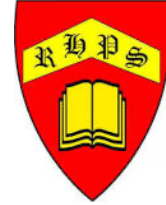


Russells Reporter

Spring Term 1 2024



Issue 3

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

I can't believe how quickly this half term has flown by! We're half way through the school year already! Please enjoy our latest newsletter, packed with our successes, and information that we hope will be useful.

Attendance

213 children have had their **100% Attendance Badge** awarded for Spring Term 1. This is a huge improvement since Autumn Term 2 and means **54 children** are currently on track to become Attendance Ambassadors at the end of Summer Term. This is absolutely fantastic!



Each child in both **3M** and **6T** have been awarded with 50 house points as the class have 15 days of 100% attendance!



Our whole school attendance is currently **93.48%**, just below the National average of **94.7%**. Congratulations to **6T**, who have the highest attendance this year with **95.5%**, closely followed by **2H** with **95.4%** and **4BP** with **95%**



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!

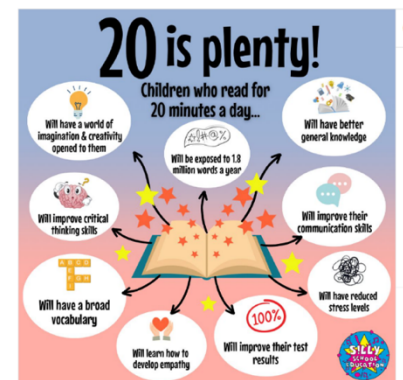
Attendance Support Meetings

If you receive a letter from us inviting you to an Attendance Support Meeting, please do not worry – this is a positive step and an opportunity for us to talk and listen to parents. It's a chance to work together for your child's benefit in a judgement-free zone, meant to find solutions and provide support where needed: we're all on the same team. Thank you to the parents who have engaged in this and congratulations to them on the improvements they have made!



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.



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!

Collectively, children in Years 3 to 6 have read an extra 8,992,388 words since my last newsletter, bringing the total to a huge 25,362,816 **words read since September!**

Position	Class	Total Class Word Count
1	5P	7,410,060 (721 QUIZZES)
2	6B	7,227,367 (594 QUIZZES)
3	5HR	4,470,362 (688 QUIZZES)
4	6T	2,958,397 (501 QUIZZES)
5	4BP	1,459,284 (437 QUIZZES)
6	4T	1,119,580 (412 QUIZZES)
7	3P	417,953 (528 QUIZZES)
8	3M	298,430 (340 QUIZZES)
w/b 29/1/24		Total = 25,362,816 words
Change from last week		8,992,388 extra words



Author of the Month.

Our Author of the Month for January was **David Walliams**, and during February, we're enjoying the range of books by **Jacqueline Wilson**. It was lovely to come back from Christmas and have so many children tell us about the books they had for presents and to hear the excitement about reading!



World Book Day

World Book Day will be taking place on **Thursday 7 March 2024**.

This provides a fantastic opportunity for us to focus on reading for pleasure. We want to make sure no child is left out of World Book Day, and understand that some families may be under significant financial and time pressures. We aim to ensure that every child can participate in World Book Day, and can celebrate the stories they love, without an expectation for families to provide a costume. This year we are asking children to come in their pyjamas so we can spend the day reading bedtime stories, along with lots of other exciting and creative activities.



Sports Stars

We have taken part in several sporting competitions this half term:

Multi Skills – David Lloyd

10 of our children from Years 3 to 6 competed against several other schools in various disciplines such as relay races, testing their accuracy throwing onto targets, balancing and jumping. They did themselves and us proud!



Cross Country – Summerhill School

12 children from Years 5 and 6 took part in Dudley's annual cross-country event. The children competed with many other primary schools from across the borough to complete a challenging two and a half lap course. Grace in Year 6 finished an impressive 66th place. All the children who took part thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and demonstrated great determination and perseverance.



Football Tournament – Dell Stadium, hosted by Wolverhampton Wanderers

The team made it to the quarterfinals and won every match but unfortunately they didn't win. They were such good team players and encouraged each other. They showed sportsmanship and were just all round brilliant. Other schools commented on how well they played. They really did themselves and our school proud.



Maths Competition

6 of our Year 3 and 4 children attended The Maths Competition on Wednesday, competing against 5 other Dudley Schools. Whilst we didn't win, the children were congratulated for how well they worked together and their perseverance in working on the questions. They have all been awarded certificates and house points in celebration assembly.



Thinking Day

Thinking Day, falls on the 22nd of February. This day celebrates the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scouting and Guiding movements. Thinking Day provides an opportunity for our children to learn about and appreciate the global impact of these organizations. Ava and Violet in Year 5 have been busy organising various activities for the children to do in school to mark this special day. If your child is part of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts or Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, please encourage them to wear their uniform on this day.



Jewellery

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and focused learning environment for all, we kindly request that children refrain from wearing jewellery to school. This includes large earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings. Jewellery items may become entangled in equipment or clothing during physical activities, leading to potential accidents or injuries. Additionally, the loss or damage of jewellery on school premises can cause distress for students and families alike.

Anti Bullying Champions

Our Bullying Prevention Champions have had a busy half term. One of their daily responsibilities is helping us to monitor pupil behaviour at the end of breaks.



The children observe each class as they return from the playground, head to cloakrooms and return to class. Each week, they nominate the class who has been the calmest and the kindest during these key parts of the day. The nominated class then receives the reward of a double house-point week. **Our first winners were 6T**, who earned an incredible **1244 house-points** for their teams during their double house-point week!

The children have also been busy designing anti-bullying posters for our classrooms and creating our new pupil anti-bullying pledge. They have made a fantastic effort with these tasks, completing lots of work at home that we have then shared at our regular meetings and in assembly.

Our Pupil Pledge

We make a commitment to always take a stand against bullying. We will treat other children with KINDNESS, RESPECT AND LOVE, always helping children who need a friend. We will always speak up and have the courage to not be a bystander. We are all responsible for helping others and to report bullying. We pledge to show compassion, to make people happy and never be a bully!

STOP BULLYING NOW



We have recently completed work on our new anti-bullying policy which will be shared with you after the half term break. A new addition to our bullying prevention practices has been the creation of a new email hotline for sharing any concerns - **tellus@russells.dudley.sch.uk**

Parents Evening

A reminder that Spring Term Parents Evenings are scheduled for **Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 7th March**, between **4 and 6.30pm**. Links for booking have been sent out, but if you haven't received yours, please get in touch. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the progress your child has made. In addition ABM, our new catering company, will be in the hall on both evenings doing tasters of their menus and our uniform library will be available for anyone needing to stock up.



Nut Free School

Russells Hall is a nut-free school. We have several students with severe nut allergies, and it is of utmost importance that we maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all. Please could we request that you are mindful when packing snacks for your child, ensuring that they are free from any nut products.



Safer Internet Day – 6th February 2024

In this ever-changing digital age, it is crucial that we equip our children with the skills and knowledge to navigate the Internet safely. Mrs Hawker has delivered one assembly already and has 3 more planned for after half term. I encourage you to visit our website, where you will find a range of resources to support you. From tips on setting parental controls to advice on discussing online safety with your children, these resources will be invaluable in ensuring their online experiences are positive and secure.

CHAMPIONS

Our wall of CHAMPIONS is ever 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. Make sure you take a look at our stars at Parent's Evening!

Measles

Measles is a highly contagious disease that can have serious health implications, particularly for young children. If your child has not yet received the measles vaccine or is unsure of their immunization status, please see the information below for details about pop up clinics over half term. Vaccination is the best way to protect our children and prevent the further spread of this dangerous illness.

**For 1 to 25-year-olds who are due,
or who have missed, either or both of the doses**

Sat 10 Feb	10am-3pm	Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge DY8 2AA
Tue 13 Feb	9am-2pm	War Memorial, Lye DY9 8LF
Tue 13 Feb	9am-3pm	Tesco, Fox Oak Street, Cradley Heath B64 5DF
Fri 16 Feb	9am-2pm	Dudley Market Place, High Street DY1 1PQ
Sat 17 Feb	10am-3pm	Halesowen Town Centre, Somers Square B63 3AE

PTFA

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 soon to invite you to join a PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) so we can offer more of these events.



Gas Works

I have been informed by CADENT that essential gas works will be starting on Maitland Road from the 26th of February. There will be some disruptions to parking in the area for a duration of one month. We kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation during this period, as we work to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community.



School Lunches

Our new catering company ABM will be putting on a few theme days next half term. If you would like your child to stay dinners on these days, please order and pay through the School Money App

MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY - AMERICAN THEME DAY



Beef Burger in a Bun

Vegetarian Burger in a Bun

Both served with Crunchy Fries/Baked Beans/Coleslaw and Mixed Salad

MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY - CHINESE NEW YEAR



Chinese Chicken Noodles

Halal Chinese Chicken Noodles

Vegetable Chow Mein

all served with Sweetcorn/Broccoli

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH - WORLD BOOK DAY



Horrid Henry's Hotdog

Harry Potter's Vegetable Hotdog

Served with Mr Stink's Jacket Wedges/Peter Rabbit's Super-Duper Carrots

Belle's Sweetcorn/Gangsta Granny's Green Salad

***We really value your partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to provide the best possible education and support for your children.
Thank you for your support! Have a great half term!***

Miss Harrison and all the team at RHPS