

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 9 – 10th November 2023

School News

Despite some very wet weather, we have had a lovely week at Rusthall. We have had several visitors, including governors and parents from the community for open morning, and it has been fantastic to show the children's work off to everyone! The children were so well behaved and a credit to the school. It has been lovely to see the displays going up in the classrooms and in the corridors with the children's work being celebrated. Year 2 have written some amazing instructions with language that creates such a vivid image. I have also enjoyed looking at the art work that year 5 and 6 have been doing – I think we may have some artists heading for the national gallery in the future! I am excited to see what we will achieve next.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2
Sunday 11th November	Church Remembrance Service – one of our lovely families has agreed to carry the school banner for us, a massive thank you for this!
Wednesday 15th November	Kent Attendance Officer in school check % of attendance
Friday 17th November	Children in Need day
Wednesday 29th November	High Hopes Collective Worship
Friday 1st December	FORS Break the Rules Day
Saturday 2nd December	Village Christmas Fete
Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December	KS1 Nativity
Monday 11th December	KS2 Carol Concert
Tuesday 12th December	Inspire Academy Movement Trust Carol Concert (evening including Rusthall)
Friday 15th December	END OF TERM

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.**

Children in Need 2023

In support of Children in Need day this year, the children will be able to wear spots and Pudsey merchandise. We will still be in school uniform but children could do spotty dotty faces, Pudsey patches, Pudsey ears, spotty socks/tights or they could adapt their uniform by adding spots.

If you are wearing Children in Need merchandise then please do not feel that you need to donate. However, if you would like to contribute, please use this link:

[Donate to BBC Children in Need](#)

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 6th December at 2pm and Thursday 7th 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 11th 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

This week we looked at the pupils reading. As a staff we wanted to tackle the issue of record keeping of home reading and how to develop the children's love of reading. The plan moving forwards will be: EYFS and KS1 will continue to record their daily reading on class dojo in their portfolios. They get a dojo point for each time they read and the teachers will set targets for how many points we want to collect. All children who read every day will be put into a raffle at the end of the term to win a reading prize. KS2 are going to introduce reading records. Children/families will be expected to record reading at home daily. The class teacher or teaching assistant will check reading records daily to keep a log of who is reading. We can also communicate through the reading record about levels and targets. The children will get a house point for every time they read.

Love of reading – we will be doing 15 mins a week in KS1 where the children will just read for pleasure. This will not be levelled books but just a book either from the class or library that they want to read. KS2 will complete 30 mins a week. The teachers are very excited to read some of their books during this time too!

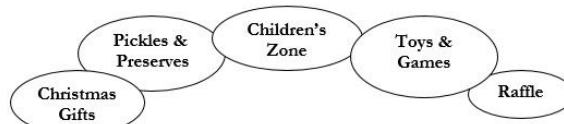
We have more ideas for the rest of the year to continue to develop reading but these things will be implemented in the next 2 weeks to get us started. Get in touch if you want more information or you have any questions.

Remembrance Service



At 10.45am, the whole school gathered to remember those who have given their lives in war. Our leading lights led the school with a welcome followed by a poem read by year 6.

The children sang "We will remember them" and they sounded beautiful. We stood in silence, reflecting on those who have lost their lives and listened to the last post. Finally, we had a prayer. Year 6 then laid a wreath on Squadron Leader Dart's memorial.



St Paul's Church, Rusthall

Autumn Fayre

Saturday 18th November

**CHURCH CENTRE & URC HALL
10am to 2pm**

**Admission £1
Children Free Admission**

COFFEE, TEA AND LUNCHES



#EasyFundraising

Please remember to use #easyfundraising EVERY time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to Rusthall St Paul's School - FORS - Tunbridge Wells for FREE when you use #easyfundraising to shop with them, so you can support us no matter what you're buying! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Please sign up and help us raise more at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rusthallstpauls/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=fb-2

CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Flora and Jacob

Reading Stars: York Class – Emily P, Winchester Class – Darcie, Exeter Class – Teddy W, Durham Class – Nicola, Rochester Class – Haron

Golden Book: York Class – Keaton and Maria, Winchester Class – Jesse and Ruby, Exeter Class – Olly M and Hattie, Rochester – Lola and Jack, Durham – Nicola and Toby P

House point winners: St Andrew's

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 2nd 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 12th 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.

Forest School

The rain held off for Forest School this week and we had a really lovely session. The children made some Forest school style poppies for remembrance that involved some knot work and weaving. They also learnt about the Rowan tree and its folklore and made protective necklaces from the berries. The children enjoyed their free play and climbed high into the trees. The mud kitchen was popular as usual and some fun games were created, including jumping onto a plank to make a jug of water fly high into the air! We finished the session with a relaxing sit spot and gave thanks to nature with some bird food.

York Class



This week in Inspired Play, Reception have shown a keen interest in acting out birthday parties. Therefore, we through a birthday party for the teddy bear in our class. The children used their number knowledge to 5 to choose birthday stickers, they used their phonic knowledge to write birthday cards, wrapped presents to improve their gross motor skills and even made pretend cakes in our Home Corner.

Year 1 have been incredible this week and we are so proud of them. We have been focused on story writing, ensuring they orally form their sentence, count the words, write it down, use a full stop and then check their own sentence. We have seen such progress in their independent learning skills. Well done Year 1!



ATTENDANCE

This Week: 86.9%
This Year: 92.73%

Winchester Class



Winchester have continued to be very busy and focused in their learning. In PE they have been loving their cricket sessions on a Tuesday afternoon and have already learnt how to use a bat and this week moved on to bowling under and over arm. They all mastered these skills really well and we are already identifying budding cricketers of the future! The class have been very excited about our art sessions and we have been learning the skills needed to work with clay. They have been looking at different ways to roll, squeeze, pinch and pull as well as how to smooth and create hollow shapes and scrape them out so the edges are not too thick. We are all really looking forward to starting on our sculptures very soon.



This Week: 85.9%
This Year: 93.39%

Exeter Class

This week we have been studying news articles, and we have now begun writing our own. We are reading The Iron Man by Ted Hughes in our Guided Reading lessons, and next week we will find out what Hogarth's plan is to capture The Iron Man and keep the town safe. In Maths we have just started multiplication and division facts, and we are learning tricks to recognise multiples of 3.

We have also had lots of time outdoors this week. We had our Kent Cricket Coach visit us on Tuesday and teach us how to bowl with precision. We then got muddy at forest school and created our own poppies to show our respect for remembrance day on Friday.

This Week: 83.9%
This Year: 92%

Durham

This week in Durham we began our topic of World War 2 in History. The children successfully identified the different events that took place in the lead up to the war and used the evidence they looked at to identify what they thought was the biggest trigger for the war starting. I am so impressed with how engaged and enthused the children are by this topic and I'm really looking forward to seeing the outcomes over the next few weeks. In English, we have been exploring more of our text 'Stay where you are and then Leave.' We have been learning about multi-clause sentences and building on children's knowledge of how to use precise vocabulary to engage the reader. The children also thoroughly enjoyed their second Kent Cricket lesson, where they learnt further skills in controlling the ball, alongside how to accurately bowl.

This Week: 82.6%
This Year: 95.45%

Rochester



Wow, what an enthusiastic and confident class we are. We have just done our second week of reading theatre and we are acing it. On Wednesday before Miss Collis could even ask for a volunteer to share their reading with the class, many of us had put our hand up. Mrs



Dorothy wondered what we were all volunteering for - she was very impressed by our fluency and expression when reading to an audience. Our drama skills were then needed again in RE with Miss Sheldrake. We acted out and unpicked Matthew 21:1-9 before discussing if Jesus arrived the way we would expect a king to.



This Week: 86%
This Year: 94.08%