

Russell House Newsletter

Autumn 2023

[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

This half term we have welcomed Dan and Charlie to Russell House! They have both settled in really well and it feels like they've always been here!



Birthdays

This term we have had lots of birthdays to celebrate! Gerry celebrated his birthday just before we returned to Russell House in September and since then we've celebrated Jack, Olivia, Michael, Lincoln and Kayde. We also hope Rio enjoys celebrating his 18th Birthday over the Christmas Holidays!



Pen Pals

This half term we have continued writing letters to our Pen Pals at the Vale of Evesham Residential School. We have told them all about our summer holidays and asked them what they did over the summer.



Crafts

Over the summer our Activity Room had a bit of a make over and so we've been making full use of it and have been doing lots of Autumn crafts and colouring in here since September! It's been great watching the student's imaginations and creativity blossom!







Fizz Pop Science

In September we had a visit from Fizz Pop Science which involved the students



creating their own paper rockets and seeing how high they could blast them into the air before watching a demonstration of a real rocket, which ended up landing on the roof! Everyone had an incredible time, and they were so engaged and loved every second of it. The team asked them lots of questions about rockets, space and gravity and the students gave some very impressive answers!



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. So far this term they've enjoyed making sausage rolls, cupcakes and pizza. 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 really positive way.



Mickey 'Michael' Mouse

Our very own Disney enthusiast Michael gave us all a treat a few weeks ago and borrowed a lovely Mickey Mouse costume from Mrs G and treated the rest of the students to a 'Mickey Show,' they all loved it and had a great laugh!



Our Friends at the Vale

This term we have visited our friends at the Vale of Evesham school twice! Our first visit was to their Forest School where we enjoyed a campfire and toasted some delicious marshmallows, they had a lovely time, and it was great to see our students bonding with their friends even more! On our second visit they invited us to a Disco in Evesham, it was a late night for our

students, but they loved every second and just before we broke up for Christmas a few students went bowling in Worcester with their Vale friends!



Pumpkin Picking

In preparation for Halloween, we visited Top Barn Farm Park to choose some Pumpkins to go by the front door of Russell House and whilst we were there we went and had a look at the farm animals there. We saw chickens, goats, sheep, donkeys and pigs! It was a lovely afternoon for the students, and they had a great time choosing the perfect pumpkins!



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 the times we've visited so far have been really positive experiences 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.



Disco

We have continued to visit the monthly PODS (People out Doing Stuff) Disco at St Ambrose Hall in Kidderminster. We missed the September one as students weren't back with us, but they had a great time at the Halloween Disco, November Disco and the Christmas Disco. As well as these Disco's some of the students have also been to a Disco in Evesham with our friends from The Vale of Evesham school. The discos are a great opportunity for our students to engage with the community in a safe and enjoyable environment.



Halloween Party

The Halloween Party this year was a great hit and thank you to parents for sending in some great costumes for your children to wear! Everyone looked fantastic! The students enjoyed playing Halloween themed games and arts & crafts. We did a Russell House style trick or treat which involved staff hiding sweets in students' bedrooms and they had to go and look for them!



McDonald's

It's been a long time since we've taken any of the students out for tea and so we decided to take a few out on a trip to Home Bargains and then gave them the option of where they wanted to go for tea, and they chose McDonald's. They had a lovely time, and all enjoyed their food!



Remembrance Day

This year for Remembrance Day each student wrote a message on a poppy which was then attached to a crochet poppy that Abby had made for everyone at Russell House. Once we'd done this, we went on a visit to the Police Station and gave them our poppies. They attached them to the fence at the entrance to the Police Station ready for Remembrance Sunday. Whilst we were there Michael and Finn asked some great questions about Remembrance and once back at Russell House we coloured in our own poppies to stick onto the window.



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 crime and how to keep safe. The students always engage really well when Our Way come to visit.



Rock Climbing

A while back Rio asked if we could go rock climbing and so Freja organised a trip to Wyre Forest Leisure Centre where a group of our students were given an hour with an instructor to learn how to rock climb. A couple were a bit scared of the heights, but soon conquered their fear and got right to the top of the wall!! It was a fantastic activity for our students and hopefully it's something we can organise again in the future!



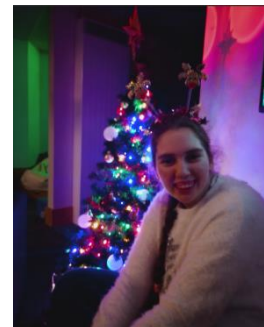
Christmas Tree Farm

We were asked to visit a Christmas Tree Farm in Hagley to choose this years Wyre Forest School Christmas Tree. The students had a great time looking at all the trees and chose a beautiful tree for the school.



Christmas Party

On Wednesday we had our Christmas Party! The students had an absolutely amazing evening, they played lots of games such as musical statues and pin the nose on the reindeer and even had a visit from Santa! Santa gave them all two gifts, one from himself and the other from Daniel's Mum, who was kind enough to buy every student in Russell House a present for Christmas! Thank you very much!





Merry Christmas
from Pickles and
Tickles, our
naughty elves
who got up to
plenty of mischief
this December!



Thank you for a great Autumn Term and we'll
see you back on the 8th January!
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year!