

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 5 – 6th October 2023

School News

We started the week with my first Harvest Festival at Rusthall St Paul's Church. It looked absolutely beautiful with the floral decorations ready for autumn. Thank you so much to all the adults who helped transport the children to and from the church – we really cannot do these events without you! Thank you also to those who came and supported us while we were there. A special thanks to the Moon family who went to the Sunday Service at St Paul's Church where Maisie had to carry the flag for Rainbows. The school banner was at the church but no one was there to carry it so Mrs Moon kindly stepped in to do it. We are very grateful to the Moon family for representing Rusthall St Paul's CEP School at this event.



On Wednesday we had our first visit from Gemma Hitch who is the Deputy Director of Education for the Diocese. She enjoyed her tour of the school and meeting the children and commented on how polite and respectful the children were.

I hope you have all received your settling in reports with your children this evening. There is a brief explanation of the levels in the attached letter but please do let me know if anyone would like further information.

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

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

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	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	St Andrew's House home clothes day
Friday 20th October	End of Term 1

KS2 Choir

Please can parents/carers of children who would like to be part of the KS2 choir either email me or send me a message on Dojo. The KS2 choir will get the opportunity to perform with the Trust at our Christmas Carol Concert and will also be able to perform at the Rusthall Christmas event in the village. It would be great to have as many children as possible, please do let me know if your child is interested.

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.

New Behaviour Policy

This afternoon the children were introduced to the new behaviour policy in Celebration Worship. We spoke about low, moderate and high level behaviours and what happens at every stage. We also talked about the new celebrations that I am introducing, making sure that those people who always try their best are recognised through the Rainbow Award and that the class will be working as a community to gain a class reward. All staff have read and been supported for the effective delivery of the policy and to ensure consistency. The children will be able to see the flow charts up in their classrooms up on Monday.

Individual Photos

Individual photos will be taking place on Monday 9th October. Please make sure the children come in wearing full school uniform including ties and jumpers. If they have PE on Monday, they will need to bring their kit to school and change once here after photos. If your child has a younger sibling, they may come in at 8.30am to have photos taken together.

St Andrew's House Point Day

Miss Sheldrake let me know that before the summer holidays, St Andrew's House won the House Point award. This means that they are owed a home clothes day as they do this in the term following their success. Therefore, they will have their home clothes day on the final Friday of this term (Friday 20th October).

CELEBRATIONS!

Reading Stars: York Class – Maria, Winchester Class – Amelie, Exeter Class – Martha, Durham Class - Nicola, Rochester Class - Alfie

Golden Book: York Class –Eliza and Parker, Winchester Class – Stepan and Betsy, Exeter Class – Teddy W and Bella, Durham Class – Joshua and Sonnie, Rochester Class – Amelie and Alex

House point winners: St Andrew

Weekly Attendance winners: Rochester class with 99% attendance! They will get extra play next week for getting so close to 100% attendance – keep it up!



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

What an amazing cake sale! Year 5 and 6 did a fantastic job at organising the coffee afternoon and I hope everyone enjoyed that delicious cakes that were donated. We have raised over £130 which is phenomenal! Thank you everyone for your support for such a worthy cause.



Attendance

Attendance is vital and a legal requirement for children of statutory school age. The Local Authority sets our clear guidance on the schools responsibility for monitoring attendance and reporting this.

- 95 - 100% attendance – good attendance but the class teacher/office will investigate and parents or carers will be contacted to explain absence.
- 90 - 95% attendance – requires school intervention letters/meeting with parents, including meetings with the Head of School to see what support is needed.
- Where the level of absence has not improved and there are continued absences (without reasonable explanation), the school must make a referral to the KCC Inclusion and Attendance Service using the Digital Front Door.
- The local authority will decide about penalty notices.

We really want to work with our families to improve attendance – if you are having difficulties getting your child to school, please pop in for a chat so that we can work together to ensure good attendance.

Forest School



This week in the woods, the children practiced their whittling skills with a knife. They listened carefully to the safety brief and used the correct methods to carve the wood safely. I was impressed at how competent they were. I'm sure you are delighted with their little woodland gnomes they bought home!

We were lucky enough to have a good look at a newt which I had found the day before in our site. There were lots of "oooh's" and "aaah's" from the children! We were careful to release it back where it was found.



York Class

Reception - Reception have been loving their work on repeating pattern this week in Mathematics. We created necklaces, octopus tentacles, artwork and chalk displays to show our new found knowledge. In literacy, we have been looking at the difference between a sound, word and sentence and using Colourful Semantics to make silly sentences. Some of them really made us giggle!

Year 1 - Year 1 have been practising their sentence writing, using Colourful Semantics, to build up for our outcome piece. We will be using our knowledge of the Three Little Pigs to create story books to share with others. In Mathematics, we have been looking at greater than and less than and increasing our confidence with using number lines, even making our own.

ATTENDANCE

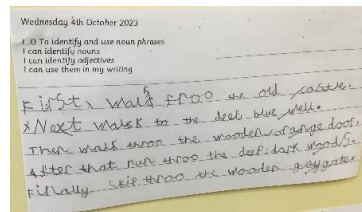
This Week: 96.9%
This Year: 92.32%

Winchester Class



Winchester have had a very busy week of learning. They started the week with a fantastic performance of their harvest song at church. We have continued with a music theme learning about the role of a conductor and having a go at becoming conductors. We have learnt about rhythms and composed rhythms of our own to play. The children have shown great perseverance in learning how to play B, A and G on a

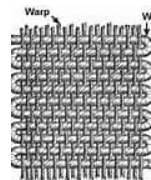
recorder and we are starting to learn some songs. In English, we are continuing our learning about instructions and this week we have learnt how to write descriptive sentences. We are very proud of the work that they have produced and we look forward to their final piece of writing next week.



This Week: 92.3%
This Year: 93.72%

Exeter Class

This week Exeter class have started a new art topic about weaving. They have made their own looms and have been testing out different methods. They have learned about the difference between a warp and a weft and have tried the loop technique which was definitely very challenging.



In maths they have been solidifying their understanding of place value ready for working on addition and subtraction. They have used dienes and place value counters to look at flexible partitioning and which columns are affected when we add and subtract round numbers like 10, 100 and 1000.

In English, the children have been working on different versions of the past tense – the simple past and the present perfect. They will be applying this in a longer writing piece next week.

This Week: 83.2%
This Year: 90.72%

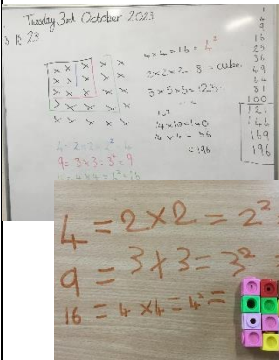
Durham Class

Durham have had another excellent week with their learning. We have explored using passive voice and modal verbs within our writing. The children created some excellent speeches in role as Dooby, where they used modal verbs to persuade the residents of Eel's Island to let them be in charge. In Science and Computing, the children have been incredibly busy building on not only their skills in these subjects, but their Maths skills too.

This Week: 81.1%
This Year: 92.42%

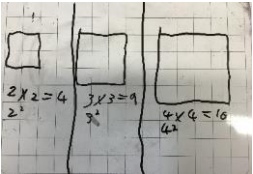
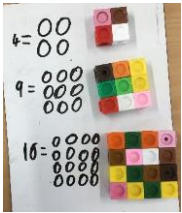
They measured the heights of the children in the school from Years 2 – 6 and inputted the data they collated onto an Excel spreadsheet. From there, the children then used a formula to calculate the average heights within each year group and used their Computing skills to then represent these on a graph in Excel.

Rochester Class



This week Year 6 has been investigating prime numbers, squared numbers and cubed numbers. We have investigated the rule for prime numbers and are confident that 1 is not prime but 2 definitely is and it is the even prime number. We

then spent some time exploring what is meant by squared number and how to prove it. Take a look at some of the ways we were able to share our learning.



This Week: 99.1%
This Year: 95.9%