

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 4 – 28th September 2023

School News

What a busy week it has been! We have been raising our voices in song this week as the children have been working hard to learn the words to the harvest songs ready for the service next week. They have also been practising their class parts – please do help your children at home so they know their words and have the confidence to speak clearly for all to hear.

I hope you all enjoyed the Macmillan cake sale as much as I did. The variety of cakes that were so kindly donated was amazing – I almost didn't know what to have! Don't worry though, I found the perfect piece of chocolate cake! We even have some left over to sell again on Monday.

Next week we will be sending home our first 'short reports of the year'. These will detail the level your child achieved at the end of last year and their current trajectory for achievement at the end of this year.

They will also have comments about how your child has settled in so far.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning.

Mrs Smurthwaite

Head of School

Events and Dates

Monday 2nd October	Harvest – See below
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
Thursday 12th October	Bewl Water Residential (Year 6) Drop In
Friday 13th October	Proposed Open Morning for Reception families 2024 FORS AGM – 2pm
Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th October	Year 6 Residential (details on letter) Mrs Smurthwaite will be attending the residential and so Miss Sheldrake and Miss Williamson will be available for any issues
Friday 20th October	End of Term 1

Inspire MAT support

All the staff have been working hard on their learning environments to make them purposeful and support children's learning. The trust school improvement partner has been in this week and commented on the developments she has seen in this area already. She has also worked closely with the EYFS team to continue to build on the principles of the EYFS curriculum.

Bewl Residential - Drop In

On Thursday 12th October Miss Collis and Mrs Smurthwaite will be holding a drop in session for parents of year 6 children who will be going on the residential. This is for anyone who has any last minute questions or queries about the trip. Please feel free to pop in and see us and ask any questions.

Parent Voice Spotlight!

You said: poor behaviour is not always dealt with and those children behaving are not always celebrated. Classroom behaviour can have a negative effect on the classroom and there isn't always consistency in how behaviour is dealt with.

What we are doing: over the next 2 weeks we will be implementing a new behaviour policy at Rusthall St Paul's. Every classroom and playground should be a calm environment where every child can develop and learn. Good behaviour and discipline in schools is crucial if children are to learn and reach their full potential, and our best schools share a tireless focus on supporting that. Poor behaviour in a classroom can result in lost learning time for children. That's why we think it's so important to tackle poor behaviour; so teachers are able to provide high quality teaching to all. Please read the policy that is being sent out via email so you are aware of the changes. We will be introducing this to the children next week.

Choir

Fiona Johnson from the church has agreed to run an after school choir club at school. She currently runs the choir for the church and is a peripatetic teacher at other local schools. She will be working with the children and the school to provide an exciting club but also working on musical pieces which will feature in the local Christmas fete and at the MAT carol concert. This will be available for KS2 – I will be sending out information so that you can let us know if your child would like to join the choir.

Harvest Festival

We would like to invite you to our Harvest Festival at Church on Monday 2nd October at 9.30 – we are very much looking forward to seeing you there! We will be collecting donations to support the Rusthall Larder, in particular any ambient/cupboard products and hygiene products. Please only donate if you would like to and are able to. Donations can be brought in to class. Please ensure your child comes in full school uniform and wears a coat. It will be PE as normal in the afternoon so they will need to bring their PE kit to change into.

CELEBRATIONS!

Reading Stars: York Class – Sam, Winchester Class – Stepan, Exeter Class – Teo, Durham Class - Michael, Rochester Class - Jacob

Golden Book: York Class – Joe and Stephen, Winchester Class – Asher and Taylor, Exeter Class – Grace and Oliver M, Durham Class – Frasier and Sophia, Rochester Class – Ben and Tommy

House point winners: joint winners St Andrew and St David

Weekly Attendance winners: Winchester Class – first time this term, well done!



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.

Chance to Shine Cricket

Last week I met with Sandra Hepple from Chance to Shine. She will be delivering a Cricket programme which is fully funded and there is no cost to the school. She will come in 1 whole day per week, working with 4 classes for a six-week term working alongside the teachers for 1 term. She will also be available for staff development, creating cricket play leaders and offering opportunities for children to experience cricket outside of curriculum time by working with the local cricket club.

Forest School

Year 6 enjoyed another lovely session in the woods today. We played a game called Find the Tree which involved leading another person who was blindfolded, to a tree and back again. Once the blindfold was removed, they had to find their tree. Not an easy task! They showed great respect and care for each other during this task, to ensure their partner didn't fall! The children then had to identify the tree and then make a woodland gnome from clay using only parts of that tree to decorate.

The children also used palm drills to make holes in wood cookies. We saw lots of creative ideas such as wood cookie person, a hanging decoration and a pineapple!

They enjoyed developing their shelters from last week and making nests for the birds.

York Class



This week Year 1 have been working on a textiles unit, we have been learning how to sewing using a running stitch. This week we have designed bags for the 3 Little Pigs and begun to join 2 pieces of material together to make the structure for our bag.



In Maths Year 1 have been comparing amounts, we have been using the vocabulary of more, fewer and equal to. We can line objects up to compare 2 amounts and solve problems by finding different possibilities.



Reception had a special delivery this week - our reading pets. Reading pets love stories and we have enjoyed sharing books with them. We are developing our reading through our daily phonics sessions and have begun to read some words together using the sounds we have been taught.



ATTENDANCE

This Week: 90%
This Year: 94.5%

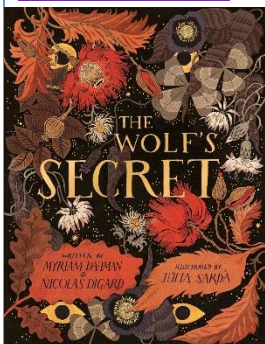
Winchester Class

Winchester class have been busy this week practising for the Harvest Festival. In English, we have been starting a new unit on instruction writing and we have been learning about the key features of instructions. Excitingly, we have also started learning how to play the recorders this week... hopefully we will be able to share our talents with you soon!



This Week: 91%
This Year: 94%

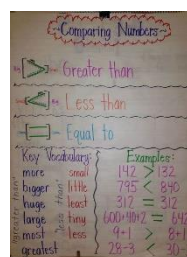
Exeter Class



In English this week, Exeter class have been exploring a text called The Wolf's Secret. They have spent time thinking about the use of language and the effect this has on the reader but also considering how the pictures in a book can affect and change the meaning of a story. They have also been reading Hello, Harvest Moon during guided reading.

In Math's they have been looking at the value of each digit in numbers up to 99,000 and using this to both order and compare them

using the greater than and less than symbols. We have also been hard at work rehearsing ready for the Harvest Festival on Monday!



This Week: 84%
This Year: 91%

Durham Class

This week in Durham, we have been exploring and identifying the features of play scripts. After reading and annotating a selection of play scripts to help us identify the features, the children then had a go at writing their own play script based on one of the chapters within our book 'Floodland'. I was so impressed by the children's use of punctuation and stage directions. They also applied their knowledge of relative clauses, by including them in the dialogue within their play scripts. We have kick-started our Science topic of 'Animals Including Humans' this week, where the children have started to develop their knowledge of key scientific vocabulary, such as, atrium, ventricle and arteries.

This Week: 89%
This Year: 94%

Rochester Class

Whilst our year 6s were at Forest School, our year 5s had an adventure of their own. We visited Reception and Year 1 to help them with their learning. The Year 5s responded really well to the responsibility and it was a great opportunity for them to develop their leadership skills, empathy and patience. All behaviours we need in our own learning as well.



This Week: 87%
This Year: 93%