

# Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

## School News

Well it has certainly been an interesting week with storm Ciaran giving everything a shake up on Thursday! I hope you all managed to keep safe and dry while the storm blew over. It has been a busy first week back after the half term and the children and staff have really hit the ground running! We had our very first choir club on Wednesday and I am so excited to see how the children sound after a few sessions. They will be able to attend the Trust Christmas Carol Concert in December and we will be able to show off the Rusthall talent. We also had our first cricket coaching sessions and I got an email from the instructor saying what a pleasure it was to work with the Rusthall children – they should be very proud of themselves. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the 'Come and See' afternoon. The children were so happy to show their work and hopefully, it has given an insight into what the children have been doing. We will hold another one for term 2 later in December.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Mrs Smurthwaite**  
**Head of School**

## Events and Dates

<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of Term 2</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	2.30pm - "Come and See" afternoon
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	FORS Quiz night
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Open morning for prospective Reception parents
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	In school Remembrance Service
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Church Remembrance Service – one of our lovely families has agreed to carry the school banner for us, a massive thank you for this!
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Kent Attendance Officer in school check % of attendance
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	High Hopes Collective Worship
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Village Christmas Fete
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS1 Nativity
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 Carol Concert
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Inspire Academy Movement Trust Carol Concert (evening including Rusthall)
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>END OF TERM</b>

## 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://rusthall-cep.kent.sch.uk)

### KS1 Nativity

As we prepare for the Christmas festivities, I wanted to share the dates for the KS1 nativity as I am aware that some families may need to organise time off etc. I have provisionally booked 2 performances – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am.

In previous years, attendance at the nativity performances has been unbalanced. This has meant that we have lots of families on one day and sometimes almost none on another. Please can you indicate which you would attend using the link (if there are very few at one performance, we may make changes).

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/boOm8zAb>

### KS2 Carol Concert

This year the carol concert for KS2 will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the morning. We are going to be starting rehearsals soon so be prepared for your children singing carols on repeat at home!

Please can you use the doodle poll link below to indicate if you are planning to attend the KS2 carol concert. This will mean that we can plan for logistics such as chair and seating arrangements of the children which will really help with our rehearsal process. I would appreciate your help by using the poll so that we can get things in place. Thank you!

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/egkKgml>

### Staff Development and Training

On Tuesday, the teachers and governors had a meeting, led by the Executive Head Teacher Mrs Mitchell, about our school values. Whenever there is new leadership in a school, they will look at the values as they play a pivotal role in shaping the moral and academic landscape of educational institutions. By teaching and consistently modelling these values, schools not only shape the character of their students but also support the holistic development of each child. When a school has a well-defined system of values, it serves as a benchmark for various facets of school life. This includes the manner in which teaching staff interact with students and the behaviours they exemplify. Such a strong emphasis on school values makes every member more conscious of their accomplishments, pushing them to excel in all dimensions of school life. We wanted to look carefully at what is at the heart of Rusthall St Paul's and make sure that our school values mirror this. This will then permeate throughout the school and help us move forward on our journey.

We will be sharing the outcome of the meeting with you once we have used the values to structure the Vision Statement for the school.

### School Uniform

I have previously shared the school uniform on the newsletter as a reminder about what children need to be wearing. On uniform days, most of the children are attending in full uniform, including ties and jumpers, which is amazing. Research shows that 'a uniform means students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like is not so important. There is no competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which would put a great deal of financial pressure on students and parents.'

On PE days, it is most noticeable that children and families are not following the uniform policy. Therefore, I would like to remind everyone that on PE days, children need to be in the correct uniform:

**School House Colour T-shirt (not baggy style please)**

**Navy shorts (not baggy style please)**

**Plimsolls or trainers**

**Tracksuit or tracksuit trousers and sweatshirt is advisable for winter months from year 1 upwards**

We will be starting to send uniform slip home with children who are not wearing the correct attire. Please do let us know if you are unable to source uniform or need financial support as this is something we are more than happy to help with.

### Attendance

As you are aware from my previous newsletters, every week we monitor the attendance levels of pupils within the school. We have a duty to report the attendance figures to the local authority. On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, the attendance officer for our local area will be attending the school and I will have to report both whole school figures and individual pupil's attendance. At this point, the local authority will then have to follow their procedures. Please use this link on the steps that can be taken under the government guidance: [School attendance and absence: Legal action to enforce school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/school-attendance-and-absence-legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance)

**Our whole school attendance is currently at 93.34%. In order for children to receive a good education they need to be in school a minimum of 97%. Please come and speak to us if you need support with your child attending school.**

## SEND News

As part of our SEND journey, we have been working on different areas of the school and providing safe spaces for children who need alternate spaces to the classroom at times. Please see attached our KS1 Nurture Room, where we hold our lunchtime Nurture Group. Furthermore, children can access Sensory Circuits, the quiet reading jungle and sensory tent.

We are still looking for a small trampette and bubble tube for KS2. Any donations would be so welcomed.

## CELEBRATIONS!

**Head Pupils:** Flora and Jacob

**Reading Stars:** York Class – Sonny, Winchester Class – Dottie, Exeter Class – Joseph, Durham Class - Fraser, Rochester Class – Harry

**100% achievement on AR targets:** York: Archie, Bonnie, Tamanna, Winchester: Ruby and Maisie, Exeter: Joe, Johnny, Jospeh, Kaiden, Teo, Martha, Durham: Aidan, Fraser, Agnes, Rochester: Alexavier, Harry, Jack, Alfie SM, John, Jacob, Bea

**Golden Book:** York Class – Joe and Yusef, Winchester Class – Lyla and Ivy W, Exeter Class – Teddy and Esme, Rochester - Isabella, Durham – Tyron, all of year 6 for their amazing residential success

**House point winners:** St Andrew (who achieved collating 250 house points this week!!)

**Weekly Attendance winners:** There were no winners this week as no class managed to achieve over 90% attendance



### 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](#).

### Village Christmas Fete

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School have a 15 minute slot where they will be performing Christmas Carols. We would like as many KS2 children to attend as possible. A permission slip for this will be coming out shortly so that we know how many children to expect. I hope that we will see lots of you there to cheer us on!

### Trust Carol Concert

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Trust will be holding a carol concert at Sevenoaks school in the evening. Everyone who attends choir will be able to perform. Permission letters will be sent out next week.

### York Class



### ATTENDANCE

This Week: 76.9%  
This Year: 91.33%

This week in York Class we have been learning to retell the story of "We're going on a bear hunt." Reception and year 1 have been working together daily to retell the story. We have also learnt what a refrain is and in small groups we practised performing the refrain "We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day. We're not scared."

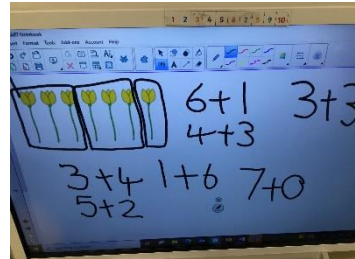
In maths we have been working on composition of numbers. Reception have been looking at how numbers to 3 can be composed. We used animals and placed them in fields - describing each number, for example 2 is made of 2 and 0. Year 1 have been learning to use the addition symbol to record



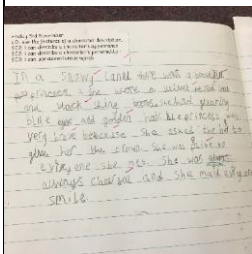
ways to  
of the 7



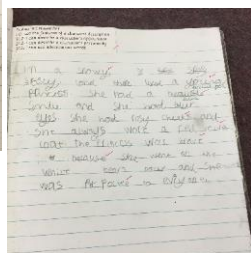
statements to match pictures. We applied our knowledge and found different record the picture flowers.



## Winchester Class



We have had a lovely first week back in Winchester class. In English, we have studied the characters in our story 'The Princess and the White Bear King' and we have written character descriptions of the princess. In RE, we have started our new topic of 'Incarnation' and we thought about why Christmas is important to Christians. (We look forward to starting our nativity soon!)



This Week: 78.2%  
This Year: 92.10%

## Exeter Class

Exeter class thoroughly enjoyed their cricket coaching session and were very pleased that the weather held out long enough for this to be done outside. Sandra the coach mentioned what a pleasure it was to work with the children and how enthusiastic they are.

It was another 'first' for Exeter this week, with their first session of forest school. Despite the efforts of Storm Ciaran to make it an indoor session, the children did get outside and had a fantastic time. I hope that next week it will be a little less windy!

This Week: 80.7%  
This Year: 90.72%

## Durham

This week in Durham we began our new key text "Stay Where You Are Then Leave," which is linked to our upcoming WW2 topic in History. The children have worked really hard to develop their skills in using passive voice, identifying different tenses and using precise vocabulary to engage the reader. They have also enjoyed participating in their first cricket lesson with Kent Cricket and I was very impressed by the strength of the children's batting and how far some of the balls travelled! Some of the children got lots of runs in for their teams. We have also consolidated our knowledge of printing this week and the children got to create their own lino prints which were inspired by their knowledge of relief printing!

This Week: 82.6%  
This Year: 93.16%



## Rochester

The weather has been wonderfully wet and windy this week.

Fortunately, we were able to stay in and dry at lunch time when

needed. John and Jacob showed great creativity,

patience, team work and problem solving with the marble run

during this time. We were also fortunate that it stayed dry for our

first cricket lesson and that our gymnastic lesson was inside- it

rained a lot during this time! In gymnastic we recapped what a

balance was then added a twist, literally! I was blown away by the

focus, attitude and flexibility of the class! Working in small groups

they put together a (not so simple in some cases) sequence which

they confidently shared with the class. What a wonderful week Rochester!



This Week: 78%  
This Year: 94.31%