

## Russells Reporter

### Autumn Term 2 2024

#### Issue 8

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

#### Congratulations to Mrs. Britton!



We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that Mrs. Britton has welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Ellis, into the world on December 7th! Both mum and baby are doing very well. Please join us in sending them lots of love and congratulations!

#### Attendance Update

Our current whole school attendance stands at **93.56%**, just shy of the national average of 94%.

A big congratulations to:

**3M, our top class this term, with an impressive 96.4% attendance!**

**2nd Place: 3CW with 95.84%**

**3rd Place: 6BP with 95.84%**



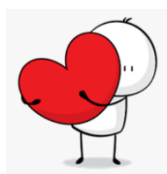
We're so proud of all the children who have worked hard on their attendance:

- **94 children earned Gold Attendance Badges for 100% attendance this term, receiving 100 house points each!**
- 174 children earned Silver Attendance Badges for excellent attendance, receiving 50 house points each!
- **150 children earned Bronze Attendance Badges for making significant improvements this term, receiving 25 house points each!**

**Let's keep striving for excellent attendance in the new year!**

#### Love Ambassadors

A huge well done to our **120 Love Ambassadors**, who have been awarded their badges for showing kindness, respect, and care for others throughout the school. Your commitment to spreading kindness makes a big difference—thank you!



#### Reminders for Parents – Homework

Let's keep learning momentum strong! Please support your child by ensuring they complete the following homework regularly:

- Reading: 20 minutes each night
- Times Tables: Regular practice
- Arithmetic: Quick weekly exercises
- Handwriting: Focus on neatness and fluency





### Year 5 visit Guru Nanak

On Wednesday 23rd October, the children in Year 5 visited Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick. The visit enabled the children to have a real-life experience of what they had been learning about at school. They had a wonderful time looking around the Gurdwara and sampling some of the traditional blessed food called Langar.

### Year 2 Learn to keep our rivers pollution free

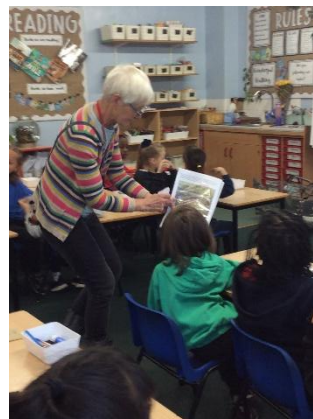
At the start of this term, Year 2 had an exciting and informative visit from Helen, who brought along her metal fish, Sabrina, to help share an important message about keeping the River Severn free from litter.

Helen talked to the children about how litter harms the environment and wildlife, and how long different types of rubbish take to break down. The children had great fun guessing the decomposition times for common items and learning about microplastics – tiny pieces of plastic that come from litter and cause serious problems.

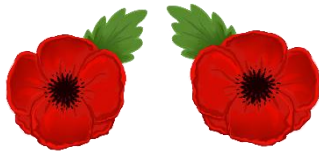


Helen made sure the session was fun and easy to understand for their age group, and the children were fully engaged throughout. Inspired by her visit, they created some amazing posters to raise awareness about littering and show their dedication to helping the environment.

It was a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved!







## Supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



### Remembrance 2024

At RHPS we have members of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, St John's Ambulance too. These children, ranging from Reception to Year 6, proudly wore their uniforms to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

*We Will Remember Them*



It was lovely to see so many children proudly wearing their Guiding/Scouting uniforms on 11<sup>th</sup> November for our Remembrance Celebrations.

Thank you to all of the children who bought poppy items, as you can see we raised **£292.05**.

Special thanks to Pupil Parliament (& Mrs. Rees) for organising the poppy shop so brilliantly!



## Year 6 Bikeability

Congratulations to 22 of our Year 6 pupils who completed a two day course and achieved their **Level 2 Bikeability award**. Over the two days they were taught how to check their bike's maintenance, important Highway Code rules that apply to cyclists and to demonstrate their confidence and ability to cycle safely on single-lane roads, safely negotiating simple junctions using the four key elements for safe and responsible cycling:

- Making good and frequent observations.
- Choosing and maintaining the most suitable riding positions.
- Communicating intentions clearly to others.
- Understanding priorities on the road, particularly at junctions.

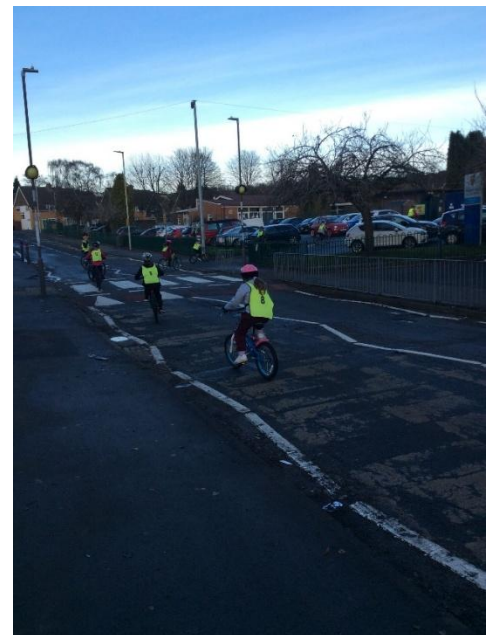
The team of 11 instructors, many retired teachers, commented on how polite and enthusiastic the pupils were and what a pleasure it was to spend the two days with them. We hope to offer more Bikeability courses next year.

**Here are some comments from our pupils who took part:**

*"It was brilliant, I learnt so much and feel confident to travel to my new school in September on my bike now".*

*"I now know how important it is to check my bike, like my dad checks his car before going out on it."*

*"The instructors really helped me and showed me not to be scared of being on the road but to be aware of others and know my rights as a cyclist."*



## Anti-Bullying Week 2024 –Choose Respect

This year, during Anti-Bullying week from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November, our pupils reflected upon the ways that they can show respect to one another. We acted out scenarios and discussed how we can help one another to understand disagreements and conflict. Each class also become Respect Detectives for the week – looking for those moments of kindness throughout the school day where others showed respect. The first classes to complete this challenge were 2A and 2H, who each received an Amazon Voucher to purchase resources for their classes.

During the week, our team of **Anti-Bullying Champions** redesigned our **Anti-Bullying Blueprint** which can be seen displayed throughout school and you can see below:

**STOP**  
HERE

## Worried about Bullying?

Here's what you need to know...

We all do our best to follow three special rules:  
Be Ready  
Be Respectful  
Be Safe

We want everyone to feel safe, happy and cared for at our school.

Bullying is NEVER okay, and we will do everything we can to stop it.

### What is bullying?

Bullying is when someone keeps hurting another person on purpose, either by words or actions, and the person being hurt finds it hard to stop it. Bullying can take place anywhere: in classrooms, corridors, toilets, the dining hall or the playground.

At Russells Hall, we have an expert team of **ANTI-BULLYING CHAMPIONS**. If you ever need someone to talk to, advice or help with any problem during break or lunchtime, our team of Anti-Bullying Champions is here for you.

Look out for their bright purple vests - they're easy to spot! And if you'd rather share something privately, there's a **Worry Post-Box** in the courtyard where you can leave a message for them.

You're never alone;  
help is always just a conversation away.

### What might BULLYING look or feel like?

You might feel physically hurt, frightened or upset by this behaviour.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional:** hurting your feelings or leaving you out of games
- Physical:** punching, kicking, spitting, hitting, pushing or threatening you
- Verbal:** being teased and called names
- Racist:** calling people names and being unkind because of the colour of their skin
- Cyber:** saying unkind things by text, email and on social networking sites.

### What should I do if I'm being bullied?

**DO**

- ⇒ Ask them to **STOP** if you feel that you can
- ⇒ Walk away
- ⇒ **TELL SOMEONE**

**DON'T**

- ⇒ Do what they say
- ⇒ Get angry or show that you're upset
- ⇒ Hit them
- ⇒ Think it's your fault
- ⇒ Keep it to yourself

**Who can I tell?**

- ⇒ A friend
- ⇒ A trusted teacher
- ⇒ Lunchtime staff
- ⇒ A family member

### What should I do if I see someone being bullied?

- 1) Tell an adult **IMMEDIATELY**
- 2) If it feels safe, make it clear that you don't like what is happening.
- 3) Be a friend - make a special effort to friends with the child being bullied.
- 4) Never join in with unkind behaviour - in person or online.

**What happens when I tell an adult?**

Teachers will get involved and help you to solve problems. They will deal with problems using the sanctions set out in our **Bullying Prevention Policy**. They will also talk to your teachers, your parents and your friends.

RHPS Anti-Bullying Champion Blueprint 2024

Christmas Fayre 4<sup>th</sup> December Thank you to all who came to our Christmas Fayre – it was wonderful to see our community coming together. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a success.

I can reveal we raised an absolutely amazing **£1508.56**



### Christmas Fayre Raffle Prize winners – CONGRATULATIONS!

1st Luxury Food Hamper **148** Macy 5P

2nd Gin and Chocolates **199** Logan 1M

3rd Pamper Hamper **91** Layla 6BP

4th Chocolate Bundle **59** Alyssa 2A

5th Wine and Chocolate **377** Emily 3CW

6th Wine and Chocolate **89** Farley 5H

7th Toiletry Sets **408** Ethan 3CW

8th Sweets and Year Pass for Animal Centre **302** Eliza RG

9th Troll Stationery Set **41** Charlie 5H

Name the Doll 'Scarlett' Ivy 3CW

Name the Unicorn 'River' Emily 6BP

Treasure Hunt Layla 6BP

Sweets in the Jar **146** Tiana 3M



### Year 3 History Visit



To support their learning in History this term, Year 3 travelled back in time to The Stone Age and visited Bishop's Wood, Stourport. They spent the whole day in the woods experiencing life like it would have been in the past. They made hurdles to carry their equipment to new settlements, shelters for their group to sleep in, fishing nets and fencing to help them catch and protect their food reserves and hunted animals like boar, deer and rabbits, deep in the forest, using spears. They learnt about foraging for fruits and plants, which of these were a good source of important nutrients or medicines, how to make their own flour to help them cook basic foods and completed an amazing collaborative piece of cave art.



However, the highlight for them all was learning how to make a spark and then using these skills to light their own fire.

The team at Bishop's Wood were very impressed at how knowledgeable the children were and how many questions and artefacts they could answer and name. Here are some comments from the children:

*"This day was the best day of my life. I think we could have slept in our shelter it was that good."*

*"I was the first to make a spark and then a fire. I helped all of my friends as it is such an important skill to have if you lived in the Stone Age".*

*"We worked as a great team to make our shelter. It was very strong and would help keep the wind and rain off us in the Winter but I prefer my own house and bed".*





### Year 3 Church Visit



Year 3 spent a lovely morning at Himley Road Methodist Church, at their immersive Christmas story experience.

Starting off our journey we learnt all about the Christian story of how the world began, before being transported back in time, to a small kitchen in Nazareth. Here we met Mary, who was baking bread that we all got to try. Suddenly Mary received a very special visitor, an angel, who informed Mary she has been chosen to carry the son of God, Jesus Christ, but she must make her way to Bethlehem. We left Mary, telling her husband all about the important job she had been chosen to do, as we headed towards Bethlehem. On the way we met some very funny shepherds, who we helped find all of their lost sheep, a Arabic King, who we joined in his luxurious Bedouin, and helped choose presents to take to the new, born king and four very entertaining animals who found a lot of fuss happening in their stable one winter night.



We were made to feel very welcome by the 'Friends of the Church' and also got to take part in some seasonal craft making. The Year 3 team would like to congratulate the children on their excellent behaviour and manners and the excellent ambassadors they were, in their local community, when walking to and from the church.

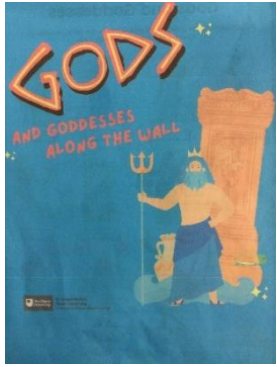


### Rock Kidz

Last week, we had an awesome visit from *Rock Kidz*! They brought loads of energy and taught us an important lesson about dealing with bullies through their song ***Taking Bullying Down***. The song encouraged us all to be brave, support each other, and always treat everyone with kindness.

The children had a blast joining in, singing, dancing and clapping along. It was a great reminder of how we can all help make our school a kind and safe place for everyone. A big thank you to *Rock Kidz* for such a fun and inspiring visit – we're ready to keep taking bullying down!





### Year 4 Experience a Virtual Trip back in time!

Over the course of two days, Year 4 had the pleasure of being able to join in with fascinating virtual workshops taking us back in time! We looked at a range of key historical lessons all relating to the Romans. This included Roman Gods and Goddesses, Hadrian's Wall, Romanisation and Life as a Roman. The children gained knowledge that helped them understand what the Romans did for Britain and how it impacts us even to this day!



### Junior PCSO Graduation



This half term we have celebrated the success of another group of Year 5 Junior PCSOs who have recently proudly graduated from the scheme. The Junior PCSO scheme is an initiative run by West Midlands Police with local Primary Schools that aims to increase the confidence and self-esteem of children, while promoting positive police engagement to encourage children to feel confident to approach their local policing teams with community information and concerns, or for help and support.

Our new Junior PCSO graduates completed a six-week program which included learning about the phonetic alphabet, the role of both Police Officers and PCSOs, how to be a responsible citizen, road safety, fire safety and first aid through Junior Paramedic Training. They also completed community work, which included litter picking. Our new Junior PCSOs showed super commitment to their learning and to their community throughout and even learnt the Junior PCSO pledge which they shared with the whole school during their graduation assembly. Well done – we are very proud of you all!

We will soon be recruiting for our next group of Junior PCSOs and look forward to seeing how many more Junior PCSOs we can train throughout the year!

### Christmas Singing

Well done to Year 4 who entertained the residents at **Broadmeadow Care Home** on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> with a selection of carols and Christmas songs. Thank you to all parents who have come and enjoyed us singing outside at the end of the day this week – it's been wonderful to see so many of you!



*I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break over the Christmas holidays—may it be filled with joy, laughter, and precious time with loved ones. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you all for your kind gifts and cards and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on 7<sup>th</sup> January for another term of learning and success.*

*Much love, Miss Harrison xxxx*