



Russells Reporter

Autumn Term 2024



'Working together to be the best that we can be'



As we come to the end the first half of the autumn term, it gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the fantastic developments happening here at Russells Hall. Our pupils continue to amaze us with their achievements, and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some exciting highlights from the past 8 weeks.



Thank you to **British Gas** who helped us revamp the mobiles area during the summer and to **WPA** for giving us a grant which means we have been able to purchase balance bikes and accessories for Reception, to improve their motor skills.



You've really made a difference!

Visitors to school



We've been really fortunate to have a number of visitors to school this half term including: ABM to do an assembly on Healthy Eating, Word Guerilla to inspire us with poetry, PCSOs to begin our Junior PCSO initiative with Year 5, PC Cat Purser to work with Year 5 and 6 explaining how to keep themselves safe now the nights are turning darker, Sonia Kumar to visit our Polling Station during our Pupil Parliament elections and Reflexions to introduce the work they do around supporting Mental Health to the children.



Attendance Update 🌟

We're delighted to announce that our attendance rate has been steadily improving! A few weeks ago, we achieved **96.1% attendance, our best yet for the term!** Our overall attendance for this half term is **94%**, which is just below National of 94.5%. The best class this half term is: **3M with 96.9%**, closely followed by **6BP with 96.2%** and **3CW with 95.3%**. Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to improve attendance.

Please remember that gates open at 8.40am so that children can be in class in time to begin their learning at 8.45am. We appreciate your punctuality and ensuring a strong start for all.

Hot Chocolate Friday

We've had our first **HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY** awards, a treat for some of the children who have shown us excellence in their attendance. I understand that some of you may feel concerned about fairness, and I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify how the selection process works and why we believe this initiative will be a positive experience for all the children.

The children are chosen at random, ensuring that every student has an equal chance to be selected over time. Since it's obviously impossible for everyone to have hot chocolate each week, the random selection ensures fairness, and every child will have the opportunity to be recognized throughout the year. This means that while some children may not have been chosen this week, they will certainly have chances in the future.



A New Addition to the Russells Hall Family! 🍼

We are overjoyed to share that Mrs Taylor has welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world! We wish her and her family all the best during this special time. Congratulations, Mrs Taylor!

Excellence Ambassadors

We are incredibly proud to announce that **105** of our children have recently been awarded the **Excellence Values Badge**, recognizing their dedication, hard work, and commitment to one of our school's core values. This achievement reflects not only their individual efforts but also the wonderful community we have built together.

As we move into the next half term, we're excited to embrace our new value: **Love**. We encourage all our children to share kindness and compassion in their interactions with one another, alongside our school rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe and thank you for your continued support in nurturing these values both at home and in our school!



Reception Animal Man Visit 🐸



Reception had a wonderful visit from Chris, 'The Animal Man'. The children met a Kookaburra named Oggie, two hissing cockroaches, a baby boa constrictor called Dave and a corn snake called Dexter. Lots of children enjoyed holding the snakes in their hands or having Dexter around their necks. They also met a dessert Gecko named Velvet because he was super soft.



There was also a legless lizard called Princess Peach who had a superpower of losing her tail if she got caught by a predator. She could then regrow her tail by eating lots of fruit. The children also met a Tenrec called Peter who looked like a small hedgehog. One of the children's favourite animals was a Skunk called Bert. Chris told the children where the animals came from and what they liked to eat. He told us a story about Oggie who had been very loud one day and when he went to check he had caught a grass snake a few days ago. The children loved meeting all of the animals.



The children in Reception raised £90. This will allow us to sponsor 3 animals from Brockwood Animal Sanctuary in Sedgley. RP have chosen Freya the Fox, RG have picked Malcom the Emu and the third animal we will sponsor is Duke the Donkey. We will soon receive a certificate of sponsorships, a photograph of each animal, a fact sheet about our animals and the school and classes will be displayed outside the animal's home at the animal sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

Year 6 Black Country Museum Trip 🚗

On Tuesday 8th October Year 6 visited the Black Country Living Museum in preparation for their topic on The Industrial Revolution. They explored the natural resources of our local area and learnt about how coal, limestone and iron ore were extracted and the dangers associated with mining in the area. The children witnessed exciting experiments which highlighted the explosive nature of Methane gas and suffocating effects of Carbon Dioxide. We walked alongside the canals to view the barges used to transport the mined materials.

The highlight of the day was a guided tour of a mine to experience for ourselves the difficult working conditions the miners faced. It certainly was an unforgettable experience!



Year 1 Think Tank Trip

On Tuesday 15th October Year 1 visited the Thinktank in Birmingham. They had an amazing time exploring and enhancing their learning to support their science knowledge. The children learnt a lot about space, linking to their current book in Literacy 'Sidney, Stella and the Moon' to support our writing.

First, we explored the Science Garden, which is an outdoor discovery area bringing themes of engineering, mechanics and transportation. The children particularly enjoyed the water machinery and the rocket ship machine. Next, they explored the 'We Made It' section, which was full of many different inventions to explore, it included full scale cars, motorbikes and bicycles. Then, they went into the Planetarium, which is a theatre under a dome, specially designed to help us explore astronomy, space, and the night sky. Inside the Planetarium, images of space appeared all around, and the children were completely immersed in learning about the planets and constellations. The staff were very impressed with the knowledge about space that the children had remembered from school. MiniBum was the next exhibition, MiniBum is Thinktank's very own mini city, where children are in charge! Year 1 enjoyed pretending to play as doctors, shopkeepers, engineers and construction workers. After lunch, they visited the 'Wildlife' and 'Things About Me' exhibitions. The wildlife exhibition allowed them to explore life on Earth, past and present. The 'Things About Me' exhibition taught them about the human body including body parts such as the heart, lungs and ears.

We are so proud of Year 1 for showcasing all of their science knowledge and being so sensible during our visit! We had a great day and learnt so much.



Pupil Parliament Elections 🗳️

We are pleased to announce that our Pupil Parliament elections were a huge success! The pupils took their campaigning very seriously, and we were fortunate to have a special guest, MP for Dudley, Sonia Kumar, join us on election day. The newly elected members are excited to represent their peers and make a positive impact on our school community.

Word Guerilla Visit 🗣️



Our pupils were treated to an inspiring visit from the Word Guerilla this term! Through fun and interactive workshops, the children explored the power of words and storytelling, learning new ways to express themselves creatively. It was an inspiring session that left many budding writers eager to sharpen their skills.



Harvest Celebration 🌾

On 4th October, we kicked off our Harvest celebrations with a special assembly to learn about the work of food banks and how they help those in need. The day was filled with harvest-themed activities, centered around the thought-provoking book, "**It's a No Money Day.**" The children reflected on the importance of helping others. This led to our main event on 7th October, when the children brought in their generous donations for the Black Country Food Bank.

A special thank you to our Pupil Parliament and Play Champions for organising all the donations. Your generosity was overwhelming – we had to ask the food bank for extra crates to hold everything! ❤️



Year Two visit Avoncroft

On a wonderful journey to Avoncroft Museum in Bromsgrove, our Year 2 children immersed themselves in hands-on history. They eagerly took part in brick making and wattle and daub workshops, discovering the old ways of building with their own hands. The adventure didn't stop there! The children explored the historic Town House, Nailers Cottage, and Toll House, stepping back in time to see how people lived and worked in the past. It was a day filled with learning, creativity, and excitement—a perfect blend of education and fun for our curious little learners!

Celebration Assembly

We've had our first **Celebration Assembly** of the term! It was a fantastic event where we handed out lots of badges, along with a few special medallions and trophies, recognizing the amazing achievements of our students. We're so proud of all their hard work and can't wait to see even more accomplishments throughout the term!

Parents Evening

A big thank you to everyone who came to Parents' Evening! It was great to chat with some of you about your child's progress and celebrate their achievements. Your support means a lot to us, and we're excited to keep working together to help your children thrive. Thanks again for your time and involvement!

As always, I am incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership in your child's learning journey. The enthusiasm of our pupils and the dedication of our staff, combined with your involvement, create an environment where every child can thrive.

Have a great and safe Half Term! See you all on 4th November.

Much love from Miss Harrison and all RHPS staff

Remembrance 2024

From **Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November 2024** Pupil Parliament will be selling poppy items for The Royal British Legion in aid of Remembrance.

Bracelets £1, poppy to clip on zip 50p, paper poppy & stickers 20p. ALL proceeds go to the RBL.

We are asking that children bring the correct money as change cannot be given.



On **Monday 11th November 2024** we are asking any children who are part of a uniformed organisation - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts to wear their uniform to school for the day.



Many thanks for your support.