

# Russell Street School

## Newsletter

Autumn (First Half Term) 2020



## Message from our Headteacher

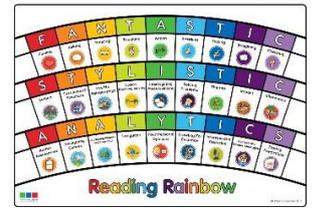
We would all like to extend a huge thank you to you all for supporting us in ensuring a safe full opening of Russell Street School. I am extremely pleased with how all of the children have settled into school life. They have been an absolute delight. Every member of staff has highly praised their class for their behaviour, attitude to learning and willingness to follow new routines and guidelines. Mrs Robinson's year 2 class are enjoying the morning greeting of 'Good morning Mrs Robinsons!'

Whilst adults other than staff are currently unable to enter the main school building, I do realise that on occasion you may need to discuss personal information with myself or a member of staff. To ensure this can happen, we have redesigned the main entrance of school. Office staff are now based in the previous headteacher's office with a new hatch so that you are able to enter school and speak safely to office staff. Beyond the new front office we now have a redesigned meeting area (this is where the office staff used to be situated). If you need a face-to-face meeting with a member of school staff, these can take place in this area. These meetings need to be pre-arranged. The meeting room is well ventilated and discussions can take place at a 2 metre distance. My office is now in the centre of the school amongst the children.

This newsletter contains a brief summary of some of the school improvements being introduced across the school this term. Each week we will send you more in-depth information of each improvement so that you will be able to fully support your child at home. Thank you to all of the staff who have worked incredibly hard to implement such a large amount of initiatives in a very short period of time.

I will always try to be on the playground at the start and end of the day. Please raise any questions you may have with me. I am more than happy to support you in any way I can. You may also email the school office ([office@russell-street-school.co.uk](mailto:office@russell-street-school.co.uk)) if you would like me to call you.

Kind regards  
Mrs Robinson



**The Write Stuff and Book Talk**

From Reception onwards children will use the writing and reading rainbows to support and very quickly enhance their writing and reading comprehension skills. Each of the lenses (the circles you can see on the rainbows) focus on vocabulary teaching and provides a solid structure for writing and reading. The lenses ensure every child fully understands the mechanics of writing and reading. SMSG use the Key Stage Two version of this approach, therefore the children will have a seamless transition through to the junior school. Reception children will be introduced to Grandma and Grandpa Fantastic who will introduce a wide range of new vocabulary to the children.



New Curriculum Unit  
Dinosaur Roar!

**New Curriculum Units**

The curriculum has been completely redesigned. Each year group now has explicit in-depth knowledge and skills that are revisited over time to ensure all learning is retained in the long-term memory of the children. Staff will share knowledge organisers and skills overviews with you this term. Many exciting 'wow' moments have been planned for the children so that their learning is as exciting as possible.

**Read Write Inc Phonics**

Read Write Inc. is now used to teach phonics. Read Write Inc. is a whole-school approach to teaching literacy that creates fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers. It integrates phonics with comprehension, writing, grammar, spelling and handwriting. Children's phonic knowledge and writing is very rapidly acquired in Reception and can be used with Nursery children as soon as they are ready.



**Power Maths**

Power Maths will be used for Maths teaching in Reception. This is a mastery approach that links seamlessly into the Maths No Problem approach already used in KS1 and at SMSG.

**Jigsaw**

Jigsaw is now used from Nursery through to Year 2. This is a comprehensive Programme for PSHE (personal, social and health education) that provides children with relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others. There is a strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health.



**Continuous Cursive Handwriting**

Children will now learn continuous cursive handwriting from Nursery. This style of handwriting means that children's writing should always sit on the line. As soon as they are ready, children will naturally join their writing without needing to be taught a second style of handwriting.

**Year 2 Recorders**

After October half term, every child in year 2 will be taught how to play the recorder. There will be no charge for these lessons. Children will be taught in small socially distanced groups and will be given their own recorder.



**Houses**

Children in Years 1 and 2 are being placed into house groups. Reception children will be placed in house groups later in the academic year. Mrs Van Rooyen will be sending you a ParentMail asking if you would like your child placed in the same colour house as any siblings/cousins they have at SMSG. Whilst at the moment children are not able to cross bubbles, we do hope in the future that the two schools can have joint sports days and other events where children can work in houses together.