

Russells Hall Primary School

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME
to the start of the new school year!

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers, Children and Families,

Welcome Back to a New School Year!



We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and have had the opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy some special family time together. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Russells Hall Primary School and to see the children returning ready for another exciting year.

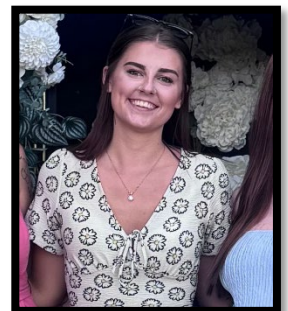
Over the summer, the school has had a wonderful refresh, with lots of painting and decorating taking place throughout the building. We have introduced lovely warm cream tones across the school, helping us to create a calm, welcoming and nurturing environment that reflects our ethos of calmness and wellbeing.



The start of this new academic year has seen Mrs Bytheway and Miss McCaffery - Learning Mentors - join the Russells Hall Team

Mrs Bytheway and Miss McCaffery will be working as our Learning Mentors, supporting children with their wellbeing, confidence, relationships and engagement in school.

They will work closely with children, families and staff to help ensure that our children feel happy, supported, confident and ready to learn.



We are also delighted to have launched our brand-new Woodland Room.

This is a lovely new space within school where our new Learning Mentor team are based. The room provides a warm and welcoming environment where children can spend time, talk, receive support and have a little extra help when they need it. We are really pleased to have this additional space available for our children and are excited about the positive opportunities it will bring.





There are lots of exciting things happening at Russells Hall Primary School as well as continued collaboration from Wren's Nest Primary School. The partnership between the two schools continues to go from strength to strength. Sharing ideas, expertise and good practice allows both schools to learn from one another and ensures that we continue to develop and provide the very best opportunities for our children.

I will continue to oversee both Wren's Nest Primary School and Russells Hall Primary School, working closely with the teams across both schools. I am really excited about what this continued collaboration will bring and the opportunities it will create for our children, staff and families.

As part of this continued support, I am also delighted to introduce Melissa Wyer and Sarah Abbiss, who will be taking on the role of Acting Heads of School at Russells Hall Primary School. Both Melissa and Sarah are members of the leadership team at Wren's Nest Primary School and bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm.



They will be working closely with the fantastic staff team at Russells Hall, supporting the continued development of the school and ensuring that the children remain at the heart of everything we do.

They are both incredibly excited about their new roles and getting to know the children and families even better.

There is a real sense of excitement about the year ahead. We have lots of plans, ideas and opportunities in place, and we look forward to sharing these with you as the year progresses. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are really looking forward to working together and making this another happy, successful and exciting year for our children and families.

If you wish to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Our door is always open, and the whole school team and I are here and happy to help.

As always, take care,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sarah Parkes".

Sarah Parkes - Headteacher for Wren's Nest and Russells Hall

Remember!

We are always here to listen and support you if you have any questions, concerns or worries about your child.

Please don't hesitate to give us a call, pop into school or send us an email - talking to us early can help to prevent small worries from becoming bigger ones.

Useful Contacts:

School Website:
www.russellshall.org.uk
School Email:
info@russells.dudley.sch.uk
School Phone number:
01384 283705

A Friendly Reminder - We Are Now a Nut-Free School

We would like to remind families that Russells Hall Primary School is now a nut-free school. We really appreciate your support with this and ask that you help us by checking that children do not bring snacks that have any traces of nuts. Thank you for helping us to keep our school a safe and happy place for everyone.

Over the next few days, your child will be bringing home a few information forms for you to complete. These are important documents that help us to make sure we have the most up-to-date information for your child and your family.

Please take a little time to check the information carefully, complete anything that is needed and return the forms to school as soon as possible. Thank you, as always, for your support and for helping us to keep our school records up to date.

Contact details - time to update! - Once again, we are updating the information record to ensure we have the most recent telephone numbers and contact details for you and your child. These details are essential in case we need to contact you urgently or contact a close relative if you are unavailable. **Please only complete and return this form if your details have changed since last September, either by giving it via their class teacher or by hand into the main school office.**

Permission for local visits - Each year we need to ask you to complete a permission form to enable your child to take part in activities in the local area outside the school gates. These activities are always planned and you will be informed before such activities take place. **Please complete this form and return it via your child to their class teacher. We have many local area visits to look forward to and enjoy during this Autumn Term.**

Holiday Dates

Staff INSET days and closed to children - Tuesday 1st September 2026, Wednesday 2nd September 2026, Monday 23rd November 2026, Monday 30th November 2026, Monday 25th January 2027, closed to children only - Polling Station for Voting Day - 6th May 2027

Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026

End of Term: Friday 18th December 2026, returning on Monday 4th January 2027.

Parents' Evening

Tuesday 6th October
Wednesday 7th October

More detailed information about Parents Evening will follow shortly in a flyer, including dates, times and how to book your appointment.

Important Update: Mobile Phones in School

Due to recent changes to guidance for schools, we have reviewed our expectations regarding children bringing mobile phones onto the school site.

Our updated Mobile Phone Guidance for Parents, Carers and Families is coming home with this newsletter. Please take time to read it carefully.

Only children in Year 6 may bring a mobile phone to school where there is a genuine need. Phones must be handed into the main school office immediately on arrival, where they will be stored securely until the end of the school day.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe, focused and ready to learn.

VERY Advance Notice!

Key Stage 2 SATs week: Monday 10th May - Thursday 13th May 2027

Year 4 Multiplication tests:
Week beginning 7th June 2027
(2-week period)

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check week:
Week beginning 14th June 2027