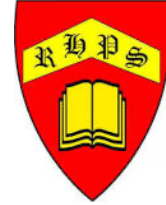


Russells Reporter

Summer Term 1 2024



Issue 5

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

This half term has been very strange and began with school being closed for 2 days due to a gas leak. Year 6 students have completed their SATS tests, enjoying a delicious pre-test breakfast every day! Unfortunately, due to the disruption to assemblies we have had this half term, we haven't been able to award values badges this time - our value of **Sincerity** will continue and will be celebrated at the end of July instead.

We've also had two new arrivals to our Russells Hall family - congratulations to Mrs. Bradbury and Mrs. Ridley on the birth of your beautiful babies!

Attendance

204 children have had their 100% Attendance Badge Awarded for Spring Term 2. Every child will have the chance to earn their Summer 2 badge after half term. We continue to search for our **Attendance Ambassadors** who will be presented with trophies for 100% Attendance at the end of the year. There are currently **30 children** on track to achieve this, compared to **8 children** who received this honour last year.



Our whole school attendance is currently 94.02%, ABOVE the National average of 93%, which is absolutely amazing!!!!

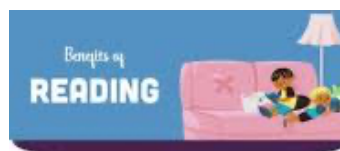
Congratulations to 2A, who have the highest attendance this half term, yet again, with 96.53%, closely followed by 6T with 96.42%, and RBH with 96.42%

Your support in ensuring your child's punctuality and attendance, is invaluable as it sets the foundation for their academic success. THANK YOU!

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.



Reading sharpens **MIND**
Reading exercises **BRAIN**
Reading keeps you **ENGAGED**
Reading strengthens **MEMORY**
Reading introduces **EMPATHY**
Reading expands **VOCABULARY**
Reading increases **KNOWLEDGE**
Reading enhances **IMAGINATION**
Reading fosters **CONCENTRATION**
Reading improves **WRITING SKILLS**

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!!!!

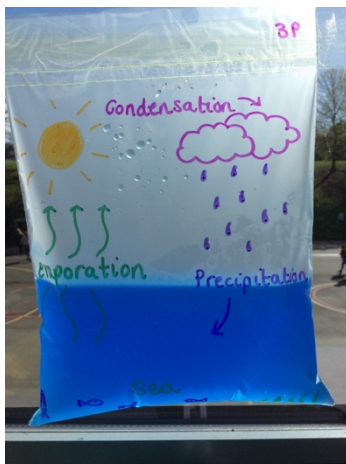
Position	Class	Total Class Word Count
1	5P	15,347,429
2	6B	12,165,298
3	6T	10,101,778
4	5HR	8,647,894
5	4BP	3,852,858
6	4T	3,112,132
7	3P	1,582,220
8	3M	950,209
9	2A	122,228
10	2H	52,987
w/b 20/5/24		Total =55,637,348 words
Change from last week		5,774,364 extra words read

South Staffs Water visits Year 3 and 5 15th March

Year 3 had a great morning with Emily Eden from South Staffs Water.

The children had to make a water cycle in a bag. It works by taping the bag to the window, the water will heat up (evaporation), then condense on the top of the bag (condensation) and then fall bag into the water (precipitation). The one they have made for class is already working.

Then, they looked at how South Staffs clean our water and did a filtration experiment. They had 4 items: cotton pad, one big stone, some smaller pebbles and sand. The children had to decide which was the best way to put the items into the top of the bottle. They then added muddy water and watched to see what happened to the muddy water as it filtered through the items. All the bottles revealed a murky water. It was clearer than then initial water we put in! Amazing!

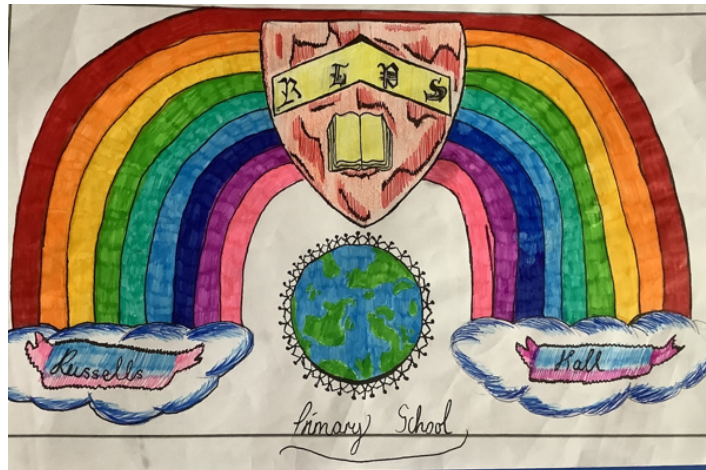


The diagram illustrates the components of a river basin. The main river is shown flowing from the 'Source' at the top to the 'Mouth' at the bottom. A 'Tributary' joins the main river at a 'Confluence' point. The entire area is labeled 'River Basin'. The river is drawn in blue, and the basin is outlined in black. There are some green and orange shapes at the bottom, possibly representing vegetation or a delta. The paper is placed on a background with text and a table.

Month	Basin	Channel
sea,	A river basin is the area where all rain falling there ends up in the main river channel.	A river channel is the path that the water flows through.

Logan

And our winning flag was designed by: **Jaziah**



Congratulations to all who took part – we look forward to unveiling and flying our new flag with pride, once it has been produced.

Junior PCSO Graduation

This half term we have celebrated the success of another group of Year 5 Junior PCSOs who have recently, proudly graduated from the scheme. The Junior PCSO scheme is an initiative ran by West Midlands Police with local Primary Schools that aims to increase the confidence and self-esteem of children, while promoting positive police engagement in order to encourage children to feel confident to approach their local policing teams with community information and concerns, or for help and support.

Our new Junior PCSO graduates completed a six week programme which included learning about the phonetic alphabet, the role of both Police Officers and PCSOs, how to be a responsible citizen, road safety, fire safety and first aid through Junior Paramedic Training. They also completed community work, which included litter picking. Our new Junior PCSOs showed super commitment to their learning and to their community throughout and even learnt the Junior PCSO pledge which they shared with the whole school during their graduation assembly. Well done to Lexi, Amelia, Emily, Gracey, Evie, Arina, Pamela, Hooria and Ashaya – we are very proud of you all!

We will soon be recruiting for next academic years Junior PCSOs and look forward to seeing how many group we can train throughout the year!





Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Bulletin

The Dudley Special Educational Needs and Disabilities e- bulletin's aim is to keep parent carers, education settings and stakeholders informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme as well as news and events.

As a system they are working hard to improve our SEND offer across the borough. A lot is happening, and they are gathering pace to better support our children, young people and families with SEND.

Our latest bulletin provides

- updates of our improvement journey including our progress of our Delivering Better Value Programme in SEND
- SEND news from the Dudley Parent Carer Forum, Health, the council and partners
- details of useful events for parent carers and practitioners
- SEND Education Settings News which includes information about free SEND training Resources.

Sign up now (<https://tinyurl.com/DudleySEnDBulletins>) to receive this e-bulletin direct to your email inbox

Online Safety

It has come to our attention that there has been a concerning rise in the inappropriate use of WhatsApp among some of our children, particularly in the creation of groups and the exchange of unkind comments. This behaviour has caused distress and disrupted the learning within school on several occasions. We kindly request that if your child possesses a mobile phone, you regularly monitor its usage if you are not already doing so. It is important to remind everyone that the age limit for WhatsApp is 13 years old. To reinforce online safety practices, we conduct monthly assemblies addressing this crucial topic. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated so that we can help to keep everyone safe.



Year 5 Coding

On Tuesday 21st May the children in Year 5 took part in an online 'STEM in Space' coding session, which was led by members from the STEM community. They learned about how astronauts keep fit in space, and then worked in pairs to code their micro:bits to create an exercise program for astronauts. The children also learned how to add sound and create their own LED pictures. They were encouraged to identify any errors in their algorithms and use computational thinking to debug their work. The children have made great progress with their coding skills this half term and this was a lovely way to end the unit.

Reception visit to Little Owl Farm Park

Reception had a fabulous day at Little Owl Farm Park on the 1st May. They got to pet day old chicks, a baby goat (kid), a bearded dragon, a rabbit and a guinea pig. They even got to feed some lambs a bottle of milk! They were then able to explore in the play barn, which was lots of fun (but the grown-ups said the yellow slide was too fast for them.) After watching a sheep race and petting a very friendly deer, they all settled back on the coach for our return to school. They arrived back to school with some very tired children (and grown-ups) after a full, fun-packed day!



Vivo



On Tuesday 21st May, Russell's Hall Primary School Choir participated in the Vivo concert at Dudley Town Hall. The event was very well attended and included choirs from various Dudley primary schools. All choirs performed on stage to a full house of friends and family. Our choir consisted of year 4, 5 and 6 very excited children who had been attending after-school rehearsals for the last few weeks. They sang 'Please Miss', 'Light a Candle' a capella, and 'Love Shine a Light'. They were first to perform so nerves were running high, but they all made us very proud. They sounded beautiful, therefore started the concert off on a high note! Their behavior was

also exemplary from start to finish. Thank you to all staff who made this possible for us, and thank you to all who attended, your support was appreciated.

Can you help? We're on the look out for speakers to come into school to talk to the children and help us in organizing cultural events, festivals, and activities that showcase the diversity within the school community and beyond to help us foster a sense of celebration and respect for different cultures. If you think that is something you could help with, or if you know someone who could help, please get in touch via info@russells.dudley.sch.uk

Summer Fayre We are hoping that we can run a Summer Fayre on 10th July from 3.45pm until 5.15pm. If anyone would like to help us out (we're still looking for volunteers to join us in a Parent teacher Association) please get in touch with Miss Pritchard. You can catch her at the end of the day on Monday or Tuesday. We are inviting children to come in mufti on July 1st, in exchange for an item for the summer fayre.

Summer Fayre 2024

Dates for your diary:

Donation Day on
Monday 1st July

Summer Fayre on
Wednesday 10th July 2024
from 3.45-5.15pm

Following the success of our Christmas fayre, when we raised almost £1600 for school resources, we are delighted to announce the date of our first SUMMER FAYRE.

We will have our usual range of stalls, tombolas and raffles, plus a few new fun games to play with lots of opportunities to win prizes.

As before, we need your help to make the fayre a success!

We will be holding another of our
DONATION DAYS on Monday 1st July

We ask that each year group brings in the following (if they can).

Reception	Lollipops
Year 1	Bagged sweets: Haribo (multipacks or larger bags)
Year 2	Bottles for the tombola (Soft drinks and toiletries)
Year 3	Chocolate bars (regular size and larger bars)
Year 4	Bottles for the tombola (Soft drinks and toiletries)
Year 5	Chocolate bars (regular size and larger bars)
Year 6	Bagged sweets: Haribo (multipacks or larger bags)

On this day, we ask that children bring in their contributions for the fayre in return for wearing their own clothes to school.

If you are unable to provide the suggested items for your child's year group, please feel free to donate any of the other items.

We are also collecting the following items:

- * Unwanted gifts for the tombola
- * Raffle prizes
- * Cuddly toys for the Teddy Tombola
- * Gift Bags (new and/or recycled)
- * Mugs

Water bottles - every child in school has been given a new water bottle from our new Catering Company, ABM, which they will keep in school and will be refilled daily. They have all been named, so there is no need to provide water bottles if you don't want to.

Dates for your diary

4th June - Year 2 visit Warwick Castle

7th June - Year 4 visit Black Country Museum

8-12th June - Year 6 PGL

June 17th - South Staffs Water - workshop with Year 6

June 17th - Children's University Workshops - Years 5 and 6

June 18th - Reception - Balance Bikes session

June 19th - Music Show

June 24th - Year 3 and 4 Sports 9.30-11am

June 24th - Year 6 visit West Midlands Safari Park

June 25th - Reception Sports 2-3pm

June 26th - Year 1 and 2 Sports 9.30-11am

June 28th - Year 5 and 6 Sports 9.30-11am

July 3rd - Year 5 visit Blists Hill

July 3rd - Reception family picnic

July 5th - Year 6 Children's University Graduation

July 5th - Transition letters out to parents (details of next class teacher and trips/ visits overview for the year)

July 8th - 12th Transition week

July 10th - Summer Fayre

July 15th - Annual Reports sent to parents

July 16th - Year 3 visit Think Tank

July 18th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly (2pm)

July 18th - Year 6 Leavers Disco (6-8pm)

July 19th - Children break up for Summer

July 22nd - INSET DAY