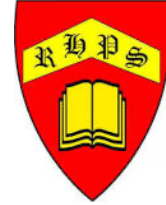


## Russells Reporter

### Summer Term 2 2024

### Issue 6



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

*What a busy half term it has been! Thank you all for your support this year. Belated Congratulations to Mr Banfield who got married in May Half Term! We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Moore (Reception) who is moving on to pastures new and Miss Hickman who is pursuing a teaching qualification. We wish them both continued success in their new roles and thank them for all their hard work and commitment to Russells Hall.*

#### Attendance



**154** children have had their **100% Attendance Badge** Awarded for **Summer Term 2**. We are proud to have awarded **18 Attendance Ambassadors** with trophies for 100% Attendance for the full year, not missing a day of their learning.

**Our whole school attendance is 93.95% for this half Term.**

**Congratulations to 2A, who have the highest attendance this half term, yet again, with 95.97%, closely followed by 1M with 95.64%, and 5HR with 94.85%.**

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

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

**95,209,198**

#### Gymnastics Superstars

Before we broke up for Half Term, our KS1 and KS2 gymnastic teams attended the finals of the Dudley Schools Gymnastics Championship, which they qualified for back in March of this year. There was a wonderful atmosphere at the competition - a combination of jangling nerves, excitement, and team spirit as the very best schools in the Dudley borough competed for the overall title.

Our KS1 team - Olivia, Maria, Mya and Lillian - performed brilliantly and finished the competition in second place. They all performed with confidence, posting higher scores than they had in the previous round of the competition and thoroughly deserved their silver medal. They were just amazing!

For our KS2 team - Jaziah, Madison, K'Shawn and Omari - there was very tough competition. They all held their nerve, achieving some fantastic scores on floor, but they

absolutely excelled with their vaulting. They were over the moon to come away with the bronze medal in a very challenging competition.

Madison came away with two further honours. She won the individual gold medal for her KS2 category and was the gymnast who achieved the VERY HIGHEST SCORES across all of the competitions. A fabulous achievement – well done Madison.

Both teams represented our school in the very best way; they were brave, overcame their nerves and their behaviour was impeccable throughout the competition. Our older gymnasts were incredibly supportive to the children in our KS1 team and the very best role models. I was very proud of them all! Miss Gray



### Year 2 visit Warwick Castle

On 4<sup>th</sup> June, Year 2 visited Warwick Castle, a historic landmark with over 1,100 years of history. The castle has witnessed significant events in British history, from the Battle of Hastings to the imprisonment of Joan of Arc. During their visit, the children had the opportunity to explore medieval history and experience the grandeur of this iconic castle. They witnessed the launch of a trebuchet, gaining insight into medieval warfare techniques. The trip provided a hands-on learning experience, allowing the children to immerse themselves in the past and connect with the rich heritage of Warwick Castle. During their visit, Year 2 were also fortunate enough to observe the falconers quest bird show, where they watched various birds of prey soaring above them. They witnessed a live show of the War of the Roses learning how the Tudors came to be. Although the weather wasn't on their side, they all had an incredibly wonderful time!





### Year 4 visit The Black Country Museum

At the start of June, Year 4 visited the Black Country Living Museum to explore the natural resources of our local area. We learnt about how coal, limestone and iron ore were extracted and the dangers associated with mining in the area. The children witnessed exciting experiments which highlighted the explosive nature of Methane gas and suffocating effects of Carbon Dioxide. We walked alongside the canals to view the barges used to transport the mined materials and we also saw how chains were made.



The highlight of the day was a guided tour of a mine to experience for ourselves the difficult working conditions the miners faced. It certainly was an unforgettable experience.

### We had an absolutely brilliant Year 6 PGL adventure! 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June



**BOREATON PARK 2024,  
Shropshire**

The children dived into a whirlwind of new activities—abseiling down tall towers, canoeing across serene waters, building their own buggies, tackling survivor challenges in the woods, engaging in thrilling laser tag battles, climbing the dizzy heights of Jacob's Ladder, and testing their skills in archery tag. We trekked miles around the sprawling PGL site, indulged in lots of delicious food, sang our hearts out, all on very little sleep!

The children had an absolute blast interacting with the PGL staff, pulling off hilarious pranks that kept everyone laughing! The camaraderie and playful antics created an unforgettable atmosphere of fun and mischief. The children thrived on teamwork, working together to tackle every challenge with enthusiasm. They cheered each other on, offering unwavering support and encouragement, creating an inspiring atmosphere of unity.

We hope the children cherished every moment away from home and that these memories last a lifetime.

### Music Superstars

On Wednesday 19th June, a selection of Year 4, 5 and 6 children presented their amazing live music show to friends and family. Children have been working hard to prepare acoustic guitar music, keyboard and piano solos and the choir have been singing their hearts out in preparation for the music spectacular. There was also music on ukuleles, drum kit and recorders. Everyone involved was very excited and couldn't wait to show off all their hard work and talent. The hall was filled with 150 spectators as they were wowed by 50 children singing and playing music to them, for almost an hour. We are so proud of them!

### Year 6 visit The Safari Park

On 24<sup>th</sup> June, Year 6 enjoyed their trip to West Midlands Safari Park! They began the day with an exciting drive in the safari area accompanied by a Safari Ranger who taught us many facts about the animals. We then moved into the rest of the park and met some of the other animals who live there. Afterwards, we had a fantastic time at the theme park riding on all of the rides they had to offer- the children even got the adults involved! Before setting back to school, we finished our day by watching the sea lions. An amazing final trip for our wonderful Year 6s before they leave us, filled with new learning and lots of enrichment!



### Music on Tour

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, our young budding musicians took their music show on tour. They excitedly performed to the residents at Broad Meadow Retirement Village in Dudley. The choir sang on stage, young pianists performed solos, and guitars and ukuleles also featured in the entertaining music show. It was a delight when all of the residents joined in when two year 4 children performed 'You Are My Sunshine'. It was heart warming to hear children and seniors singing together. The year 4, 5 and 6 children wowed the residents so much that they had a collection and donated £45 to the school. Miss Comley is hoping to put this towards a combo amp which can be used at future music events. Everyone is looking forward to the next one!

### Sports Days

Finally, the weather was on our side for Sports Day this year. Thank you to all the families who supported us and joined us on one of our Sports Days. Here are the final results, in case you missed them.

### Year 3/4

1st Ruby 970

2nd Emerald 890

3rd Sapphire 810

4th Citrine 650

### Year 5/6

1st Sapphire 1190

2nd Citrine 960

3rd Ruby 910

4th Emerald 790

### Overall (Years 1 - 6)

1st Sapphire 3000

2nd Ruby 2950

3rd Emerald 2510

4th Citrine 2260

### Year 5 visit Blists Hill

On Wednesday 3rd July the children in Year 5 took part in an exciting trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town in Telford. The children had great fun designing and making an intaglio plate and taking part in a candle dipping activity. They enjoyed visiting the shops and finding out about life in Victorian times.

### Cricket

Worcestershire Cricket Club have been supporting our 'Sports development' during the last half of this term. Pupils from Year 1, 3, 4 and 5 have enjoyed an extra P.E session weekly with one of their coaches 'Jack'. Years 3 and 4 have also been offered a complimentary 'After School Cricket club' which concludes on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July with their final cricket match.

Hunter, in Year 1 has said "Cricket is lots of fun and I never knew what you call all of the equipment. Now I know about wickets, stumps, fielders and batters"



Following on from this, they are also offering 'FREE Summer sessions' on Russells Hall Park. Please see flyer above and details to make your booking.

### Summer Fayre

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Summer Fayre such a success! The pennies have been counted and the final total is...





### Children's University Graduation

This half-term we got to celebrate the 25 children that graduated from Children's University! Children's University works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children. This is done by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. It was wonderful to see the types of activities children excel at outside of school.

To celebrate we had a graduation ceremony here at school, with the children wearing caps and gowns and enjoying some refreshments in the sunshine. It was so nice to see all the parents come in to support our children! We are immensely proud of what our children have achieved over the past 2 years! Miss Patterson



### Supporting Families Experiencing Food Insecurities

Households with at least one person under 18 years old:

The emergency financial support from the Family Hubs and Emergency Duty Team will be available until the end September 2024.

For further information contact [cypteam@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:cypteam@dudley.gov.uk)

**Black Country Food Bank** - families can access food items (not including infant formula)

Monday to Friday 9.00 - 13.00

[www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

[admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

01384 671250

**Family Hubs** - Families can access financial support to purchase food items and/or infant formula

Monday to Friday 9.00 - 17.00

[www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/early-years-and-childcare/dudley-family-hub-network](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/early-years-and-childcare/dudley-family-hub-network)

Lye - Lye By-Pass, Stourbridge, DY9 8HT, 01384 813954

Brierley Hill - 18 Parkes St, Brierley Hill, DY5 3DY, 01384 813322

Coseley - Bayer Street, Bilston, WV14 9DS, 01384 813096

Dudley - Selbourne Road, Dudley DY2 8LJ, 01384 812440

Stourbridge - Forge Rd, Stourbridge, DY8 1XF, 01384 818780

**Social Care Emergency Duty Team** - Families can access financial support to purchase food items and/or infant formula

Evenings 17.00 - 00.00, Weekends and Bank Holidays

0300 555 8574

Families can access further cost of living support and advice at <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/cost-of-living/>

### Happy Summer

Just a few last reminders:

- Monday 2nd September is an INSET day and the children begin on 3rd. Gates open at 8.40am and children should be in class by 8.45 to collect their toast and begin their morning studies.
- We do have a uniform library which can be accessed at the start of the year if you need any spare uniform - please come to the office and ask. This will also be available upon request at any time and at Parents Evenings.
- A plea - if you have any Christmas jumpers your child has grown out of, please consider donating to school so we can reuse. Our eco team would really appreciate this.

To our leavers, this is not a 'goodbye', but a 'see you later'. You have been an exceptional part of our school community, and we are confident that you will excel in your future endeavours. As you embark on your next journey, we wish you every success.

Once again, thank you all for your continued support.  
Wishing you all a wonderful, safe and happy summer!

With much love,  
Miss Harrison and the entire Russells Hall Team

