

Russells Reporter
Spring Term 2 2025
Issue 10



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

Attendance Update

Our current whole school attendance stands at **94.1%**, just above the national average of 93.4%. **Well done everyone!**

A big congratulations to:

1D, our top class this term, with 96.2% attendance!

2nd Place: 3CW with 95.8%

3rd Place: 2H with 95.5% and

4th Place: 6BP with 95.3%



Attendance badges for this term will be given out after Easter – we have had some issues with delivery of our Gold, Silver and Bronze badges and I didn't want anyone to be disappointed in not receiving their badge.

Year 3 Volcano Hunters!

Before half term, the children in Year 3 had a lovely time climbing up to the top of our very own local volcano. They looked at the different rocks that were formed inside the volcano. Courtney, who was our guide, gave them lots of information about the history of Barrow Hill and the volcano.



Year 4 - Severn Valley Country Park

Year 4 had a wonderful day at Seven Valley Country Park, they followed a tributary from its source all the way down into the River Severn. They looked at how it flows over waterfalls and all the key features of a river, linking it to their learning about Rivers. They took part in orienteering, reading maps and finding the control points. The children were also able to make notes about the plants and animals at Seven Valley Country Park which links to their learning of Habitats. The children had a fabulous day.





Year 6 Visit Botanical Gardens

On Tuesday 11th March, Year 6 visited the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham to focus on science and geography. We applied our map reading skills to navigate around the various biomes in order to find the answers to a quiz.

Later in the day, the children participated in an exciting, practical science lesson. We learned about how chlorophyll helps plants to produce their own food using sunlight in a process known as photosynthesis.

Our first practical experiment focused on chromatography; the separation of a mixture into its components. We were then taught about how DNA holds the genetic coding for all living things. To see this for ourselves we extracted the DNA from a strawberry! In the final experiment we explored the pH scale and how it measures the acidity or alkalinity of different liquids.



Loyalty Ambassadors

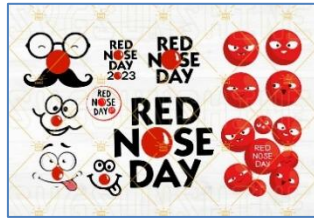
We are incredibly proud to announce that **130 Loyalty Ambassador** badges have been awarded this term! As we've explored the themes of loyalty and love through the book, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, we've also learned powerful lessons about perseverance, resilience, and doing the right thing for others, even when times are tough. Edward's journey has inspired us all to act with kindness, commitment, and courage, and it's wonderful to see so many of our children embodying these values. **Congratulations to all our Loyalty Ambassadors!**



World Book Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day by coming to school in our cosy pyjamas and diving into the magic of bedtime stories! It was a wonderful experience to relax, listen, and share our favourite tales together. Stories have the power to spark imagination, and it was great to see everyone embracing the joy of reading in such a fun and memorable way. We hope you enjoyed reading the book that your child brought home, and that you used the voucher to buy a wonderful book to cherish!





Red Nose Day

Thank you so much to everyone who supported Red Nose Day this year! Your generosity and kindness are truly appreciated. With your donations, we are helping to make a difference for those in need. It's heartwarming to see our community come together to spread smiles and kindness. Thank you for all your contributions!

We raised a fantastic £248.50

Year 2's Adventure to Warwick Castle

Year 2 had an unforgettable trip to Warwick Castle, stepping back in time to experience the world of knights, castles, and medieval life – and we couldn't have asked for better weather! The sun shone gloriously all day, making our adventure even more special.

From the moment we arrived, the children were in awe of the towering castle walls and the grand entrance. We started our day with a fascinating tour, exploring the castle's Great Hall, where we saw suits of armour, ancient weapons, and even a throne fit for a king!

One of the highlights was climbing the castle towers and battlements, where the children braved the spiral staircases and were rewarded with spectacular views over the River Avon. With the clear blue sky above us, it was easy to imagine what it must have been like to be a knight guarding the castle hundreds of years ago.

The excitement continued at lunchtime, we enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine while watching the incredible birds of prey show. The children were amazed as eagles and falcons swooped overhead, demonstrating their impressive hunting skills – a truly unforgettable experience!

It was a fantastic day filled with learning, adventure, and glorious weather. The children returned to school full of excitement, eager to share their experiences and newfound knowledge about castles.



Year 5 Easter Visit

On Tuesday 1st April, the children in Year 5 went to Himley Road Methodist Church in Gornal to take part in an immersive experience based around the Easter Story. Whilst they were at the church, the children listened to the Easter story and were able to practise their acting skills! They all listened intently and were a huge credit to our school. Very kindly, the church also gave them a small gift as a reminder of their trip. A memorable morning was had by all!



Easter workshops and assembly

We were delighted to welcome Christian worker Paul Willmott into school to help us explore the true meaning of Easter. Paul began the day with a whole school assembly, engaging all the children with the story of Good Friday and helping them reflect on why it is called "Good." Through storytelling, music, and thoughtful questions, he encouraged everyone to think about the message of hope and love at the heart of Easter. Following the assembly, Paul led interactive workshops with each year group. These sessions gave the children a chance to dive deeper into the Easter story, ask questions, and take part in fun and reflective activities. The children really enjoyed learning in such a hands-on and engaging way. We're very grateful to Paul for such an inspiring and thought-provoking day!



Year 3 ART GALLERY VISIT



To support their learning in Art and History this term, Year 3 experienced a trip to Walsall's New Art Gallery. They spent half of the day exploring different works of art to include portraits, landscapes, sculptures and photographs. They learnt to appreciate artwork and that every piece of art can evoke a different feeling and impression. They used plasticine to create their own interpretations of the self-portraits on offer and even got to try their hand at sketching, drawing and shading.

The other half of the day was spent looking at the gallery's Chinese artwork, to include pieces from the Shang Dynasty, Zhou Dynasty, Tang Dynasty and Song Dynasty. They then had the opportunity to work with resident artist Benny to create their own Shany Dynasty inspired clay pots.

"I've never been to art gallery before and I can't believe how much fun it is", Jake commented on the way back home on the coach.

"My favourite part was the one-eyed mud hut", said Antonio, "It's a shame we couldn't go inside it though".

"I loved making my Chinese Coil Pot", said Ivy, "I am going to store lots of precious things inside it, so I don't lose them ever".



Year 1 visit to Dudley Castle and Zoo



To complement their learning in school, based on the history of Dudley, Year 1 spent a very informative day at Dudley Zoo and Castle.

In the morning we got to meet many different animals that we have been learning about in science. They searched for mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and insects and read the fact files based on how long they live and whether they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

They spent the afternoon in the castle, learning all about how horrible it would have been to live in the medieval times and all the disgusting jobs children of their age would be expected to do. They explored some of the medieval artefacts and even got to dress up in some of the armour.

The staff were so impressed by Year 1's knowledge and their behaviour and manners during the day. Amazing ambassadors for our school!



Sparks

Year 4 had the pleasure to receive a visit from the West Midlands Fire Service, to talk all about fire safety and what to do during an emergency. The children were reminded to prompt parents to check their smoke alarms weekly to ensure they are working and everyone is safe. The children engaged really well and managed to spot all the hazards in the pictures given! Mrs Thompson even had the opportunity to wear all the fire safety equipment! The children were knowledgeable about how to contact the emergency services! Well done year 4 and thank you to the Fire Service for visiting us!



Year 5 Trip to Blists Hill

On Wednesday 9th April, the children in Year 5 took part in an exciting trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town in Telford. They took part in a candle dipping activity and dressed up to experience a lesson in a Victorian school; their teacher was very strict! Everyone enjoyed visiting the museum businesses and finding out about life in Victorian times.



Ofsted



Thank you so much to all our parents and carers for your incredible support during our recent Ofsted inspection. Your positivity and encouragement truly meant a great deal to us. The children were an absolute credit to you – they demonstrated such confidence, kindness, and enthusiasm throughout, and we couldn't be prouder of them. As soon as I am able to share the report with you, I will do so. In the meantime, thank you again for being such a vital part of our school community.

Happy Easter!

We hope you have a joyful and restful Easter break filled with special moments and plenty of chocolate! Just a reminder – we'll see you back on Monday 28th April. Until then, enjoy the holidays and time with your families.



Much love,

Alison Harrison and all at RHPS