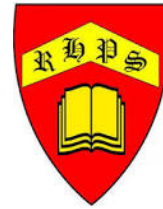


Russells Reporter
Spring Term 1 2025
Issue 9



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

Attendance Update

Our current whole school attendance stands at **94%**, just above the national average of 93.4%. **Well done everyone!**

A big congratulations to:

6BP, our top class this term, with 95.8% attendance!

2nd Place: 3M with 95.6%

3rd Place: 3CW with 95.5% and

4th Place: 1D with 95.4%



Homework



Just a quick reminder about our homework expectations! All children should read for 20 minutes each day, keep up with arithmetic practice, work on times tables using their weekly test sheets and Times Tables Rock Stars, and spend some time on handwriting practice.

On top of that, there are some great extra challenges available to help children explore and learn more about the world around them. These include **Geography, History, and Science** challenges, plus the chance to earn a **Poetry Recitation** badge. These are a fun way to build knowledge and confidence, so please encourage your child to give them a go—we love celebrating their efforts!

Thanks for your support!

Golden Tickets

To further encourage and celebrate excellent behaviour in our dinner hall, we've introduced the **GOLDEN TICKET!** Each week, children who consistently demonstrate outstanding manners and behaviour are nominated for a Golden Proud Post—a special note to take home, just like our usual Proud Post, but with an exciting twist! This Golden Ticket is also an invitation to dine at our brand-new **GOLDEN TABLE**, where they can bring a friend to enjoy a VIP dining experience. With golden tablecloths, cups, plates, napkins, fresh flowers, and even table service, our golden diners are treated like royalty! This initiative has been a fantastic success, with children displaying exceptional behaviour and enjoying this special reward. Keep up the great work, and maybe you'll be our next golden guest!



Celebrating Our Champions!

We love to celebrate our children's achievements, both in and out of school! If your child has done something extra special— whether it's raising money for charity, earning a medal in a sport or club, or anything else you're proud of—we'd love to hear about it. We'll add their achievement to our Champions Board, which is growing all the time!

Please let us know so we can celebrate their hard work and dedication with the whole school community. Keep those amazing achievements coming! 🎉👏

Congratulations to Amber who is our newest Champion, gaining a place on our wall of fame for achieving 1st place in her gymnastics competition!

Loyalty Ambassadors



This half term, we've been thinking a lot about the value of **loyalty**, specifically thinking about **inclusion**. Children have developed their understanding of ADHD, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Diabetes in an aim to understand others better. Showing loyalty through this understanding, helps everyone feel valued and part of our school community.

Loyalty is such an important quality, and it ties in beautifully with the work we've been doing around mental health. By being loyal to ourselves and each other, we create a space where kindness and encouragement can thrive. We're excited to keep exploring this theme with the children after half term, helping them build strong friendships and confidence while looking after their own well-being.

Children's Mental Health Week: Helping Our Children Thrive



What a fantastic week we had celebrating Children's Mental Health Week! We introduced the children to two really helpful tools—the Zones of Regulation and the 5 Ways to Wellbeing—to help them better understand and manage their emotions.

The Zones of Regulation have already made a big difference. By learning about different emotional “zones,” the children are becoming more aware of their feelings and figuring out how to handle them in positive ways. It's been great to see our staff, who recently had training with our Educational Psychologist, supporting the children as they start using these strategies every day.

We also explored the **5 Ways to Wellbeing**, with Reflexions leading sessions on simple, practical ways to look after mental health. Through the five steps—Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give—the children discovered that small changes can make a big difference in how they feel and how they interact with the world around them.



One of the highlights was watching clips from the movie *Inside Out*, which sparked some brilliant conversations in class about feelings and how to express them. It was a fun and relatable way to help the children open up about their emotions.

Looking back on this week, it's clear just how important it is to keep supporting our children's mental well-being. With these new tools and strategies, we know they'll be better prepared to handle life's ups and downs. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your support—we're determined to keep making mental health a priority throughout the year!



Year 4 visit Cadbury World

Year 4 had a wonderful day at Cadbury World, they completed a tour of the factory, learning about the history of chocolate. They took part in a workshop focusing on the design of Cadbury packaging and looking at how different chocolates were made. Some of the children even dressed up as factory workers. The children had a fabulous day.



Maths Competitions

Teams from Year 3-4 and 5-6 have competed in the Dudley Maths Championships. Both teams were up against 6 other schools and scored highly. The children were a credit to the school and worked well as a team.

If you would like to test your brain here is an example of one of the questions they faced.

A Fillomino puzzle. The rule is to have the same number of boxes touching as the digits say. So only 1, 1 digit box, 2 2digit boxes, 3 3digit boxes and so on. The first one has been done for you.



1	4	4	1	5	1	9	9	9	1
2	1	4	4	5	5	5	5	9	9
2	6	5	5	1		1	9	9	9
1	6	6	5	5	2	6	6	9	1
6	6	6	1	5	1	6	6	6	6

1	4		1		1			9	1
	1			5			5		
2	6	5		1		1			
1					2		6		1
			1		1				

				1			1	8	1
1	7	1		3		9			
			1					8	
4		4	3		5		1		
1		1		1		5		1	

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February it was Safer Internet Day and all year groups enjoyed celebrations and learning based around this year's theme: 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Safer Internet Day is held every February all around the world. Last year, over 170 different countries celebrated the day! Safer Internet Day is a chance to think about any worries or concerns children might have about using technology and the internet, and is also about celebrating all the fantastic things technology can help us with.

To celebrate Safer Internet Day in school Year 5 and Year 6 attended an online safety workshop with PC Catherine Purser from West Midlands Police where they learnt and discussed a range of important online safety themes, topics and rules.

Throughout school all year groups completed specially planned Safer Internet Day lessons based on this year's theme of protecting



themselves and others from online scams, with some year groups even taking part in a BBC live Safer Internet Day lesson online. All pupils learnt a lot during the day, and our Pupil Parliament Online Safety Minister, Ivy enjoyed visiting classes throughout the day to support all children in school with this important learning.



PC Catherine Purser will be back next half term to deliver an online safety workshop for parents, so we can ensure that we as adults are as clued up with the ever-changing online world as our children are. Details for this will be shared in the near future!

[World Book Day – March 6th!](#) 📅 [Date for your diary](#)

We're excited to celebrate World Book Day on March 6th! This year, we're keeping things cosy—children are invited to wear pyjamas or comfy clothes for the day as we enjoy sharing stories and getting creative with book-based activities.

There's no need to spend money on costumes—our focus is on celebrating the joy of reading! Plus, look out for your child's World Book Day token coming home on the day, which they can use to choose a special book.

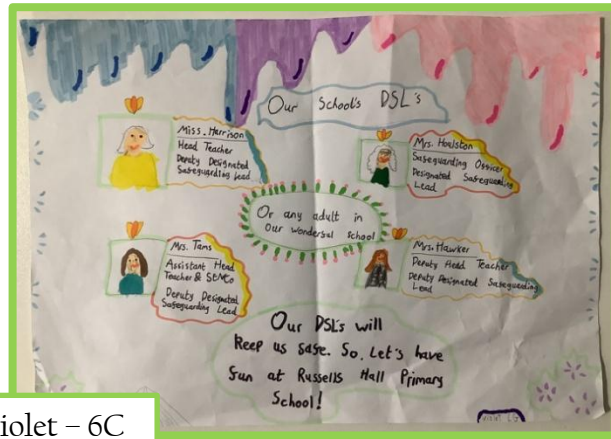
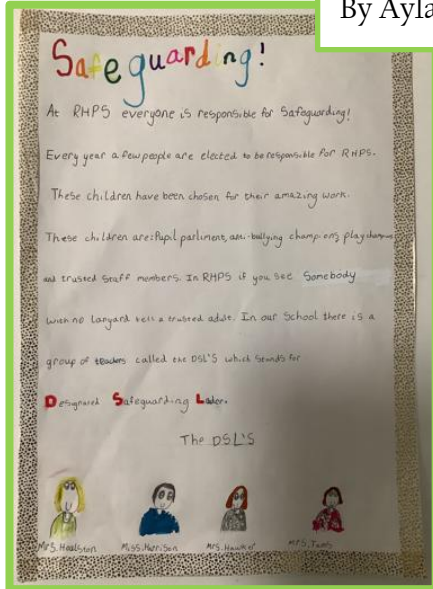
We can't wait for a fun-filled day of books, imagination, and storytelling! 📖 ✨

[Pupil Parliament Safeguarding DSL Poster Competition](#)

In January, Pupil Parliament launched a Safeguarding DSL Poster competition where they invited all children in school to design a child friendly poster detailing who our school Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs) are at Russells Hall to be displayed in all classrooms and around our school building. Our Pupil Parliament were really pleased with the number of entries they received, which were all of a very high quality!

Our Pupil Parliament Safeguarding Minister, Kieran, judged the competition with the help of our Pupil Parliament Leadership team, Gracie, Archie, Jessica and Madison. With so many super entries they found it extremely difficult to judge but after a lot of time, deliberation and group discussion they decided on the below runners up and winner.

By Ayla – 2A

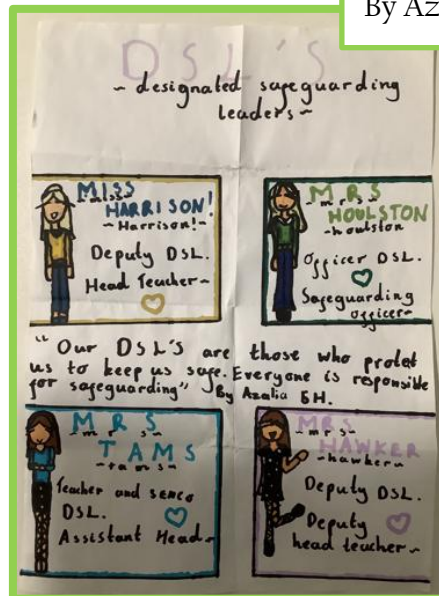


By Violet – 6C

The Winner

By Azalia – 5H

Pupil Parliament would like to thank everyone for their entries and invite you to look out for our winning poster in classrooms and around school after half term!



Year 1 – Artists

Year 1 have been making amazing arts and crafts at home and at school to display in our classrooms! In science we have been learning all about animals and their animal categories (such as mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, insects and amphibians). In art we have also been learning about 'Flora and Fauna' which means 'plants and animals'. The children have incorporated their learning from this within their crafts. Amazing work!



Wishing you all a very happy and safe Half Term – see you all on 24th February