

# Rusthall St Paul's Primary

## School Newsletter



Edition 6 – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### School News

It is the end of another busy week at Rusthall St Paul's. We started the week with individual photos and it was great to see the children coming in with their full school uniform and some very fancy hairstyles! We have also had a visit from the police this week as our Mini Cadets continue with their training. We ended the week with our open morning and FORS AGM. It was great to be a part of the meeting and see what amazing support we have for the school and the exciting plans for the year ahead.

It has been the first week of our new behaviour policy and I am pleased to say that the children have responded well. On Monday there were children who had to work in another class or miss break times to complete work but this has improved as the week has continued. We will be ensuring the new policy is followed consistently so that everyone knows the expectations and that things are dealt with fairly.

I am excited to be going away to Bewl water with the year 6s next week but this does mean I will not be available from Wednesday to Friday. Should you have any issues or worries in this time, please contact the school office or Miss Sheldrake.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Mrs Smurthwaite**

**Head of School**

### Events and Dates

<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Mrs Mitchell (Executive Head Teacher) visiting the school
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Chance to Shine Cricket Assembly
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	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
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	St Andrew's House home clothes day
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>End of Term 1</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of Term 2</b>

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> October).

### Flowerbeds

Please can I ask everyone to make sure that children are not walking on, climbing in or hiding in the flowerbeds and bushes on the school drive. It is damaging the shrubbery and plants.

Please make sure you keep your children with you until you leave the school site.

### Inspire MAT Support and Training

This week we have had 3 support visits from Inspire. Anna Marsh (EYFS Specialist for the MAT) came over on Wednesday to lead interactions training with all EYFS staff. Then we also had a visit from Amy Clarke (English Lead) for our staff development meeting. She worked with us on the changes we are making to teaching reading and the use of Reader's Theatre. This will be implemented after half term and will be very interactive and work on children's fluency and expression. Reader's Theatre is very engaging and should have a fantastic impact on reading progress. Finally, Lorraine Butler (Trust SIP) has also been in and she has completed a safeguarding audit and monitoring of teaching and learning. She is working alongside us to ensure that all the exciting changes that have happened so far are being implemented. I am pleased to say that things are going well and there are many positive changes to celebrate.

## Year 6 - Secondary School Applications

KCC's window for Secondary School Applications opened on 1st September and closes at Midnight on **31st October 2023**. Please [click here](#) for further information the leaflet is interactive and has links to KCC website. If you have any further questions please contact [kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk) If you live in another borough, you will need to make your application on via their website even if you are naming Kent Schools.

## Site Developments

The site team (Mr Kilby and Mr Day) have been working hard on developing and maintaining the school site. We have had the landscapers in and they have made sure all shrubbery is tidy and the grounds are neat. We have a roofing company coming this weekend to fix the tiles on the KS2 roof and we have secured a company to mend and replace some of the fencing over the coming weeks. I have also been contacting companies to get drawings and quote to replace the play equipment. It is a long process but I am excited by the designs I am receiving. Watch this space!

## CELEBRATIONS!

**Reading Stars:** York Class – Maria and Leo K, Winchester Class – Jamie, Exeter Class – Kaiden, Durham Class - Toby W, Rochester Class - Alexavier

**Golden Book:** York Class – Archie, Winchester Class – Amelie and Charlotte, Exeter Class – Kaiden and Daisy P, Durham Class – Yasin and Toby W, Rochester Class – Harry and Dolcie

**House point winners:** St David House

**Weekly Attendance winners:** Rochester – for the second week in a row Rochester class have managed to achieve 99% attendance! An amazing achievement – keep it up!



## Reception Admissions 2024 Information

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2024 you will need to apply for a place (even if they already have a sibling at school). Applications will need to be submitted to the borough in which you pay your council tax. If you are a resident in KCC you will need to complete an online form. Applications are open from Friday 3rd November to Monday 15th January 2024. Further information and key dates can be found by [clicking here](#).

## Upsetting Content Online

As our children have more and more access to technology, it is important that we safeguard them against the upsetting content that is available. However, we all know that children can see things that are inappropriate or can cause distress. I have attached a link to a poster about how to support children and has lots of tips and advice. <https://www.rusthall-cep.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6508&type=pdf>

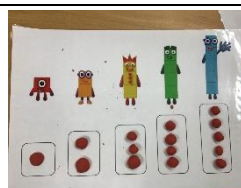
## Forest School

We had a change in weather today, which meant I had to put up our large tarp shelter in the woods so we could cook over the fire. The children enjoyed making griddle scones and apple crumble (sort of!) which most of the children enjoyed. Some children got to light the fire at the beginning which is not always easy. We reflected on our sessions overall and the children discussed the benefits they have gained from being out in the woods. After last week's excitement of finding a newt, this week the children found 4 more! They were looked at and handled carefully by the children before we released them back into their habitat.



## York Class

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed securing their knowledge of repeating patterns. We have used multiple ways to investigate this skill including using paint, blocks and necklace making. EYFS particularly enjoyed the octopus activity! We also have looked further into our knowledge of numbers up to 4, using our play dough and number blocks to help us.



## ATTENDANCE

This Week: 96.2%  
This Year: 92.97%



In Year 1, we have been orally retelling the story of the Three Little Pigs. The children love doing all the actions! The children have now written their own version of the story independently, using their knowledge of capital letters and finger spaces.



## Winchester Class

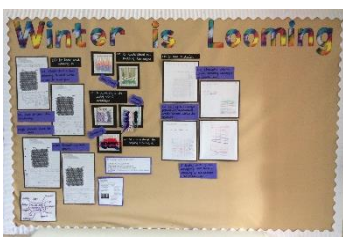
This week has been another really busy week and year 2 have risen to the occasion. The children have created their instructions for an imaginary walk and used some amazing vocabulary. They are really looking forward to their published pieces being displayed for everyone to see. In PE, they have been learning how to do chest passes and play team games focusing on the skills of passing balls into spaces and blocking their opponents. Winchester have really enjoyed learning to play 'Hot cross buns' and 'Mary had a Little Lamb' on their recorders and they have shown some real talent.

This Week: 94.5%  
This Year: 93.85%

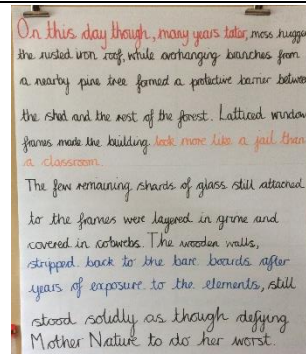
## Exeter Class

In English this week, Exeter class have been planning and writing their own traditional tales. After reading The Wolf's Secret, they looked at how the story was constructed and then used this to inform their own story plan. They have been working hard on how they can create an image for the reader using their five senses, similes and figurative language. Look at our shared writing and see what picture it creates in your mind.

In their 'Winter is Looming' art topic, they have finished



practising the different of weaves including knotting and looping. Once they had learned this skill, this informed their design for a blanket. We had to consider the pattern and colour choices to make sure that it is a design we can achieve and they have made their own loom to make them on. Some of their work is now up on display in the classroom.



This Week: 83.2%  
This Year: 90.95%

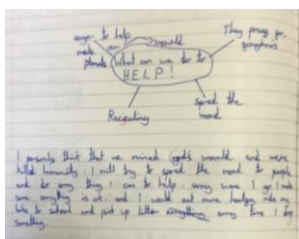
## Durham Class

This week has been a brilliant week in Durham! We have read Chapters 11 and 12 of our text 'Floodland' and the children thoroughly enjoyed hearing what happened to Zoe and the villainous Dooby. The children created story maps of the chapters and used them to write a narrative, where they focused on using dialogue. It was an excellent opportunity for the children to recap their knowledge of how speech is structured in writing. In science, we have been exploring the circulatory system. I was impressed by the children's diagrams of the heart, the different blood vessels and their explanations of their functions. We've been collecting fantastic learning from each lesson and the children are very proud to have their work displayed within the classroom. We finished our last lesson today, so the final step in our learning sequence will be displayed on Monday!

This Week: 87.4%  
This Year: 93.07%

## Rochester Class

In RE we have been exploring the big question 'Creation and science: conflicting or complimentary?' We have been looking at this from different points of view by comparing the opinions of scientists Thomas Aquinas and William Paley as well as looking at how humans do and don't respect Gods creation. This week we had a go at forming our own opinions. What do you think?



This Week: 99%  
This Year: 96.25%