

## Russells Reporter

Summer Term 1 2026

### Issue 17

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

#### Attendance Update

Our current whole-school attendance still stands at **92.3%**, which is unfortunately below the national average of **93.4%**. We know that children do become poorly, and of course they should stay at home when they are genuinely unwell. However, regular attendance really does matter. Every day in school helps children to keep up with learning, friendships and routines.

**A huge well done to the classes currently leading the way with attendance this year:**

Class	Attendance
4 Miah	95.51%
3 Taylor	94.75%
2 Moore	94.44%
4 Wilkes	94.28%
1 BH	93.57%
6 T	92.81%
1 Dell	92.60%
3 Harbach	92.55%
R Porter	92.18%
2 Adams	91.92%
5 ZP	90.20%
6 Ban/Pritch	89.92%
5 Hails/Pope	89.72%
R Greenfield	88.44%



Well done especially to **4 Miah**, who are currently top of the leaderboard with **95.51%**.

#### Let's work together to improve attendance

We are now asking for one final whole-school push on attendance before the end of the year. Our children learn best when they are in school regularly, and even small improvements across each class will help us move closer to the national average.

Please help us by making sure your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to come in, and by ensuring they arrive on time each morning. Thank you, as always, for your support – it really does make a difference.

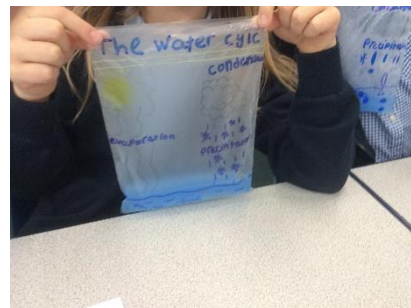
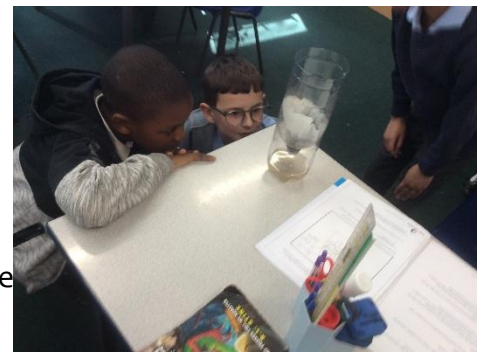
We will continue to celebrate strong attendance in school, and we will be watching closely to see which classes can climb the leaderboard before the end of term.



### Year 3 Geography Workshop

On Friday 24 April, Year 3 enjoyed taking part in a Water Cycle and Water Filter workshop, led by South Staffs Water. The children learned about where our water comes from and how it is cleaned before it reaches our homes.

They loved the practical activities, which included making a model of the water cycle and testing different materials to filter water. These hands-on experiences really helped to bring their Geography learning to life and link closely to our work on water and weather.



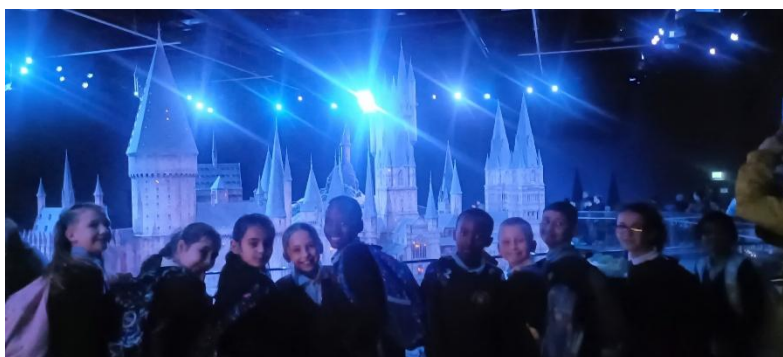
### Year 4 -The Great British Bake Off

Year 4 enjoyed learning all about the history of bread, with links to their prior learning around the Stone Age and Anglo-Saxons, during their recent Design and Technology unit. They started by sampling a variety of different types of bread, including popular breads from different cultures, as well as savoury and sweet breads. They then took part in a masterclass led by 'Bake Off Judge' Paul Hollywood, based on how to shape bread. They loved getting hands-on and making their own basic rolls, twisted rolls and an infinity roll using salt dough. After careful consideration, and taking everything into account, they designed a new bread product, choosing their own ingredients and shapes. After tasting by the judges and pupils themselves, the conclusion was that there were no clear winners and that we had all proved ourselves master bread bakers.



## Year 4 - The Making of Harry Potter - Warner Bros Trip

After an early start, Year 4 were super excited to walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter and explore the wonders of his wizarding world. We have been reading the first book, 'Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone' in class and also had the opportunity to bring the book to life by watching snippets from the movie. The experience started before we even stepped inside. As we walked up to the entrance, we were greeted by familiar music from the film, larger-than-life wands and newspapers representing beloved characters. Each child was given a passport and encouraged to collect the many hidden stamps along the way. This was a highlight for many, especially Mrs Skingle, who has to be the biggest Harry Potter fan of us all. Lexi and Jesse were chosen to open the grand doors to Hogwarts, and we entered straight into the impressive Great Hall, watching a virtual display of fire, special effects and flying owls, all helping to bring the magic to life. We experienced far too much to tell you every detail, and we certainly would not want to spoil it for anyone planning to visit in the future. However, suddenly finding ourselves walking through No. 4 Privet Drive, strolling down Diagon Alley, exploring Gringotts Bank, walking in Harry Potter's footsteps on Platform 9 ¾, boarding the Hogwarts Express, entering the Forbidden Forest, having our own green-screen flying broomstick experience and standing watching the breathtaking firework display over Hogwarts Castle was an experience we will never forget.



## Reception visit Little Owl Farm

Reception had a wonderful trip to Little Owl Farm! We met lots of animals, learned about their environments, enjoyed a tractor ride through the fields and had fun exploring the farm. For many of the children, this was also their first coach journey — they were all beautifully behaved and had a lovely time!





Black Country Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

# TRANSITION WORKSHOP

A fun and supportive workshop helping children and young people build confidence and develop skills to manage new transitions!



Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
9:30am - 12:30pm  
The Link Academy  
DY2 0PB



For additional information or brief sign up form to register your attendance, please email [bchft.reflexions@nhs.net](mailto:bchft.reflexions@nhs.net)

## Team RHPS Sporting News

### Summer 2026

What an exciting start to the Summer term we have had so far.

Here are some of our highlights:

**Three** After School Sports Clubs, giving everyone in school the opportunity to participate free of charge. Cricket for Years 2 & 3 with Worcestershire Cricket Club, Tennis for Year 4 & 5 and Multi Sports for Reception & Year 1.

#### Enhanced Opportunities this Term

##### Cricket Inspire Day

We are delighted to inform you that we have been successful in securing free funding for the next two years with Worcestershire Cricket Club. We launched our support from this term with a 'Cricket Inspire Day' for Years 2 – 6. We started the day with an assembly with Jamie from the club. He spoke to our pupils about the joys of playing a professional sport and what values and determination it takes to play at that level. Mr. Banfield and Miss Wakeman even got the chance to show off their cricket skills when they were voted by the school to compete against two pupils. Following on from our inspiring assembly, each of our pupils in Years 2 -6 got the chance to take part in a cricket workshop with Jamie up on the field. The club have continued to deliver extra Cricket sessions for Year 2, 3 and 5 this term including an After School Club, which as always, proved very popular. Apologies if your child didn't get a place in the club this half term, we will be offering further cricket clubs next academic year. Don't forget Worcestershire are also running their free 'All-stars Cricket Club' on Russells Hall Park throughout the summer, every Thursday evening between 5-6pm until the end of August.



## Year 2 Cricket Festival

Ten of our Year 2 pupils, who chose to attend the Cricket After School Club and shone in their extra Cricket sessions this half term, attended the Dudley KS1 Cricket Festival, hosted by Worcestershire Cricket Club. This was a wonderful morning, bringing many local schools together to showcase their cricketing skills in a range of fun and interactive activities that also aided the development of the children's batting, bowling and fielding skills.



## RHPS Football Team attend the Dudley Primary Mini League

Nine of our RHPS Football Team Stars had the chance to join six other Primary Schools at Rufford Primary School, Lye to take part in a mini-football tournament. We played six, 12-minute matches extremely well, fighting off some stiff competition to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Well done to Dante, Mason and Hazem who scored goals and Elsie for stepping up as goalkeeper for the first time. The biggest congratulations go to the whole team for their resilience, support of each other and overall enthusiasm. Go TEAM RHPS!



## Year 4 Tennis Inspire Day

Year 4 enjoyed an energetic, fun packed, half a day at Quarry Bank Tennis Club this half term. Each class was given a free, two-hour session with the tennis coaches from Prosser

Tennis Academy. They experienced tennis on a real court and impressed everyone at the club with their technical vocabulary, basic skills, determination and sense of fair play and sportsmanship. Well done to our top trainers of the day too!

Please check out their website [www.slb-sports.com](http://www.slb-sports.com) for information regarding their after school and weekend training sessions for Dudley pupils or contact **Stacey Billingham, The Prosser Tennis Academy 07738074455**

Free tennis for Dudley pupils is also being offered at **Priory Park** every Saturday 9-10am (Ages 10 – 11yrs) and Wednesdays 4 – 5pm (6 -7 yrs) and 5 – 6pm (8-9 yrs)

Contact [enquiries@wedotennis.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wedotennis.co.uk) to book your child a place



### [RHPS Sports Day information 2026](#)

We are really looking forward to you joining us for our annual Sports Day this year.

Here are the dates and timings, as stated on our school calendar:

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Reception - 2 – 3pm**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 1 and 2 – 9.30 – 11.00am**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 and 4 – 9.30 – 11.00am**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5 and 6 – 9.30 – 11.00am**

### [Polite Reminder](#)

We are seeing an increasing number of our pupils attending school on their class P.E day in a variety of non-uniform clothing.

**The school has adopted the following uniform for PE lessons:**

A coloured house t-shirt (*available from the school office at a small cost*)

Black or navy shorts, joggers, leggings

Trainers or pumps (*crocs and school shoes are not allowed due to health and safety risks*)

A plain black or navy hoodie or zip up tracksuit top (*with your child's name written inside*)

Long hair must be toed up prior to coming to school

No jewellery should be worn on PE days. Earrings should be removed before school. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, we strongly recommend doing this at the start of the summer holidays so they are healed before returning to school.

P.E is part of the statutory requirements for all schools to follow. We now have a number of spare PE kits in school and will be asking pupils who forget to wear their kit on the correct day to change into these. Please ensure they are washed and returned to school at your earliest possible convenience.

**Mondays – Year 2**

**Tuesdays – Year 4**

**Wednesdays – Year 3**

**Thursdays – Reception and Year 5**

**Fridays – Year 1 and Year 6**

### [Coming soon – Summer Term 2 - 2026](#)

- **Golf After School Club – Years 2, 3 & 4**
- **Football Team – Year 5 & 6 plus trials for potential new players (girls and boys) from Year 4**
- **Athletics club for Years 5 & 6 – upcoming Primary Athletics Day at the Dell Stadium for Year 5/6**
- **A Day at the Cricket – All of Year 3 – Worcestershire Cricket ground – England vs South Africa**
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As we come to the end of this half term, I would like to thank you all for the encouragement and kindness you continue to show our school. Russells Hall is a very special community, and I never take for granted the part that families play in that. I hope you all have a lovely, restful and safe half-term break, and that the children enjoy some time to recharge. I can't quite believe we are already heading into the final part of the school year, but we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday, ready for a positive and successful Summer 2.

**Mrs. Foy and all the team xxxx**

