Russells Reporter

Spring Term 2 2024

Issue 4

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

This half term really does seem to have flown by, but we've been very busy yet again.

Attendance

202 children have had their **100% Attendance Badge** Awarded for **Spring Term 2.** Every child will have the chance to earn their Summer 1 badge after Easter, and we hope with the better weather and a few more days of sunshine, that we all feel a bit healthier! We continue to look for our **Attendance Ambassadors** who will be presented with trophies for 100% Attendance at the end of the year. There are currently **37 children** on track to achieve this, compared to 8 **children** who received this honour last year.

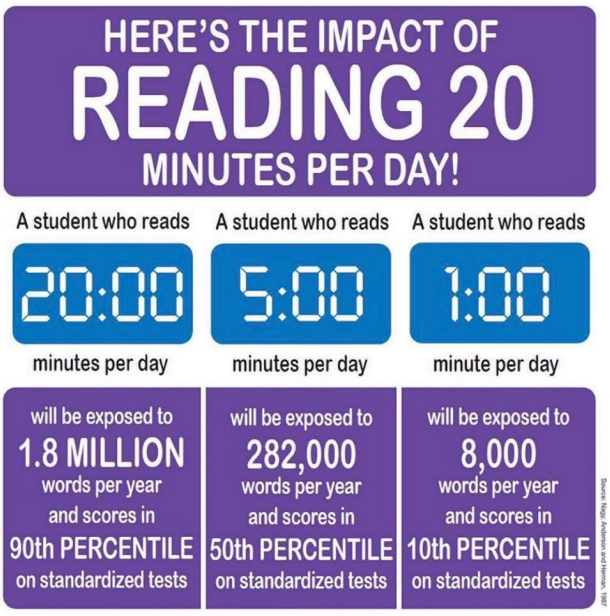
Our whole school attendance is currently 93.55%, just ABOVE the National average of 93%.

Congratulations to **2A**, who have the highest attendance this half term with **96.88%,** closely followed by **RM** with **96.80%,** and **2H** with **96.75%**

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!

Reading

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



Did you know, there's a simple and free way to dramatically improve your child's reading?

When children watch TV with **quality subtitles** on, it massively improves their literacy. It can actually double the chance of them leaving school as a proficient reader!

Hollywood Legend Jack Black has recorded a video about this... Please go to: **www.turnonthesubtitles.org/parents**

You can read more about it, download free resources and see the research behind all this at **www.turnonthesubtitles.org/teachers**

Let's turn screen time into reading time!

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!

Look at how many words we've collectively read since September in Years 2 to 6!!!!

Position	Class	Total Class Word Count
1	5P	**10,778,853** (913 QUIZZES)
2	6B	**9,219,422** (751 QUIZZES)
3	5HR	**6,222,457** (896 QUIZZES)
4	6T	**5,952,469** (830 QUIZZES)
5	4BP	**2,666,132** (623 QUIZZES)
6	4T	**2,022,871** (562 QUIZZES)
7	3P	**1,004,186** (926 QUIZZES)
8	3M	**530,090** (615 QUIZZES)
w/b 18/3/24		Total =38,327,202words
Change from last week		2,384,636 extra words read

World Book Day

This year, we decided to come to school in pyjamas to promote reading for pleasure, particularly bedtime reading. We spent the day sharing favourite books, characters, and stories and creating our own book covers.
Christopher Edge also came to visit us and we loved seeing a real life author in our hall and taking part in his interactive Escape Room. Thank you to Mrs Taylor for organising!

Values Ambassadors

We are proud to have awarded **over 120 children** with Values Ambassadors badges for **SUCCESS** this half term. Our next value we will focus on is **SINCERITY**, and I am confident that our children will continue to demonstrate this value in their academic and personal achievements.

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.

It is so important that we celebrate excellence and success together

Gymnastics Stars

On Thursday 14th March, a group of KS 1 and KS 2 children attended a Gymnastics Competition.

The KS1 Team (Olivia, Lily, Mya and Maria) finished second in the team competition, with Olivia placing second in the individual competition.

The KS2 Team (Madison, Jaziah, Poppy, K'Shawn) finished first in the team competition, with Madison placing first in the individual competition.

Both **of these teams will now go through to the final round of the competition in May.**

Our other **KS2 team** (Ashaya, Freyja, Mirac and Rhys) all competed brilliantly and overcame their nerves to compete. Their confidence grew throughout the competition which was good to see.

All of the children were well behaved - they listened carefully, responded quickly to instructions and looked after one another. Miss Gray had a fantastic day with them all and came away feeling very proud of how they conducted themselves and represented our school. **Congratulations to you all!**

Online Safety

Every child is different and will deal with the effects of online abuse in a variety of ways, but there are certain signs that could signal that something is wrong. Signs might include:

- A change in behaviour, including being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn.
- A change in eating or sleeping habits.
- A change in how they are performing in school, such as a dip in grades.
- Spending a lot more or a lot less time than usual online, texting, gaming, or using social media.
- Seeming distant, upset, or angry after using the internet or texting.
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and what they are doing online or on their mobile phone.

If you notice these signs or a marked change in behaviour in your child, a great first step is trying to open channels of communication for them to share their concerns.

Please see our website for a range of tips and advice on Online Safety and get in touch if you need help!

If you have any concerns please email tellus@russells.dudley.sch.uk

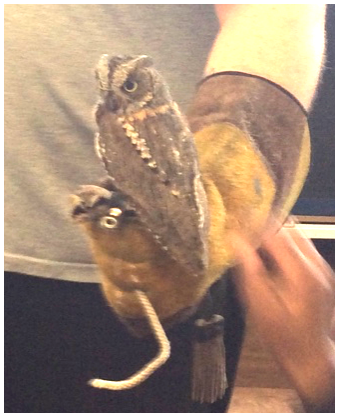
Year 1 visit Dudley Castle and Zoo

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

They spent the morning in the castle's undercroft, 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 met important kings and lords from the past who lived in the castle and even met some of the castle creatures.

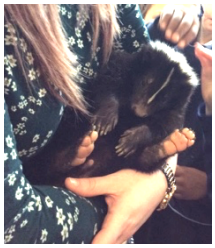
After lunch they got to meet many different animals that they had been learning about in science. They searched for mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and insects and read the fact files based on how long they live and whether they were carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. They even got to see some of the animals being fed by the keepers. The staff were so impressed by Year 1 and their behaviour and manners during the day. **Shining ambassadors for our school.**

The Animal Man visits Russells Hall



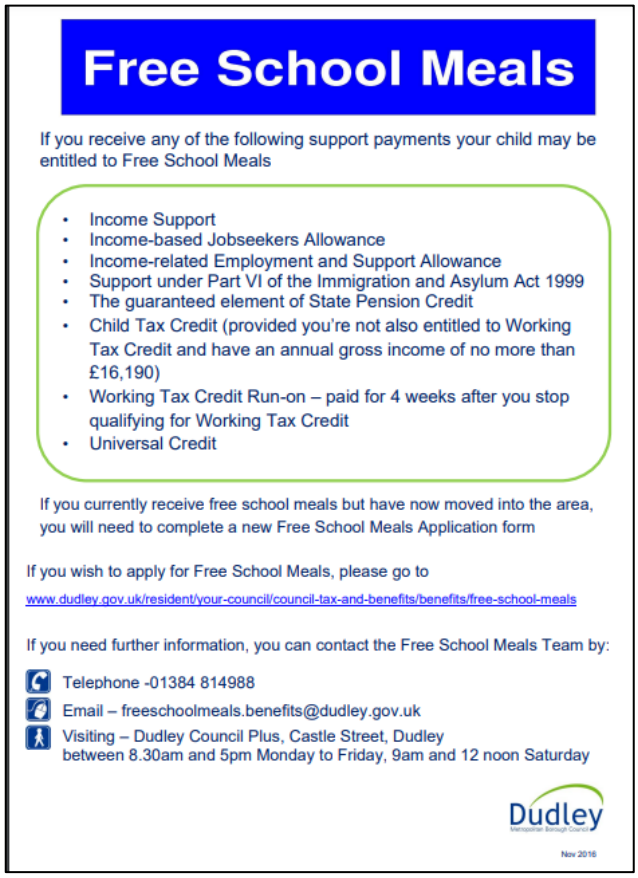
Thank you to Miss Harbach for organizing the Animal Man to visit us on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March. The whole school delved into the worlds of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

The children were taught interesting facts and stories including classifications, habitats and eating habits of different animals.
We had the opportunity to touch and hold lots of interesting animals including **hissing cockroaches**, **bearded dragon**, **snakes**, **lizards**, a beautiful **owl** who also flew around our hall! **Humbug the skunk** was a huge hit with everyone!



Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

If your child is in Reception, Years one or two, you will automatically be entitled for free meals under the **'Universal Infant Free School Meals'** criteria. However, if you do meet the criteria opposite and/ or have a child in Years 3,4,5 and 6 then you will need to submit an online claim in order for school to receive Pupil Premium funding.



Free School Meals

If you receive any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to Free School Meals

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you currently receive free school meals but have now moved into the area, you will need to complete a new Free School Meals Application form

If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, please go to

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Team by:

Telephone -01384 814988

Email – freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk

Visiting – Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley
between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am and 12 noon Saturday

Dudley

Nov 2016

https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/

Hardship

We understand that financial pressures are mounting. We currently have a little bit of money available for anyone in need of emergency support. Should you require a hardship voucher, please get in touch after Easter and if we can help, we will. The info@russells.dudley.sch.uk mailbox will be unmonitored during the Easter break.

Parents Evenings

It was lovely to see so many of you attending Parents Evenings on 6th and 7th March. It's a very valuable opportunity to ensure collaboration, communication, and support between parents and teachers, ultimately benefiting your child's educational journey. I know many of you took the time to visit and sample ABM's food (please continue to book meals on the app) and also stocked up on uniform and a few books!

Fundraising

Thank you for so generously supporting **Red Nose Day**! We raised a magnificent **£380.03** for this very important charity!

RED NOSE DAY

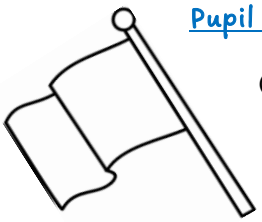
Year 6 SATS – Details for your diary

Year 6 KS2 SATS 2024

	Date	Test	Duration	Marks	Details
English	Monday 13th May	Grammar & Punctuation (Paper 1)	45 Minutes	50	A written test with a mixture of grammar and punctuation questions.
		Spellings (Paper 2)	Approx 20 mins (not timed)	20	An aural spelling test consisting of 20 words. This score is added to the grammar & punctuation paper score to give a final mark.
	Tuesday 14th May	English Reading	60 Minutes	50	One paper with questions that are based on 3 different texts of increasing difficulty (fiction & non-fiction).
Mathematics	Wednesday 15th May	Mathematics Arithmetic (Paper 1)	30 Minutes	40	Involves mathematical calculations covering all four operations (+ – x ÷) including fractions, decimals and percentages.
		Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 2)	40 Minutes	35	Both of these papers assess mathematical fluency, with word problems and reasoning. All 3 maths paper's scores are added together to give a final mark.
	Thursday 16th May	Mathematics Reasoning (Paper 3)	40 Minutes	35	

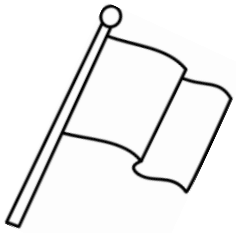
- There are 6 tests over a course of 4 days (3 x English and 3 x Maths)
- Writing and Science are teacher assessed using evidence gathered throughout Year 6
- Schools can test anytime between 7am and 7pm on the day of each test
- All test papers are sent off to be externally marked
- Results will be made available to schools in July

Silly School Education



Pupil Parliament – Easter Competition

Good luck to everyone who is taking part in our **Design a School Flag Competition** over Easter, organised by Pupil Parliament. We look forward to seeing your amazing designs – I can imagine judging a winner will be incredibly hard!



PTFA - Calling all Volunteers!

Can you spare a few hours each school term? Are you willing and interested in helping to run extra events for your child in school, such as Discos, fairs and end of Year 6 activities? Do you have any fundraising ideas to help raise vital funds for Russells Hall Primary?

Here at Russells Hall, we are looking to set up a PTFA (Parents, teachers, and friends Association). Since Covid our PTA finished, and we are looking to change in to a PTFA which includes friends within our community and encourage lots of people to help us. After the success of the Christmas Fair as a trial event, we are now ready to make things bigger and better!

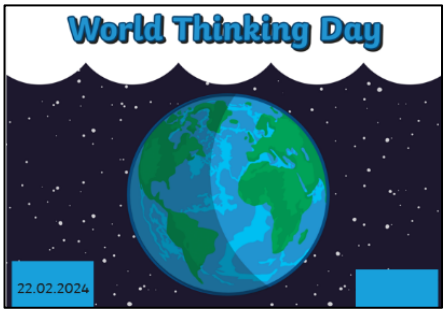
We are looking to hold our first introductory meeting on:

Tuesday 16th April. 3pm. (Meet at the front office)

We can then discuss what sort of times would be suitable for everyone to attend. This will be an informal chat to discuss ideas over a biscuit or two! We would love for you to join us!

For more information please speak to Miss Pritchard (Year 4 teacher)

World Thinking Day



On Thursday 22nd February we celebrated **Thinking Day** together - the morning started with Key stage assemblies led by Mrs Tams, Ava & Violet from 5P, all being members of the Girlguiding UK.

Ava & Violet had planned activities for each year group to take part in as they wanted to show the children what fun they have at Brownies each week.

Some of the activities were linked to the worldwide theme for the year **Our World, Our Thriving Future The environment and global poverty**. The girls spent time during the day in each class, taking photos and talking to the children. After all the activities were completed Ava & Violet looked through all completed pieces and chose two winners from each year group.

Well done to all the winners:
Year 1: Aaleen & Harrison, **Year 2:** Marnie-May & George, **Year 3:** Lola & Mina, **Year 4:** Charlie & Anaya, **Year 5:** Hugo & Felicity, **Year 6:** Hast & Ella.

Thank you to all of the children who wore their scouting or guiding uniform - finding their brave, to show they are part of a global organisation.
A big **WELL DONE** and massive thanks to Ava and Violet who have worked really hard over the last few weeks and for being so enthusiastic. They have displayed many of our Russells Hall values, well done girls.

Brownies

Design a Potato Competition

Thank you for all of your entries for our Design a Potato character competition for World Book Day. We hope you enjoyed continuing the reading celebrations at home. Pupil Parliament had a difficult job to judge all of your wonderful creations! Congratulations to our winners –
1st Place – Freya RBH
2nd Place – Joel 1M
3rd Place - Gulyar 1W

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a great Easter and that the Easter bunny visits with lots of chocolate eggs! We look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 9th April (8th April is INSET DAY).

Much love from us all!