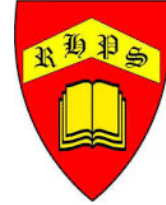


Russells Reporter

Autumn Term 2023

Issue 2



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

It has been another very busy term here at Russells Hall, filled with exciting events and achievements. I am delighted to share some highlights with you.

Attendance

146 children have had their **100% Attendance Badge** Awarded for Autumn Term 2. Every child will have the chance to earn their Spring 1 badge after Christmas and we are looking for our **Attendance Ambassadors** who will be presented with trophies for 100% Attendance at the end of the year. Last year, 8 children received this honour.

Our whole school attendance is currently 93.47%, just below the National average of 93.6% This is just wonderful!




Congratulations to 2H, who have the highest attendance this half term with 95.83%, closely followed by 4BP with 95.36%, 6T with 95.27% and 2A with 95.05%.

Your support in ensuring your child's punctuality and attendance, is invaluable as it sets the foundation for their academic success. Thank you!

Together, let's make every school day count!

Reading

We expect every child to read, or be read to, every night for between **10 to 20 minutes**. Please could we remind parents that books need to be returned in your child's book bag **every day**. Please look after the books that are sent home - we have had to start charging some to replace books that have come back torn, written in or have had liquid or food spilt on them which has made them unreadable.

Why Reading 20 Minutes a Night is so Critical		
Student A	Student B	Student C
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,00 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standard tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

Extending our school day by 15 minutes has meant we have been able to prioritise reading and we're so proud of the progress the children are making!





BADGES

We celebrate children's successes in our **Celebration Assembly** each week.

Collectively, children in Years 3 to 6 have read an extra **10,057,926** words since my last newsletter, bringing the total to a huge **16,370,428 words read since September!**

Position	Class	Total Class Word Count
1	6B	4,814,292 (426 QUIZZES)
2	5P	4,349,113 (526 QUIZZES)
3	5HR	2,906,908 (535 QUIZZES)
4	6T	2,106,713 (378 QUIZZES)
5	4BP	934,804 (305 QUIZZES)
6	4T	836,570 (331 QUIZZES)
7	3P	248,838 (356 QUIZZES)
8	3M	170,305 (226 QUIZZES)
w/b 21/12/23		Total =16,370,428 words
Change from last week		1,717,831 extra words read

48 children have received their badge for reading **100,000 words**

16 children have received their badge for reading **250,000 words**

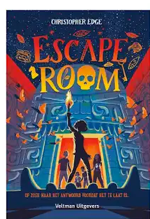
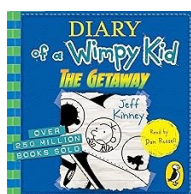
5 children have received their badge for reading **500,000 words**

2 children have received their badge for reading **750,000 words**

1 child has received their badge for reading **1 million words** and has been presented with a **£5 Amazon voucher** to spend on extending her reading library at home!

Author of the Month.

Every month, we champion a different author to the children to enthuse them to read books that they might not have chosen before. Broadening their reading experience and helping them to enjoy a range of authors is really important in creating lifelong readers. Please find below the list of our Authors of the Month so far...



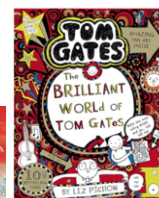
September: Liz Pichon's 'Tom Gates' books

October: Jeff Kinney's 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'

November: Michael Morpurgo

December: Christopher Edge

January: TO BE REVEALED!!!!



Writing

26 children have now received their **Red Writing Badge** for producing 2 pieces of writing that shows consistency, flair and the use of the range of sticky knowledge they have been taught this half term. Their books are all very impressive!

Maths

In Celebration Assembly, children are also rewarded for progress on **Times Tables Clubs**-

25 children have been awarded a badge for achieving 5 weeks' progress in Arithmetic fluency. The children bring home their Times Tables and Arithmetic tests every

week so that you can see where they are getting stuck. We do a lot of work in school to support this but ask that you please also keep practising with your children.

Values Ambassadors



We are proud to have awarded **over 100 children** with Values Ambassadors badges for **UNDERSTANDING** this half term. Our next value to focus on is **SUCCESS**, and I am confident that our children will continue to demonstrate this value in their academic and personal achievements.



The badges that children are awarded this year should be worn daily. Once they reach 10, they will be given a medallion and can pin the badges onto the lanyard.

8 children have now been awarded their medallion so far. We are now planning how to commemorate their next target of 20 badges. Look out for several new challenges after Christmas, and for new ways of earning more badges to come!

It is so important that we celebrate excellence and success together

SPORTS



At the beginning of term, the football team played a match against Milking Bank. Although the result did not go in our favor, I want to commend the team for their efforts and sportsmanship. They displayed great determination and teamwork throughout the game, and we are proud of their commitment. If children represent our school in sports on 3 occasions, they will receive a badge. Thank you Mrs Ridley for your efforts in ensuring our children get these important chances to play competitive team sports!

SAFEGUARDING



I am thrilled to announce that **16 children from Year 6 have become Safeguarding Ambassadors.** They are now working closely with our Designated Safeguarding Leads on various projects, including the development of a child-friendly safeguarding policy. They have asked me to remind everyone to park carefully around the school premises to ensure the safety of all our students.

ANTIBULLYING



We have trained **26 Bullying Awareness Champions from Years 4, 5, and 6** in collaboration with Kidscape. These champions will be actively involved in promoting a positive and inclusive environment within our school community starting from the new year. Miss Gray will be working with these children on various projects after Christmas.

ARTISTS



I am also pleased to share that **12 children** from our After School Club participated in an art competition called 'Perfect Pets' in association with 'Young Writers' and will have their entries published in a book. Congratulations to all the talented young artists! Thank you Mrs Cooksey for organizing!



PUPIL PARLIAMENT



A special thank you goes to our Pupil Parliament for organizing this year's poppy appeal, which raised an impressive **£455.71**. They have also arranged our Christmas Bauble competition, and I would like to express my gratitude to all those who participated. The entries were beautiful and really difficult to judge.

The members of our Parliament will be involved in writing their own Development Plan after Christmas and will use this to focus their attention on improving more things for the school community, in collaboration with subject ambassadors and subject leaders. Listening to pupil voice is extremely important and in this way, more children's voices can be heard and ideas taken into consideration. Exciting times ahead! Thank you Mrs Hawker for your work and devotion in overseeing Pupil Parliament.

CHOIR



Our choir has been busy entertaining the local community, spreading joy through their performances at Russells Court Care Home and Broadmeadow Retirement Village. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to see your child perform at the end of the school day too. It is just lovely to be able to return to singing together again – a real spirit lifter! Thank you Miss Comley for inspiring us in all things musical.

NATIVITY



I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who supported our Nativity 'The Smallest Angel' this year. Your presence and encouragement meant a lot to our young performers. All **180 children in Reception, Year 1 and 2** had the opportunity to take part and all were extremely brave to get on the stage in front of such big audiences – thank you to the staff in EYFS and Key Stage 1 for their hard work and helping us begin Christmas so magically!

FUNDRAISING



Thank you to everyone who came and supported our **Christmas Fayre**. We were overwhelmed by the numbers and didn't know how well it would go, it being the first one after COVID. We raised an absolutely fabulous **£1677.14** and are already planning a Summer Fayre (outside) and next year's Christmas Fayre (hopefully complete with Santa), spread across a wider area of school. It was super to see the school community together like this again. Thank you to Miss Pritchard and Miss Gray for organising and for the Year 6 helpers who were absolutely fantastic through the afternoon in helping to set it up and run their stalls.

You have all been so incredibly generous this term and your support for the charities we've chosen to support has blown us away. We have raised:

£347.92 for Children in Need, £213.93 with our Rock Kidz day for Kenya, £204.68 for Birmingham Children's Hospital, plus the £455.71 mentioned above for the Poppy Appeal.

If you would like to get involved in helping to run future fayres, events and discos, please look out for a letter that Miss Pritchard will be sending in January to invite you to join a PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) so we can offer more of these events.





JUNIOR PCSOs

I am delighted to announce that our Junior PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) program has successfully concluded after six weeks of training. Our Junior PCSOs have gained valuable knowledge and skills that will contribute to their personal growth and the safety of our school community. They learnt about fire safety, first aid, road safety, helping in the community as well as the phonetic alphabet. We are very proud of you all! A big thank you to PCSO Ange and PCSO Clare for all of your hand work in helping us to learn, and to Mrs Hawker for organising.

EASYFUNDRAISING

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for easyfundraising. This platform allows you to support our school effortlessly while doing your online shopping. Your contributions through easyfundraising make a significant difference, and we are grateful for your support. Please sign up, it's easy and completely FREE! 8,100 brands will donate to us when you do your usual online shopping with them - at no extra cost to you! Just scan the QR code to get started.



SCHOOL DINNERS



Looking ahead, I am excited to announce that we will be welcoming a new catering company, **ABM** in January. Please remember to book your child's meals in advance in the usual way via the School Money app, to ensure their dietary needs are met.

CHAMPIONS



Our wall of CHAMPIONS is growing! A shout out to let us know that if your child does something above and beyond in the local community or achieves something amazing out of school, let us know! We will capture their Champion spirit and reward them with a **DOVE Badge** for their efforts.



On a final note, remember that school will resume on the **8th of January**. If you have any Christmas jumpers that the children have grown out of, we are collecting these following a suggestion from our Eco Minister, in an attempt to stop clothing going to landfill. Please also remember that we do have a uniform library (including coats). If you have anything to donate, it is always gratefully received and if you ever need any spare uniform, please do not hesitate to come in and ask. We are here to help!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this holiday season bring joy, love, and peace to your families. On behalf of us all, a huge thank you for the cards and very kind gifts we have received.

Much love, Miss Harrison



