



## Russells Reporter Autumn Term 2023 Issue 1



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

Welcome to our new half termly newsletter, designed to enable us to share and celebrate all our successes with you. It's been a very busy half term, as you can tell by how much is included!!!

### Attendance



As you know, we launched our new attendance policy in September. We are committed to improving the children's life chances and aspirations and can only do that if they attend school every day. Consistent attendance maximizes learning opportunities, builds strong bonds with peers and teachers, and equips them with essential life skills. Your support in ensuring your child's punctuality and attendance, is invaluable as it sets the foundation for their academic success.

**Together, let's make every school day count!**



142 children have had their **100% Attendance Badge** Awarded for Autumn Term 1. Every child will have the chance to earn their Autumn 2 badge 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 **92.7%**, just below the National average of **93.1%**

We reward classes for excellent attendance each week and they get to move around our 'CLASSOPOLY BOARD' – 1 move for 96%; 2 moves for 98% and 3 moves for 100% attendance. Treasure Chests bring surprises for the class and they can also land on spaces to get extra playtimes etc.. Currently **2H are in the lead!** It's all to play for!

After Half Term, children will be collecting points in their class teams every time the class hits 100% attendance for that day. When they reach **15**, they will get **5 bonus moves** on the board.

Congratulations to **6T**, who have the highest attendance this half term with **96.8%**, closely followed by **1M** with **95.7%**, **2H** with **95.6%** and **3M** with **95.5%**.

**Thank you for your support in ensuring the children attend school regularly and on time every day.**

### Reading

We expect every child to read, or be read to, every night for between **10 to 20 minutes**.

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!



Thank you to all those parents in Reception, Year 1 and 2 who attended Mrs Hawker's Phonics session in September (there will be more to come). We are really pleased with Little Wandle and how quickly the children are learning to blend.



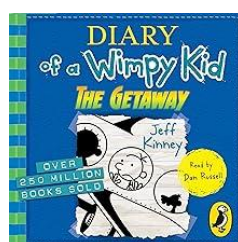
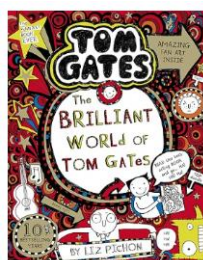
Children in Key Stage 2 have also had lots of success this half term. As you know, children are rewarded for their reading resilience through our Accelerated Reader programme. You will have been given a Home Connect letter at Parents Evening so that you can see your child's bookshelf and word count growing.

We celebrate these successes in our Celebration Assembly each week. Together, children in Years 3 to 6 have read a whopping 6,312,502 words and the class leader board currently looks like this:

Position	Class	Total Class Word Count
1	6B	2,325,104 (248 QUIZZES)
2	5P	1,531,136 (269 QUIZZES)
3	5HR	931,749 (300 QUIZZES)
4	6T	751,018 (127 QUIZZES)
5	4T	343,131 (190 QUIZZES)
6	4BP	265,920 (120 QUIZZES)
7	3M	85,182 (109 QUIZZES)
8	3P	79,262 (109 QUIZZES)
w/b 23/10/22		Total = 6,312,502 words
Change from last week		1,043,667 extra words read

18 children have received their badge for reading 100,000 words and  
3 children have received their badge for reading 250,000 words

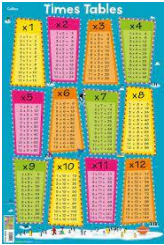
We've also introduced 'Author of the Month' to engage children in reading a range of new authors. In September, we loved Liz Pichon's 'Tom Gates' books and in October, we went crazy for Jeff Kinney's 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'. Watch out for our November author after half term!





### Writing

We've changed our approach to writing significantly this year and badges will be introduced after half term to celebrate excellence. Children have really enjoyed writing for a purpose and have produced some superb leaflets, letters, diary entries and stories.



### Maths

In Celebration Assembly, children are also rewarded for progress on **Times Tables Clubs** - please keep practising with your children.

In Years 3 to 6, we are having a huge drive on Arithmetic fluency and precision and, after half term, badges will be given for progress in this.

We are committed to giving our children **leadership** opportunities, allowing them to be heard and to give them a voice. As such, we have introduced several initiatives this year including:

### Subject Ambassadors



We recognise that children have talents in subjects other than English and Maths and have introduced Subject Ambassadors this year. These children have shown enthusiasm and aptitude for a particular subject and can talk about their learning confidently to visitors and staff. Ambassadors have been chosen from each class in Years 1 to 6 in: **English, Maths, Geography, Art, RE, PSHE, PE, Music, Spanish, Science and ICT.** History and DT will come after half term. If your child has been chosen, you should be extremely proud. We hope this will inspire and give our children ambition to become historians, artists, architects, sportspeople and musicians of the future.

### Values Ambassadors



Over **100 children** have been awarded a values Ambassador badge for **RESPECT** this half term. We're still waiting for the badges to be delivered, but as soon as they come, they will be able to wear these with pride.



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. I hope to invite parents to this very special assembly if possible. There are more badges being planned throughout the school year.

### Pupil Parliament



The children all had an opportunity to vote for our Primary Minister this half term. Four of our Year 6 children put themselves up for the role and wrote speeches, put up posters, spoke to children in classes and canvassed in the playground for votes, just like Politicians would.



Congratulations to **Grace** who won the vote. The other candidates now become part of the Pupil Parliament Leadership Team with Deputy Minister being **Madison** and Assistant Ministers, **Hibba** and **Josh**. Three classes also voted in new ministers.

Look out for some whole school events that they will organise coming soon!

We are so proud of them all!

### House Captains



New House Captains have also been chosen by our Head of Houses after children were asked to express interest in the role. They have a very important job to lead their team and collect weekly house point totals from classes. This year we've added the role of House point Secretary which Olivia carries out diligently every week.

Currently **Sapphire** are leading with **4451 points**, **Emerald** is second with **4058 points**, **Citrine** is third with **3706 points** and **Ruby** is fourth with **3415 points**.

### Junior PCSOs



A number of children in Year 5 applied to become Junior PCSOs this year. 10 were successful and will now begin their sessions with PCSOs Ange Perry and Clare Tugby.

They will take part in a range of activities including First aid Training, Community work, Fire safety, Road Safety and learn about the role of the Police officer.

### Play Champions



14 children are now Play Champions after applying for the role. Their duties are to assist Miss Gray in creating new play guidance, support assemblies, capture our great play, support children and be great play role models.

### OPAL



Thank you to the 70 KS2 parents who came along to our parent play day on 10<sup>th</sup> October – watch out for more events to come!

We are very proud to announce that after going through a very long and gruelling audit on 17<sup>th</sup> October, we have been awarded **PLATINUM AWARD** for our lunchtime provision. This is the highest award we could get and we scored 98%. This puts us in the top 10% of OPAL schools. The OPAL team will be back in November to present us with our award.



Thank you all for your support this half term. We all wish you a happy and restful break. Don't forget, children are back on 7<sup>th</sup> November as we have an INSET day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>.