

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 7 – 20th October 2023

School News

It has been quite the week for me with my first trip to Bewl Water to be part of the year 6 residential. It has been an amazing experience – I cannot rate the quality of the activities and the staff at the site highly enough. Their engagement with the children was amazing and the food, well... we could not have asked for more or better! The children were an absolute asset to the school. They participated in everything with enthusiasm and really worked as a team to complete the activities. What a way to end the term!

Have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Smurthwaite

Head of School

Events and Dates

Friday 20th October	End of Term 1
23rd-27th October	Half term
Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2
Tuesday 31st October	Mrs Mitchell visiting to look at progress made during term 1 and how we continue forward on this positive journey
Wednesday 1st November	Christmas Shopping Evening – 6.30 – 9pm (see dojo for more details)
Friday 3rd November	2.30pm - "Come and See" afternoon
Thursday 9th November	Open morning for prospective Reception parents

After School Arrangements

There appears to be a growing number of pupils who are telling teachers that they are allowed to travel home alone but the school have not been informed. **For safeguarding reasons, we must have in writing if children have permission to get home on their own.** This should only be year 6 children or in exceptional cases those from other classes (but not KS1).

If you wish for your child to be allowed to walk home alone, please email the school office so that we can give a list to teachers for dismissal. **If you do not email, we will call you to check.**

New Lunch Menu

Nourish have a new lunch menu which will be starting after half term. If you wish to order a school dinner for your child, please do this via your ParentMail account.

Please click here for the link to the school website where the new menu is saved:

[Rusthall St Paul's CE Primary School - School Meals \(rusthall-cep.kent.sch.uk\)](https://www.rusthall-cep.kent.sch.uk/School%20Meals)

FORS Help Needed

Help needed!

We need lots of volunteers to help deliver leaflets around the village for the shopping evening. We have leaflets for EVERY road in the village! If you could deliver the road you live on, we would be most grateful. The leaflets will be available to collect from school tomorrow. Please come and collect some.

We also need two volunteers to help run the bar on the night (Wednesday 1st November). Please let us know if you can do this.

Thank you
The FORS team



Inspire MAT Support and Training

This week we completed a safeguarding audit to ensure that all processes and procedures are in place and up to date. I am pleased to say they are, but we are continually looking for ways to improve and are making some tweaks and adjustments – expectations around communication for the collection of children being one of them. The staff were celebrated this week for the amazing time and effort they have put into the changes that I have already put in place. They have all changed their learning environments which is having a positive impact on learning and they are implementing the new behaviour policy and low level behaviours are decreasing. Additionally, the teachers took time to reflect on the training they received last week about a new approach to guided reading which will re-ignite the children's love of reading and support all pupils. The data proves that this approach supports the progress of children at every level and they have been planning for the implementation of this after half term.

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

If you live in another borough, you will need to make your application on via their website even if you are naming Kent Schools.

Come and See Your Children's Learning

I would like to introduce an afternoon per term when we open our classroom doors and welcome you in to see what your children have been learning. Usually this will happen in the final week of the term and the children can celebrate their successes with you. If you have more than 1 child there will be enough time to visit multiple classrooms.

The gate will be opened at 2.30pm and you can go straight to your child's classroom where you will be shown, by your child, their books and environments.

Due to residential, our first "come and see!" will be Friday 3rd November at 2.30pm.

SEND News



Rusthall St Paul's now has a SENCo, Miss Williamson, who works 3 days per week. If you have any concerns about your child, or if your child is already on the SEND register, please do book an appointment to meet with Miss Williamson and discuss their needs and provision.

bwilliamson@inspiream.org.uk

"I want to use this opportunity to say 'hello' and thank you for your warm welcome to life at Rusthall. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding start. I have supported all class teachers in creating Class Provision Maps, which ensures that all children have the support they need to reach their full potential. This will be reviewed collaboratively three-times a year. Furthermore, a focus has been on creating safe and nurturing spaces throughout the school. I have held weekly meetings with all teaching assistants, so far, we have covered behaviour for learning, de-escalation strategies and how to support with reading. I will be using this space weekly to share insight into the school's progress with special educational needs and additionally, helpful resources and support within the community."

CELEBRATIONS!

Reading Stars: York Class – Joe, Winchester Class – Joseph, Exeter Class – Oliver T, Durham Class - Bea, Rochester Class - Agnes

Golden Book: York Class – Keaton and Archie, Winchester Class – Dottie and Jamie, Exeter Class – Bella and Callan, Rochester (in school) – Amelie and Haron, Durham (in school) – Noah and Aidan

Year 6 (residential) – Alfie SM and Flora

House point winners: St David's House

Weekly Attendance winners: Rochester – 3 Weeks running and almost 100%. What an achievement!



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.

Chance to Shine Cricket

Year 2 – 6 will be getting the opportunity to be coached in cricket by Sandra Hepple from Chance to Shine. This will be happening every Tuesday for 6 weeks. All children in Winchester, Exeter, Durham and Rochester will need to come to school in PE kit on Tuesdays.

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](#).

Forest School Timetable

Next term Exeter class will be having forest school on a Thursday. They will need to come to school in their forest school kits ready for their sessions.



Forest School

The year 5 children enjoyed a double session of Forest School today. We managed to avoid most of the rain too! We began the day by sharing some gratitude. The children were then given a blob of clay and were asked to turn it into a 'Blobster' using natural materials. We then came together and commented on our fantastic creations. This led into working in small groups to create These were so creative. We had Ladybugville, a hot tub which turns into drinking e top village, disco floor, 9 balcony's, jacuzzi, Le Plant Pot (the leader) and Chief Aztacman. And these were only some of them.

The bugs were hunted in force by an enthusiastic group of children.
We went to the woods on the common in the afternoon. We practiced fire lighting, explored the area, listened to a story about Mama Africa who created clay animals and finished with a ginger cookie and hot squash.
A wonderful day.



York Class

EYFS

This week in Maths, we have been exploring how to identify and sort shapes, with focus on the features of triangles and circles. Within English, we have started our new book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We launched this by having our own bear hunt through the school, even finding footprints!



Year 1

In DT we have finished our “It’s in the bag!” topic. Look at the lovely bags we have created.

This week in Maths, we have looked at how to define, label and sort 3D items. We did this through building our own towers, using a range of 3D shapes. Within English, we have started our new book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and created our own story map, by performing it and then drawing it. Furthermore, we have launched our new experience topic, which links to the Geography Curriculum. This saw us learn what maps, symbols and keys are and we all created our own map.



ATTENDANCE

This Week: 97.7%
This Year: 93.45%

Winchester Class

We have had another super week in Winchester class. In English, we have started reading our new book 'The Princess and the White Bear King'. We have learnt the key features of a diary and we have written our own diary entries in role as the princess. We worked hard to use all of the features we have learnt about. We look forward to reading the rest of the story after half term!

This Week: 95%
This Year: 94.01%

Exeter Class

This week Exeter class have been finishing their weaving topic, completing their mini blanket designs. I have been thoroughly amazed by their attention to detail and perseverance as this had been a really hard skill to learn.

In maths, they have been moving onto addition and subtraction using number bonds to support quick calculation. Now we are moving on to the expanded method so that we understand how the process works. Ask your children to show you how to do this at home

This Week: 90%

This Year: 92.13%

as it takes a bit of practice and builds on the place value skills that we practiced at the beginning of the year.
In English, the children have been writing Haikus and have even published their final copy on Thursday. We will be displaying some of these in the class and KS2 corridor.

Year 5

As some of the Year 6 children were off on their residential, the Year 5s came together and enjoyed a few days of learning as one class. We have been exploring more of our printing topic together, and the children loved getting to design and make their own block prints.

They began by tracing an image and printing it onto a foam board. They then carved out their designs and used block paint and a roller to paint their foam board, before placing it into their books and printing their image. The children were incredibly proud of their designs and prints. We were also very lucky to get a full day of Forest School together. I was so proud of the children for the way they supported one another and for the creativity they demonstrated.



This Week: 92.9%
This Year: 95.13%

Year 6

We couldn't end the week without talking about the fabulous time had by all at Bewl Water. We started our stay with all the children learning the skill of making beds including putting all sheets on pillows, duvets and mattresses. The afternoon entailed designing and building a raft before heading down to the lake to test out the designs. The children's resourcefulness and team work was amazing. Day 2 included archery, climbing and canoeing. We discovered that year 6 don't ever feel the cold as they decided to jump in from their boats and finished the day with a Mexican flop into the water! The adults on the other hand, definitely still had a temperature gauge!! After a chilly afternoon, we were treated to hot chocolate before our movie night. We rounded off the residential off with a trail and axe throwing – there were some surprising talents in this area!
A wonderful – albeit tiring - time all round.



This Week: 99.5%
This Year: 96.1%