

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 3 – 22nd September 2023

School News

This week we had a visit from Mrs Butler who is the School Improvement Lead for Inspire Academy Movement Trust. She met all the children and we worked on a plan for how she is going to be utilising her skills, knowledge and expertise to help us continue to go from strength to strength.

On Tuesday we had our first fire drill and the children were brilliant. They were so well behaved in the drill that we all made it out of the building in a little over 2 minutes and the Local Authority guidance tells us it must be under 3 minutes so this is fantastic.

I have had the privilege to be in and out of all the classes with Mrs Mitchell and we were really impressed with how the children spoke to us about their learning. Hopefully they are telling all of you about it too!

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Tuesday 26th September	Mrs Smurthwaite out all day doing Safeguarding update training – any issues please contact Miss Sheldrake or Miss Williamson
Friday 29th September	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
Monday 2nd October	Harvest – details to follow (don't forget to contact your class teacher if you are able to help walk with the children)
Wednesday 4th October	Visit from Gemma Hitch – Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese
Thursday 5th October	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 5th October	Lockdown Practise – it is a statutory requirement that schools practise what to do in an emergency e.g. if a dog got onto the school grounds. We will be talking to the children about what we do and making sure that no-one is worried or upset by these practises.
Friday 6th October	Short report to parents with end of year targets and comments about settling into new classes
Monday 9th October	Individual Photos
Friday 13th October	Proposed Open Morning for Reception families 2024
Friday 20th October	End of Term 1

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon



On 29th 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.

Parking and Safety Beyond the Gates

Please can I remind everyone not to park on the yellow zig zags outside the school. Inconsiderate and dangerous parking causes problems around our schools, putting the safety of children and others at risk. Cars parking inconsiderately or on zigzag lines cause visibility issues for pedestrians of all ages who are crossing the road network to get to and from school.

Thank you!

Inspire MAT support and training

This week we have been looking at learning environments. The days where teachers stood at the front of the classroom and the students copied down text off a blackboard or a textbook is long gone. To achieve an effective and successful learning experience, there should be a focus on engaging students. There are many ways that, as a teacher, we can improve the level of student engagement in our classrooms. For a classroom to be effective, there must be an engaging learning environment. The teachers are now working on hard making changes and improvements to their environments to continue to engage and improve learning.

Parent Voice

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. It provided valuable insight into the areas for development for the school. As the year continues, I will be spotlighting the issues that were raised and the measures we have put in place to improve things. Look out for this as our newsletters continue.

Fire Drill

Well done to all the children who participated in the fire drill on Tuesday. Behaviour was exemplary and we exited the building in just over 2 minutes. We have our school fire marshals and everyone knows the procedure so that when we have our next one, we will be even quicker! Well Done Rusthall!



CELEBRATIONS!

Reading Stars: York Class – Bonnie, Winchester Class – Amelie, Exeter Class – Joe D and Johnny, Durham Class – Aidan, Rochester Class – Jack

Golden Book: York Class – Leo K and Maria, Winchester Class – Joseph and Emma, Exeter Class – Ettie and Tielle, Durham Class – Xena and Joshua F, Rochester Class – Haron and Charlie

House point winners: St Patrick

Weekly Attendance winners: York Class – second time winners!!



School Dinners

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.

Mini Police Cadets

We are very excited to be working with Kent Police where 12 children will be taking part in the Mini Police Cadet Programme for a period of 9 weeks for 1 hour per week, within their school during school hours. There will be a variety of sessions covered such as how to contact the police/emergency services, first aid, learning about low level crimes and anti-social behaviour, keeping safe online (Social Media) drill and respect as well as taking part in their chosen Social Action project in and around their school. Mini Police Cadets will become role models for young people and their peers.

Forest School

Wow what a fantastic Forest School session we had on Thursday in the woods. Some of Durham class worked well together to build a very sturdy den. They were kind a helpful towards one another. They were also very sensible when a friendly dog came running into our area and stole a ball of wool!

Rochester class were lucky enough to spot a buzzard which flew right in front of us on the way to the woods! The children also made some very good dens. They showed great perseverance with fire lighting and even set themselves their own challenge which was to light the cotton wool with only one strike. We talked about the Autumn Equinox and Harvest time. We found the magic star inside some apples which we enjoyed. A couple of children were keen to chop the apples and share them with their friends.



York Class



It has been a delightful week in York Class. We have created a class story map and learned how to perform the story of the Three Little Pigs. We made our very own straw, stick and brick houses. Furthermore, Year 1 have worked so hard at taking pride in their presentation.



ATTENDANCE

This Week:
89.64%
This Year:
94.84%

Winchester Class

It has been another busy week in Winchester class. In English we have started to write our reports about wolves using all the skills we have been learning in our English lessons. We have continued to learn about the values of tens and ones and looked at different ways to partition numbers and write number sentences to show this. During PE we have been



working on our skills of rolling balls between gates and being able to use simple under arm throws to hit a target accurately, which we found great fun. We are all looking forward to another fun filled week next week.

This Week: 86.25%
This Year: 90.81%

Exeter Class

In maths we have been busy practising our number facts using hit the button and practising times tables on TTRockstars. Here is the link if you would like to practise at home: [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Hit-the-Button)

We have also been looking at place value and developing our mathematical language being able to explain words like digit. We have been creating visual representations as well and number sentences.

As part of our history lesson, we all went to the ICT suite to research about the Iron Age. I was particularly impressed with everyone using search engines and being able to pick out key facts which is not an easy task!

This Week: 82.41%
This Year: 88.84%

Durham Class

This week in English, we have been 'interviewing' Zoe, where the children were looking at embedding their skills in using relative pronouns to extend sentences and provide more information. They have also begun to look at speech and how dialogue is shown within a narrative. In Geography, we have been investigating the links between rising carbon dioxide levels and the rising global temperature. The children drew their own graphs and then looked at ways in which humans can make small changes to make positive changes for the environment. They then collated all of the information they have looked over the last 3 weeks and created an information leaflet. The children loved including their favourite fact that they have learnt: One cow can produce enough methane to fill 15 party balloons every day!

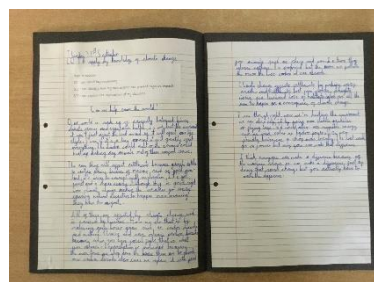
This Week: 89.47%
This Year: 94.04%

Rochester Class



In Rochester Class we have been investigating the questions 'Can we save our world?' We learned that our world is made up of many carefully balanced biomes which plants and animals have adapted to thrive in. Just a small change in the weather can damage these environments. This impact also reaches humans. Settlements can be devastated by a single natural disaster such as flood or drought. One of the biggest problems is climate change. We looked at graphs which

show a pattern between the increase of fossil fuels the world has burned since the industrial revolution, the increase in the release of carbon dioxide and the gradual long-term rise in the Earth's temperature. We concluded that humans are the main cause of the increase in greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, from burning fossil fuels to removing forests which are carbon sinks, and therefore humans should be the answer.



This Week: 83%
This Year: 91.33%