

# Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## School News

### Welcome Back!

Despite the unpredictable weather, I do hope that you have managed to have a lovely restful summer. Firstly I would like to begin by welcoming our new Reception pupils and their families to Rusthall St Paul's Primary School, we are delighted you are beginning your school journey with us and we look forward to getting to know you all and watching you grow.

It has been an exciting first week back with new children and families joining our community across the school and I hope you will join me and giving them a warm welcome to our fabulous school! Mrs Mitchell (Exec Head) has also been in this week and has been in to all the classes to meet the children and see how they are settling in.

On Thursday some of our year 6 children sat the 11+ test. They showed huge amounts of perseverance and amazed me with their focus and hard work. I would like to thank the whole school for supporting these children, making sure they had the best possible opportunity by being extra quiet and respecting the test times. What a fantastic team we make!

Thank you all for making me feel so welcome too and I look forward to seeing you all at the gate on Monday.

**Mrs Smurthwaite**  
**Head of School**

## Events and Dates

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Whole School - Term 1 Begins</b>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>FORS welcome to all new reception parents – please see class dojo for further details</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Meet the teacher Week – individual class details to be added to class dojo. Talks will be in classrooms at 2.30 while the children are in Worship and pick will remain at the normal time.
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	Harvest – details to follow
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Proposed Open Morning for Reception families 2024
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>End of Term 1</b>

### Inspire MAT support and training

We are committed to the continued professional development of our Teachers to ensure they are able to develop their teaching methods and adopt new strategies to enable them to promote the best outcomes for all of our pupils.

This week all staff at Rusthall attended Safeguarding training with the new updates for schools as the children's safety and wellbeing are always a priority. Next week, all class teacher will be working with the MAT to be introduced to the Inspire curriculum and the values that underpin this.

### Scooters and Bikes

We absolutely love that so many of our children choose to ride scooters or bikes to school but please remember that they should be stored upright in the racks for safety and to ensure that no equipment is damaged.

Thank you for your support with this.



## School Dinners

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Free School Meals under the Government's universal Free School Meal system.

All pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will have to pay for school dinners (unless entitled to Free School meals).

If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be entitled to Free School Meals please [click here](#) to see if you are eligible and apply online. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils may also be entitled to Free School Meals under this scheme – which entitles the school to additional funds and can also result in additional benefits to the family throughout the year. If you are already in receipt of Free School Meals there is no need to reapply.



## PE Days

Please note the following days for PE. Pupils should come to school dressed in their PE kits.

**York  
Winchester  
Exeter  
Durham & Rochester**

TBC confirmed  
Tuesday/Friday  
Wednesday/Friday  
Monday (yr 5&6)/  
Thursday (yr 5)

**Term 1 Forest School – Year 6 Starting 14<sup>th</sup> September. Please remember to come to school in your kit!**

## Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

On 29<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our first Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. Rochester and Durham class will be organising this and will be writing to you soon.

If this charity affects yourself or a member of your family, please do let school know so that we can deal with this sensitively in the classroom.

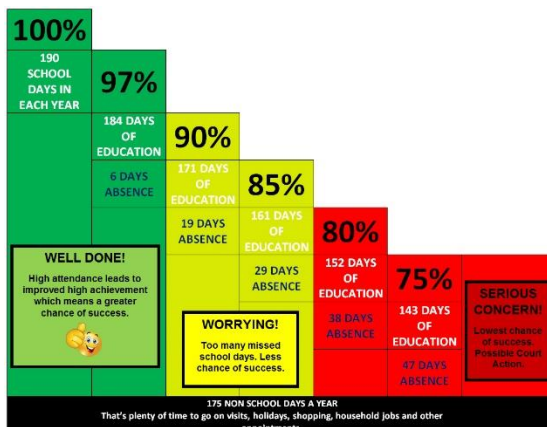
## Term dates



Please [click here](#) for Term Dates 2023/2024.

## Is my child too ill for School?

Please use this [helpful website](#) from the NHS to support you in considering whether your child is too ill for school. Please follow this guidance to support us in reducing the risk of these illnesses spreading in our school community for both staff and pupils



## Attendance

The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and judgements on how well a school is doing is partially based on whole school attendance. The national average is 96.7%. We need your help to improve attendance for our school. You can help by coming to school every day and on time. We will be sharing the whole school attendance and individual class' attendance and the class with the highest attendance will be celebrated in Friday Collective worship from next week. Let's see who the attendance award winners are!!!

## York Class

In Reception we have been exploring our new learning environment and using the resources inside and outdoors. We have been developing our creative skills through making pictures and building models.



Year 1 have been investigating materials this week. We have sorted them into groups thinking about their different properties. We have also been scientists and tested a range of materials to see which were the most absorbent.

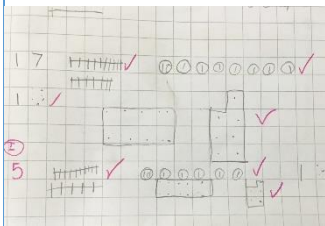


## ATTENDANCE

**100%  
Attendance  
Winners!**

## Winchester Class

Winchester have settled back into school brilliantly this week. We read a story called 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett and we have been reading information books to find out more facts about wolves.



In maths, we have been sharing our knowledge of numbers to 20 and we have created jottings to record the numbers.



In RE, we have read the Christian story of creation and we created freeze frames to represent each part of the story. We're proud of the children's hard work this week!



90% attendance

## Exeter Class

Exeter Class have made a good start and especially enjoyed doing PE on Wednesday (our second slot is on a Friday). We have started with hockey and as Mrs White is a hockey player herself, the children benefitted from some very good demonstrations!

For English we have begun to explore Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox and hope to do some role play next week.

92% attendance

## Durham Class

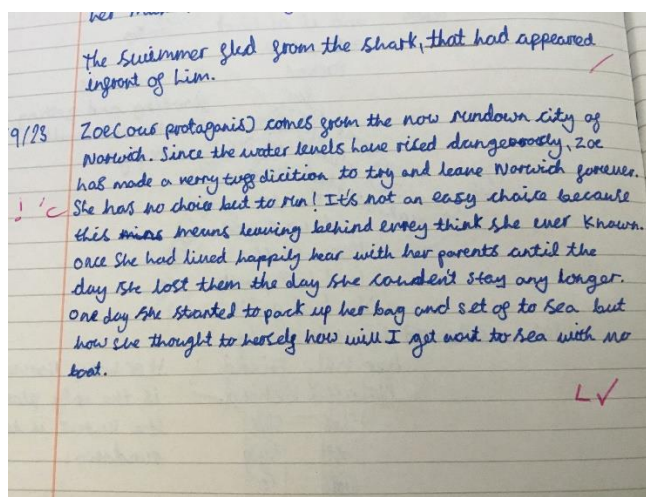
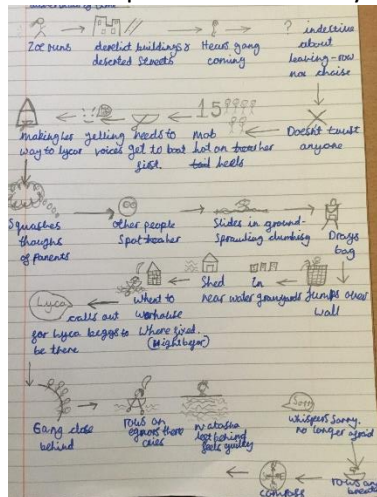
What a fantastic first week it has been in Durham! The children are settling in brilliantly and have been working hard. We began the week by carrying out a science experiment to see the effects of oil spills in water. The children investigated whether absorption, removal or cleaning would be the most effective method to improve the conditions of the water, just like people do with our oceans.

In English, we have been exploring our text "Floodland" by Marcus Sedgwick. The children loved finding out about Zoe, our main character, and the troubles she is facing with the rising water levels. We have developed our knowledge of relative pronouns and expanded noun phrases, which the children used in a character description. They have also been developing their understanding of adverbials of time, which they will use within their narrative writing next week.

97% attendance

## Rochester Class

In Rochester we have dived straight into our new book Floodlands. We have met our protagonist Zoe and pulled clues from the book to find out more about her. Here is one of our descriptions and the story so far.



93% attendance