

Russell House Newsletter

Spring 2025

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



Head of Care's Message

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term at Russell House, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic few months.

One of our proudest moments this term was receiving an amazing outcome from our recent Ofsted inspection. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our parents and carers for your kind and supportive feedback—it really does mean the world to us. A huge well done to the children, whose energy, kindness, and positivity played such an important part in achieving the result we hoped for. And of course, a massive thank you to our incredible Russell House staff, whose dedication, care, and hard work are the backbone of everything we do.

We've had plenty to celebrate over the past few weeks—birthdays, Valentine's Day, Easter, and a lovely week of recognising those who care for us during Mother's Day celebrations. Thank you again to the staff team for going above and beyond to make each occasion special and joyful for our pupils.

It's been an action-packed term full of exciting activities—rock climbing being a firm favourite with many of our pupils showing amazing courage and teamwork. We've also been lucky enough to round off the term enjoying some well-deserved sunshine outdoors.

Most importantly, we've seen incredible progress and achievements from all our pupils this term. Whether big or small, each success is something to be celebrated, and we couldn't be prouder.

Thank you all for your continued support. Wishing you a safe, restful Easter break!

Carla

Birthdays

The Spring term is a busy term for birthdays here in Russell House! We've celebrated Finn, Dan, Chael and staff members Lucie, Nick, Dene and Steve. We also wish Jaiden a very happy birthday which he'll celebrate in the Easter Holidays!



Park Trips

The students love a trip to the park and we're lucky to have so many to choose from around the area. The students enjoy going to White Wickets, Springfield Park and Brinton Park to name just a few! Visiting parks provides a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage with nature, fostering both physical and mental well-being. Parks offer a safe and open space for students to run, play, and explore, which helps improve their physical fitness, coordination, and motor skills. The outdoor environment also promotes creativity as our students engage in imaginative play and problem-solving.

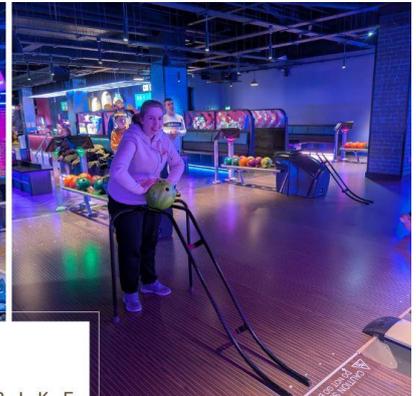


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Bowling

Our students absolutely love a trip to either the Bowling Alley in Worcester or Merry Hill – it's great to see their competitive streaks come out! It's a great bonding opportunity for our students and a lovely way to spend some social time together. Bowling helps develop important motor skills, such as hand-eye coordination, balance, and muscle control, as they learn to aim and roll the ball down the lane. Bowling also encourages focus and concentration, as students must keep track of their scores and develop strategies to improve their game.



S T R I K E





Cricket

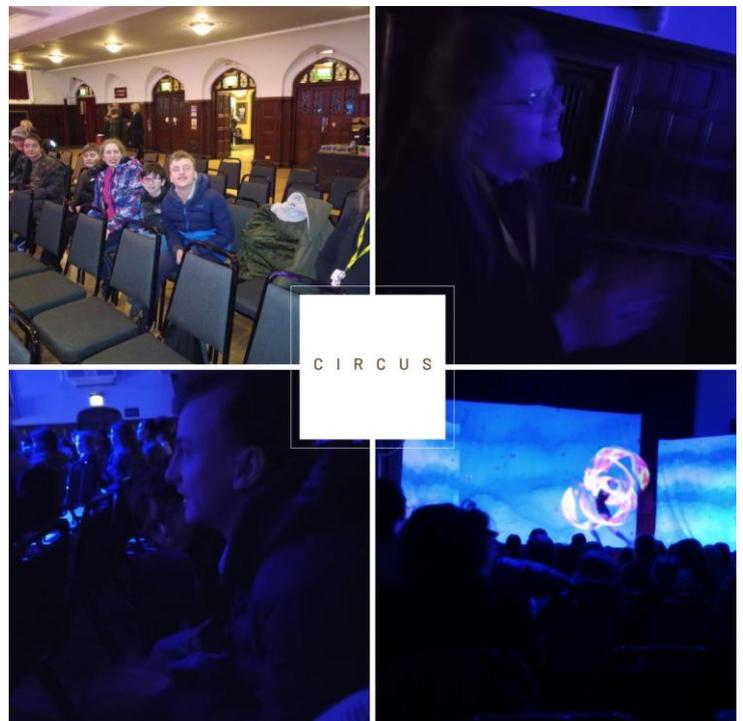
Every Thursday Worcestershire Cricket hold a free cricket session for individuals with SEN, in the Winter it's held at the Leisure Centre and in the Summer, it's held at Kidderminster Cricket Club. We aim to attend every other week to ensure our students get the opportunity to experience the game and get some exercise in a fun environment. Cricket is a fantastic sport for students, offering a wide range of benefits that extend beyond just physical fitness. It helps improve coordination, agility, and strength, as players need to master the skills of batting, bowling, and

fielding. By engaging in this sport, students can develop social skills, build confidence, and stay physically active, all while having fun and forming lasting friendships.

Circus Starr

Circus Starr is a unique and enriching experience for our students, offering a safe, inclusive, and sensory-friendly environment that allows them to engage with the wonders of the circus. The performances are designed to be accessible, with sensory-friendly features like lower sound levels and visual cues to ensure that all students can enjoy the show without feeling overwhelmed. Circus Starr promotes social interaction, helping our students build confidence and communication skills while enjoying the shared experience with peers. It also encourages emotional expression and creativity, as students respond to the lively and colourful performances.

Additionally, the joy and laughter generated by the circus can have therapeutic effects, improving the mood and overall well-being of students. By providing an inclusive, fun, and supportive atmosphere, Circus Starr helps our students feel a sense of belonging and accomplishment.





Lego Club

This term we tried out a new activity, Lego Club! Bewdley Library's Lego Club is a wonderful and inclusive space for our students, offering a creative and hands-on activity that helps foster important skills in a relaxed and supportive environment. Building with Lego encourages problem-solving, fine motor skills, and spatial awareness. The tactile nature of Lego bricks allows for sensory exploration, and the open-ended nature of the activity sparks creativity and imagination, helping students express themselves in unique ways. Working on projects together also promotes social interaction,

communication, and teamwork, allowing students to bond and collaborate in a non-pressured setting.

Chinese New Year

Celebrating Chinese New Year is a wonderful way to embrace and learn about different cultures, fostering a sense of global awareness and respect. The vibrant traditions, such as dragon dances, fireworks, and family reunions, offer a glimpse into the rich history and values of Chinese culture. By celebrating Chinese New Year, students not only enjoy the festivities but also gain a deeper understanding of the importance of family, respect for elders, and good fortune in Chinese traditions. Embracing and celebrating other cultures helps build empathy, encourages inclusivity, and promotes the idea that diversity enriches our communities. It also allows individuals to broaden their perspectives, appreciate different customs, and find common ground with others, ultimately creating a more interconnected and harmonious world.





Worcester Warriors Foundation

This half term we visited a new SEN Friendly Soft Play and Multisport Centre. The Worcester Warriors Foundation SEN Soft Play and Multisport program provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in physical activity and develop essential skills in a supportive and inclusive environment. The soft play area allows students to explore movement in a safe, sensory-friendly space, promoting physical coordination, balance, and motor skills while encouraging confidence and independence. The multisport sessions introduce a variety of sports, giving students the chance to explore different activities, improve teamwork, and

develop social skills. These sessions are tailored to suit the needs of each participant, ensuring everyone can take part, regardless of their abilities. The combination of fun, physical activity, and social interaction helps boost self-esteem, promote well-being, and create a sense of belonging for our students, making it a valuable experience for their overall development.

Valentine's Party

We held a Valentine's quiz and karaoke party for our students as it is a fun and lively way to celebrate the spirit of friendship and love in a playful, inclusive setting. The quiz featured light-hearted questions about Valentine's Day, famous love stories, and fun facts about friendship, encouraging the students to work together, think creatively, and learn in a relaxed environment. After the quiz, the karaoke party offered an exciting chance for the students to showcase their singing talents, enjoy their favourite songs, and cheer on their friends. The combination of teamwork, laughter, and music creates a joyful atmosphere where students can build confidence, develop social skills, and make lasting memories.





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Crazy Golf

This term all our students have been given the opportunity to visit Crazy Golf; as it is a fantastic activity for our students offering both fun and developmental benefits in an engaging, low-pressure environment. The simple yet challenging nature of the game helps improve fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness, as students work to aim, strike, and navigate the obstacles on the course. The non-competitive nature of crazy golf allows students to enjoy the activity at their own pace, building confidence as they complete each hole. Additionally, it encourages concentration, problem-solving, and teamwork, especially when played in pairs or groups. The playful and

visually stimulating design of the course can also be a sensory experience, engaging students in a way that is both enjoyable and therapeutic.

Nature Walks

Nature walks in the Wyre Forest, Habberley Valley, and Trimpley Reservoir offer numerous benefits for our students, providing a calming and sensory-rich environment that supports both emotional and physical well-being. The tranquil surroundings help reduce stress and anxiety, offering a peaceful space where students can connect with nature and experience the therapeutic effects of being outdoors. These walks promote physical fitness by encouraging movement, balance, and coordination as students navigate the varied terrain. The natural setting also enhances sensory development, as students engage with the sights, sounds, and smells of the forest, valley, and reservoir. Furthermore, nature walks can improve social interaction and communication skills, as students often collaborate with peers, sharing observations or helping each other along the way.



Picnic in the Park



A picnic at Springfield Park, combined with feeding the ducks, walking along the Stackpool, and playing in the park, offers numerous benefits for our students. The relaxed outdoor setting provides a sensory-friendly environment, helping to reduce stress and anxiety while encouraging students to connect with nature. Feeding the ducks by the pond promotes mindfulness, allowing students to focus on the peaceful surroundings and enjoy the simple joy of interacting with wildlife. The walk along the Stackpool offers gentle exercise, enhancing physical coordination, balance, and motor skills, while the fresh air and natural sights help improve mood

and well-being. The park's play area encourages social interaction, teamwork, and the development of motor skills as students engage in physical activities like climbing and swinging. The students had a great day in the sunshine!

Rock Climbing

This term we've been lucky enough to go Rock Climbing at Wyre Forest Leisure Centre again, the last time being in 2023! Rock climbing offers numerous benefits for our students, supporting both their physical and emotional development. It helps improve motor skills, coordination, and muscle strength in a fun, engaging way that encourages active participation. Climbing also promotes



focus, problem-solving, and



perseverance, as students must plan their movements and overcome challenges. The sense of achievement from reaching the top builds confidence and self-esteem, while the structured and supportive environment can help reduce anxiety. Additionally, climbing can foster social interaction and teamwork, providing opportunities for our students to connect with peers in a positive and inclusive setting.

Easter Party

The Russell House Easter Party is a lively and festive event where students enjoyed a range of exciting Easter games and delicious party food. Throughout the party, students participated in fun activities like an Easter egg hunt and Easter Bingo, all designed to encourage teamwork and friendly competition. These games bring lots of laughter and joy as students let loose and have fun after a long and bust term! After the games, the students gathered to enjoy an array of tasty party food. The colorful spread added to the festive atmosphere, offering both sweet treats and healthy options for everyone to enjoy. With the combination of games, food, and fun, the Russell House Easter Party is an unforgettable celebration that brings students together and fills the day with cheer. We'd also like to give Hannah, Daniel's Mum, a special thank you for providing us with a variety of Easter Games and food for the party! As well as buying every student and staff member an Easter Egg to take home. Thank you so much, your generosity goes a long way!



H A P P Y
E A S T E R

Thank you everyone for a fantastic Spring Term
and we can't wait to welcome you back for the
Summer Term on the 28th April!