and 3 friendship letter deadlines

**Saturday 25th June –** Litter pick with PTA and ACCG (Ampthill Climate Change Group), 1 – 3pm meet on Foundation Stage Playground

***Monday 27th June –*** *Alameda transition assembly*

**Tuesday 28th June –** Big Concert at Russell day *(with Inspiring Music and Redborne)*

**Wednesday 29th June** – Russell Lower School Sports Day Morning (am), Ladybirds Sports Afternoon (pm) *More information about sports day and timings will follow soon*

**Thursday 30th June** – History Day Year 1

**Friday 1st July –** Krispy Crème Friday – run by PTA on field after school

***Saturday 2nd July*** *– Nathan’s Garden fence painting (PTA)*

**Sunday 3rd July –** Ampthill parade and gala day – more information below

**Monday 4th July** – Y2 Cricket festival, 6:30 CLS Governors meeting

**Wednesday 6th July** – Y3 and 4 girls’ football festival

**Thursday 7th July –** Russell Lower School Commonwealth Games – more information to follow, possible PTA Quiz Night (more information to follow)

**Friday 8th July** – Middle school transition day, Class swap at Russell day, stay and play sessions for new Foundation Stage 2022, *Danny Butler Extreme Bike Show to school (pm)*

**Saturday 9th July** – PTA Inflatable fun day (more details to follow)

**Monday 11th July** – 6:30pm Full Governors meeting

**Tuesday 12th July** – 2:30pm and 6pm – Year 4 performance to parents (tickets and more information to follow)

**Wednesday 13th July** – Foundation Stage Visit to Herrings Green Farm, Alameda meet the tutor night

**Thursday 14th July** – 2:30pm and 6pm – Year 1 performance to parents (tickets and more information to follow)

**Friday 15th July** – End of year school reports home to all, *PTA sunflower competition ends*

**Monday 18th July –** 2:30pm onwards – Open afternoon – parents invited in to see children’s books/work and classrooms, parents may take children home when they have finished, PTA sunflower competition winners announced in assembly

**Tuesday 19th July –** 9:15am Year 4 Leavers’ Assembly (with parents), 1:15 – 3:30pm Year 4 Leavers’ Party (no parents)

**Thursday 21st July –** last day of school – Break up for summer

**Friday 22nd July – Friday 2nd September – Summer holiday – Premier Sports Camps running much of the holiday (Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September are INSET days)**

**Monday 5th September** – All children (Y1 to 4) back at school, new Foundation Stage children will start later. Home visits continue

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

**Summer heat:**

Please can we request that children have sun cream applied to them before coming to school? This should then last all day. Children can apply their own ‘top ups’ of cream during the day, but please do show the children how to do this first. The children are getting in a bit of a mess and often then rub cream in their eyes! Ouch! Please always encourage them to wash their hands carefully after applying it too. We would love to help, but with 30 children in each class it is simply impossible. Thank you in advance.

Please can we remind you that any sandals worn must be appropriate and safe for school. Suitable school style sandals are those with no open toes and full ‘backs’. Please also be aware that tights or socks must be worn (either ankle or knee-length).

Please do ensure your child always has a water bottle with them, and a hat on sunny days. Thank you again.

**Uniform:**

Please can you ensure your child does not come to school wearing trainers for a normal school day? We do not want standards to slip in any way at all as we approach the summer holidays. Thank you.

**Staff update:**

We are currently planning our staffing for September and this will be finalised soon. However, staffing will remain fairly stable going forward. We are very sad to tell you that Mr Syrett will be leaving us in the summer to follow his passion in supporting children’s emotional needs away from the classroom. We all love Mr Syrett and will be so sad to see him leave, but we are also so pleased to know that he will be continuing to support children, following his passions and using his immense skills and talents. We wish him every success in his future career.

The new Blackbird Class teacher will be Mrs Thompson (formerly Miss Rawlings who is currently on maternity leave from Year 4) and a very experienced ‘Russell’ teacher already. We are really looking forward to having Mrs Thompson back with us. Likewise, Mrs Bunney will be returning (3 days a week in the autumn term and then full time from January) next academic year. We (okay, yes, especially me) can’t wait! We have really missed her!

The teaching team for next academic year will be:

**Foundation Stage:**

Mrs Brown – Swan Class (FS lead)

Ms Leung – Swift Class

Miss Cranston – Dove Class

**Year 1:**

Mrs Milligan – Owl Class

Mrs Cox - Puffin Class

Mrs Jochacy (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Mrs Rogers (Thursday, Friday) – Wren Class

**Year 2:**

Miss Sensoy – Penguin Class

Mrs Johnson – Greenfinch Class

Mrs Hitchings – Robin Class (KS1 Lead)

**Year 3:**

Miss Walker – Goldfinch Class

Mrs Thompson (Miss Rawlings) – Blackbird Class

Mrs Nilletti (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and Mrs Salih (Miss Thompson) – Nightingale Class

**Yea 4:**

Ms Lyons – Woodpecker Class

Mrs Moffat – Starling Class

Mrs Tuck – Kingfisher Class (KS2 Lead)

We are so lucky to have such an experienced, talented and stable teaching team, especially at a time when so many other schools are really struggling to recruit.

Children will spend a morning with their new class teacher on Friday 8th July. A letter will come home on Thursday 7th July, letting you know who this will be. We deliberately only send it the day before so that any possible anxiety and worry is minimised. If your child should come home concerned, please reassure them: all the teachers at Russell are lovely and they will soon ‘settle in’ and they will definitely be with some of their friends (even if they are in Y2 or Y3 who will be ‘mixed’ this year). Thank you.

**End of Year Reports:**

We are committed to ensuring that all parents received full written reports regarding their children’s attainment and efforts each year. These will be coming home on Friday 15th July. Please forgive me this year: although I have sampled and read many of the reports, I will be unable to individually comment on each report. As you know, Mrs Bunney is currently on maternity leave and it would simply mean that absolutely nothing else at school would get done for several weeks while I read and commented on 450 reports. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

**Ampthill Gala and parade:**

This year, we will again be joining the Gala day parade on Sunday 3rd July. This year we will be creating a red, white and blue ‘River of Hope’ to celebrate the jubilee. Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Google Form to let us know they will be joining us. Fingers crossed for more great weather now!

**More Russell Raiders news:**

Russell Raiders took part in the Silsoe Lower School football tournament on Saturday 11th June.

**Year 4 had another great set of results!**

Two teams were entered (morning team/afternoon team), with the morning team coming second overall and the afternoon team winning the trophy!

All the boys were truly fantastic and deserved their victories.  Well done to the teams:

Afternoon team: Harry S, Matthew W, Lennon, Finlay, Joseph D, Alfie, Harley S and Isaac B

Morning team: Oscar, Joe G, Fergus, Harry T, Ronnie, Oliver H, Kayden and Daniel.

And a special mention to team mates: Oliver S, Jack, Archer and Finnian who couldn't make this tournament.

The coaches (Gary, Paul, Ian and Andy) are all super proud of you!

**Year 3:**Year 3 had a great day too, with the morning team not losing a single game or conceding a single goal, even though the team do not regularly play together.  In addition, the team won the 'Fair Play' trophy with the comment of 'This is what I want to see in children's grass roots football - they embodied the spirit of football,’ from the officials.  What incredible feedback - myself and your coaches are super proud of you for being such respectful representatives of our school and your club! Special well done goes to: Jude F, Archie G, Finley S, Toby H, Evelyn Y, Presley R and Ben B.

**Year 1:**

After a great day of football, the year 1 team also picked up the Fair Play Trophy too!  This is an incredible reflection on the team.  The referee and organisers were really impressed with the attitude of all the Russell players: they were positive throughout, whether winning or losing and never moaned about being substituted.

The children involved were: Monty W, Teddy P, Leo F, Albert K, Leo D, Teddy C, Alfie L, Mason V, Matthew D, Oliver H.

Well done to everyone!  What a great day!

**CBC children and young people’s plan:**

We have been asked to share the following message: Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Luton and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), East London Foundation Trust (ELFT), Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS), SNAP Parent Carer Forum and Bedfordshire Police are working together on the Children and Young People's Plan for 2022-25.

The Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People’s Plan 2018-21 explained how services would work together to support and help children and young people to enjoy life, have high aspirations and reach their goals. CBC are updating the Plan for 2022-25 and sent out a survey to get parents’ thoughts. The previous plan was created and delivered before and during the pandemic. We know that the pandemic has disproportionately affected children and young people, so it will be important for us all to ensure the plan outlines the right services and support for them to be the best they can be.

Following the survey, CBC are now holding a **co-production workshop**to make sure their plan reflects the views of our community. They would like to invite parents / carers to take part in a 2-hour workshop which will be held on ***Wednesday 22nd June 2022 between 4pm – 6pm via Microsoft Teams.***

Places are limited to 30 attendees and tickets are available until 12pm on Tuesday 21st June 2022. Please register your expression of interest using the link below: [*www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/children-and-young-peoples-plan-co-production-workshop-for-parents-tickets-359503744377*](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/children-and-young-peoples-plan-co-production-workshop-for-parents-tickets-359503744377)

**Who to contact** **CSTT@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**

**Reminder - Keech Hospice:**

Keech Hospice Care is a charity which supports adults from Luton and South Bedfordshire, and children from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes, who have life-limiting illnesses. They are unique as they are one of the few hospices in the UK which provides care for both adults and children.

***They are a charity, relying on their supporters for around 70% of their funding. This means they need to raise over £6 million every year (over £16,000 every day!) to continue their specialist care for adults and children, and their families.*** They are enormously grateful for whatever you can do or give.

After a very difficult 2 years for Keech, they are delighted to be holding their **Colour Dash Family Fun 5K on Sunday 17 July 2022 at the Luton Regional Recreation Ground, St. Thomas’s Road, Luton, LU2 7UX.**  If you think you could join in to raise funds, please visit <https://www.keech.org.uk/whats-on/colour-dash/> for more information. Thank you in advance.

**And finally:**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Have a lovely weekend, when it arrives.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Nicki Walker

Headteacher