



Russells Reporter

Autumn Term 1 2025

Issue 13



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

*Our Value for this half term has been: **HOPE***

Mrs Foy's Half-Term Round up

It's been a purposeful and rewarding start to the year. Most children have made strong progress in English—writing with greater accuracy and independence, and showing real depth in their reading responses through the new booklets introduced this term. Teachers are ensuring feedback is sharp and consistent, with pupils acting on marking to make visible improvements.

After-school clubs have been a real highlight, with excellent participation in Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Cricket and Football. It's been great to see children developing teamwork, resilience and confidence beyond the classroom.

Parents' Evenings were also extremely well attended—thank you for taking the time to meet with staff and celebrate your child's progress.

Finally, our new school website is now live. It's designed to better reflect the life at Russells Hall and provide easy access to key information, news and resources.

This half term, our assemblies have focused on *Hope*—exploring what it means to hold on to belief and courage even when things are difficult. Through the stories of everyday heroes such as Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela, children have seen how determination and compassion can shape the world for the better. We'll continue to build on this theme next half term, as we keep finding ways to live out our school values of Hope, Strength and Ambition in all we do.

Visitors to School

We've welcomed several visitors to school this half term who have enriched our curriculum and community links. **South Staffs Water** led engaging workshops about water safety and sustainability, while **Lisa Parkes from Living Hope Church** delivered a thoughtful Harvest assembly, followed by the **Food Bank** collecting your generous donations—thank you for your continued kindness. **Reflexions** also visited to lead a whole-school assembly on the Zones of Regulation, helping children to recognise and manage their emotions more effectively. Each visit has supported our wider curriculum and values in action.

Attendance Update



Our current whole school attendance still stands at **94.4%**, just below the national average of 95.4%.

Well done everyone!



Our Attendance Leaderboard looks like this:

2 Moore	97%
4 Miah	96.01%
1 BH	95.81%
3 Harbach	95.8%
3 Taylor	95.09%
4 Wilkes	94.93%
1 Dell	94.15%
6 T	94.12%
2 Adams	93.88%
R Porter	93.76%
5 ZP	92.76%
5 Hails/Pope	92.7%
R Greenfield	91.51%
6 Ban/Pritch	90.23%

[Year 6 Visit Pegasus Academy](#) #ambition #excellence #belonging #strength #hope

On **Wednesday 17th September**, Year 6 visited **Pegasus Academy**. We were welcomed by the Head Teacher and a group of students who gave us an impressive demonstration of their African drumming skills. We were then taken on a tour of the school to experience for ourselves a typical Year 7 learning environment. Our Year 6 children showed great enthusiasm for the different lessons visited and asked lots of relevant questions.

The visit proved a valuable insight into what life would be like once they reach Year 7. We advise parents to check the open evenings/events of local high schools to enable their children to sample a broad variety of settings to help prepare them for their transition to Year 7.

[Harvest Celebrations](#) #love #kindness #generosity #belonging #hope #gratitude

On **Thursday 2nd October**, we were delighted to welcome **Lisa Parkes** from **Living Hope Church** into school to help us celebrate Harvest. Lisa began the morning with a whole school assembly, sharing with the children the importance of Harvest and how foodbanks support families in our community. She then visited Year 3 classes, leading engaging workshops that encouraged pupils to think about generosity, thankfulness, and helping others.

Our celebrations continued on **Monday 6th October**, when children brought in their donations for the **Black Country Foodbank**. In the afternoon, each class took part in special Harvest activities, using videos and resources provided by the foodbank. These lessons helped children reflect on food poverty, the importance of kindness, and the difference their contributions can make.

Last year, our school collected 350kgs of food and 21kgs of toiletries—enough to provide 700 meals and 21 toiletry packs. We are aiming to beat that total this year, and we are so grateful to every family who has donated. Every tin, packet, and toiletry item makes a difference.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families — thank you for all your kind donations!

The children really enjoyed helping to sort and organise the donated items, ready for collection by the Foodbank team. Your support will make a real difference to local families in need.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's Harvest celebration such a thoughtful and caring event.



[Year 4 Visit Severn Valley](#) #learning #excellence #curiosity #teamwork #strength #respect

To help consolidate the learning that has taken place in geography this term, Year 4 spent a fantastic day at **Severn Valley Country Park** on **Tuesday 8th October**. They spent half of the day learning about and following the **River Severn**, from the tributaries higher up at the park to the mouth of the River Severn itself. Year 4 really impressed the rangers with their knowledge and the technical vocabulary they used when answering questions.

"I learnt that the River Severn, is the longest river in the UK" Kevin

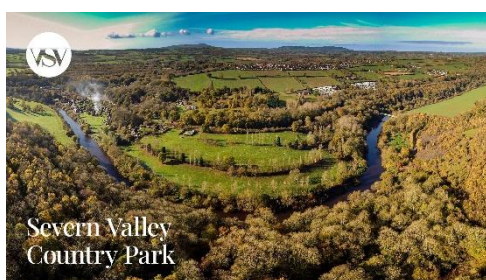
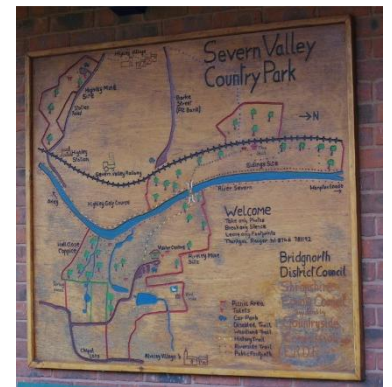
"The River Severn meanders around the valleys" Negan

"My favourite part was finding out how to check the flow speed of the river and playing 'pooh sticks off the bridge'" Elliott

"When I stood on that bridge it took my breathe away, wow" Kevin

The other half of the day was spent in teams, completing the orienteering course. The children learnt vital map reading, compass and teamwork skills. Congratulations to Team Gray and Team Wilkes who were only two clues away from completing the course.

Year 4 really enjoyed getting up close to the river, the ecology that survives because of it and the wildlife that can be found in our British rivers. Don't forget to check out 'The Severn Valley Country Park' website for some exciting, free events over October Half Term.



Snakes Alive! #curiosity #courage #joyoflearning #imagination #respect

Reception had an exciting visit from the Animal Man on 7th October. The children were thrilled to meet and even touch a variety of fascinating animals, including a Legless Lizard, an Owl, a Snake, and the incredibly adorable Honey Bear. This experience sparked curiosity and wonder, perfectly linking to our literacy books *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Anansi the Spider*, as we explored themes of adventure, imagination, and animals from different places.



TTRS England Rocks Tournament #excellence #resilience #joyoflearning #belonging

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, we are taking part in a friendly competition involving schools in England. The competition runs from 07:30 on Tuesday 18th November 2025 to 19:30 on Thursday 20th November 2025. It's all done online via play.ttrockstars.com.

Children, from Years 1 to 6, can play in any game mode with every correct answer earning a point. To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60-minutes per player. Once the player goes beyond 60-minutes of play on that day, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans.

ENGLAND ROCKS

18TH TO 20TH NOVEMBER
7:30AM TO 7:30PM DAILY

PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE!

1HR TIME LIMIT PER PERSON!

WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER STUDENT!

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

[Rivers Workshop](#) #responsibility #excellence #curiosity #hope

Linked with Year 4's Geography work on Rivers, they were lucky enough to take part in a very enlightening and enjoyable workshop with Marie from Severn Trent Water. They learnt all about the water cycle, made their own individual water cycles in bags and became water efficiency detectives, hunting for crimes against water around school. Marie was really amazed and impressed by the level of understanding Year 4 had pre workshop, and commented on their excellent use of key words and understanding of technical vocabulary.

"We found many crimes against water, but the worst was the washing machine on a full cycle with only three cloths inside " Amelia W

"I really understand the water cycle now and will hang my example in my window so I never forget it" Nathan

[Dudley council waste transformation - Year 5 workshop](#) #responsibility #respect #learning #hope #belonging

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Dudley Council's Waste Transformation Programme. They had great fun during the recycling session, sorting items into the correct containers and discovering more about why recycling is so important for our planet. The session linked to learning about Dudley's new waste and recycling scheme, which will be introduced in April 2026. The children explored why these changes will be happening and how they will help improve sustainability across the local area. This experience ties in perfectly with the Year 5 geography topic of energy and sustainability, while also reinforcing an important message we share with all year groups about caring for our environment and making sustainable choices.

[Year 6 Bikeability Success](#) #responsibility #excellence #strength #hope #confidence

Sixteen of our Year 6 pupils have completed their Level 2 Bikeability training this week, demonstrating impressive skill and confidence on their bikes. The instructors were full of praise for the group, commenting on their mature attitude, excellent listening skills and outstanding behaviour throughout. They made such strong progress that most of the course content was completed on the first day—so the second day was spent out on the roads, putting their learning into practice in real conditions.

[Year 2 Explore Avoncroft](#) #curiosity #excellence #learning #respect #belonging

Just before half term, Year 2 went on a trip to Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings.

During our trip we were able to explore town houses and cottages, make our own bricks and even take a peek inside the giant windmill!

The children toured all of the different historical buildings on the site and they loved exploring! They were interested to learn about the different construction techniques, such as wattle and daub, and how houses from the past differed from their homes of today. The children were particularly interested to learn that homes in the past did not have running water or electricity and had outdoor toilets!

We completed our visit by learning how some of the items found in our homes had changed over time.

As you can see from our photos we all had a fantastic time.



GENERAL NOTICEBOARD

Transport for West Midlands is offering parents free bus rides to help cut the cost of keeping children busy this half-term.



Parents and carers can apply for a **Swift travel card** pre-loaded with free bus travel between Monday, October 27 and Sunday, November 2 as part of the region's ongoing campaign to get more people to try buses. Those who take up the free deal will also be offered a 25% discount on a further week's free travel.




The offer is part of a £20 million passenger incentive programme, funded by the Government through the Bus Service Improvement Plan, to encourage more people to use the bus. The offer is available for new and lapsed bus users travelling with a child. Applications will be open from Monday, October 6 through the **TfWM website**.

Bedazzle Join the spooky fun!

Kids Art Workshop: Dali Dreams

Monday 27th Oct
10am-12pm
Priory House
Dudley
DY1 1HH



£10

Unleash your creativity this Halloween!
Booking: info@bedazzle.org.uk
www.bedazzle.sumupstore.com

Remembrance 2025

From **Monday 3rd November** to **Monday 10th November 2025** Pupil Parliament will be selling poppy items for The Royal British Legion in aid of Remembrance.



Bracelets £1, poppy to clip on zip 50p, paper poppy & stickers 20p. All proceeds go to the RBL.

We are asking that children bring the correct money as change cannot be given.

On **Tuesday 11th November 2025** we are asking any children who are part of a uniformed organisation – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts to wear their uniform to school for the day.

Many thanks for your support.

Squirrels BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS




Russells Hall Primary School Christmas Fayre 2025

On **Monday 17th November**, we will be holding our
CHRISTMAS FAYRE DONATION DAY

We ask that children bring in a contribution for the fayre in return for wearing their own clothes to school. If you cannot provide the suggested items for your child's year group, please feel free to donate any of the suggested items below.

Reception	Bagged sweets: Haribo (mini and larger bags), chocolate coins, candy canes, etc.
Year 1	Lollipops
Year 2	Chocolate bars: Regular size, larger bars or boxes
Year 3	Bottles for the tombola: Soft drinks and toiletries
Year 4	Bagged sweets: Haribo (mini and larger bags), chocolate coins, candy canes, etc.
Year 5	Chocolate bars: Regular size, larger bars or boxes
Year 6	Bottles for the tombola: Soft drinks and toiletries

We are also collecting the following items:

- 🎁 Unwanted gifts or toys for tombola prizes
- 🎁 Raffle prizes such as biscuits, selection packs, gift sets, bottles of wine, toiletries, etc.
- 🧸 PRE-LOVED CUDDLY TOYS!

And any other items that we can use for the fayre!

THANK YOU SO MUCH YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT.

Dates for Diary

- 11th November – 9am Coffee Morning
- 11th November – 3.30pm Year 2 Phonics Meeting
- 13th and 14th November EYFS Stay and Play
- 17th November – Xmas Fayre donations – MUFTI
- 21st November – Children in Need MUFTI
- 3rd December – ROCK KIDZ – Dress as a Rock Star
- Week beginning 8th December – KS 1 Christmas Productions (TBC)
- 10th December – Christmas Fayre
- 17th December – Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th December – PARTY DAY – children can wear party clothes to school. Children break up for Christmas
- 18th December – Mayor's Christmas Concert (Year 3)
- 19th December – INSET DAY – school closed to children

I hope everyone enjoys a safe, restful and happy half term break. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 3rd November** for another exciting half term ahead.



Mrs Alison Foy
Headteacher

