

# Russell House Newsletter

## Spring 2024

[Wyre Forest Special School - Russell House \(wfs.worcs.sch.uk\)](http://wfs.worcs.sch.uk)



We've had a very busy term here in Russell House and we've done lots of different and exciting activities!

## Welcome and Goodbye

This half term we have welcomed a new Waking Night Care Assistant, Laura, the students have really made her feel welcome! On a sad note, we have said goodbye to Care Officer, Sarah and wish her all the best in her new job!



## Birthdays

This term we have had a joint birthday to celebrate! Finn and Dan had great birthdays in which their parents paid for all the students to have a McDonald's which was so lovely, thank you!



## Youth Club

We continue to go to Youth Club in Kidderminster on a Monday evening as it's a great opportunity for the students to practice their social skills and interact with new friends in a safe and supportive environment. This term they've enjoyed making pizzas, toasties and chocolate desserts. They also enjoy spending time on the game's consoles, air hockey table, pool table and sometimes even the karaoke!



## Swimming

Every Tuesday we have access to the Hydrotherapy Pool in school and we're so lucky to be able to use it because it gives the students a lovely calm, relaxing atmosphere to



relax and exercise. We find it particularly helpful for our students who prefer a more sensory activity as it really helps to engage them and regulate their moods in a positive way.

## Soft Play

With the weather being so awful this term, we've really made use of the soft play facilities in school. There's something there for all our students to enjoy and gives them the chance to bond with each other and play and have fun!



## Yoga

At one of our student forum meetings Alex requested a Yoga session and he soon regretted it after realising that Yoga is harder than it looks! The group of students that took part did have lots of fun and really tried hard to follow the videos and they all agreed that whilst it was fun, they didn't want to do it again!



## Our Way

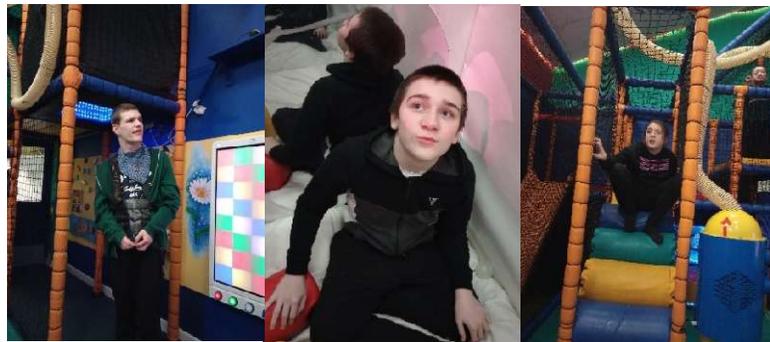
We continue to have monthly visits from the Our Way Advocacy Group and they plan some wonderful activities for the students, such as baking, arts and crafts and topic talks. Their most recent talk was on decision making and good and bad decisions. The students always engage well when Our Way come to visit.



## Snoezelen

We've been lucky enough to secure a monthly spot at the Worcester Snoezelen which is a sensory centre designed for individuals with SEN. It's a wonderful facility and every visit is a positive experience for the students.

They've engaged well with the soft play and sensory rooms and have been able to really enjoy themselves and relax in a safe and secure environment.



## Circus Star



We've recently discovered the company Circus Star, which is a company that provides free Circus shows for individuals with SEN and their families/carers. You sign up to their mailing list and when they have a show local to you they email and ask how many tickets you would like. So far we've been to one of their shows and it was fantastic, all of the students loved it and want to go back. Alex and Rio even got interviewed at the end to see what they thought!

## Arcade

On a rainy day earlier on in the term we chose to take some of the students to the arcade in Stourport Fair and they all had a lovely time and there was something for each of them to enjoy. Owen liked watching the claw machines and won a toy fish and Alex and Lincoln liked the motorbike simulator! They all collected enough tokens to have a bag of sweets each too, which was a lovely end to the trip.



## Bike Track

Lincoln in particular absolutely loves the bike track so we've been up quite a few times this term. It's another great facility in school that gives our students the opportunity to exercise and practice their cycling skills.



## Fizz Pop Science

We had another visit from the Fizz Pop Science team this term, this time our students were 'Crazy Chemists' and got to see some demonstrations with



fire. They also had a go at testing the PH's of some different chemicals, before ending the session by making their own pot of slime. It's a fun and enriching activity for the students and they always have a great time when the scientists come to visit!

## Our Friends at The Vale

Earlier on in the term we visited our friends at the Vale when they invited us to their local disco. The students love seeing their pen pals and the friends they've made from the Vale. We regularly plan trips together as it's a great way to socialise and develop confidence in meeting new people. As well as the disco we went to with the Vale, we also continue to attend the PODS disco in Kidderminster once a month, as it provides a safe environment for our students to let loose and enjoy dancing to the music.



## World Book Day

We had some great costumes for World Book Day this year, everyone looked great. We decided to keep the day going after school and used it as our Theme Night! We enjoyed Garfield's Lasagne for tea and Bruce Bogtrotters Chocolate Cake for pudding!



## Sycamore

Now that the evenings are getting lighter, we've been able to take advantage of the wonderful Sycamore Centre again. It's a huge facility and we can allow the children to run free and explore knowing that they're safe to enjoy themselves.



# Easter Party

We had a fantastic Easter Party this year, everyone had an amazing time! We kicked it off with a letter from the Easter Bunny tasking them with an egg hunt and then we had an extra special visit from Chase to give everyone their Easter eggs (which were kindly bought by Daniel's Mum, she bought one for every student and staff member, thank you so much Hannah)! The rest of the party included Musical Eggs, Musical Statutes, Hide and Seek and another Easter hunt – the students had 4 easter treats hidden in their bedrooms that they had to find.



Have an eggscellent Easter and we look forward to seeing you back on the 8<sup>th</sup> April!



*"Beautiful Sunset"*

Photo taken by Finn Oliver