

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 11 – 24th November 2023

School News



Rusthall St Pauls was featured on the BBC news last week for the falling poppies at the Remembrance service. We would like to thank the Pearcey family for carrying the school banner at this very special event. It is amazing that members of our school community want to represent us within the community and I am very grateful.

It was lovely to see so many families at the church fayre on Saturday even though the weather did try to damper our spirits. I am looking to seeing as many of you as possible at the switching on of the lights next weekend where you will be able to listen to our amazing children getting you into the Christmas spirit!

Have a wonderful weekend ☺

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 29th November	High Hopes Collective Worship
Friday 1st December	FORS Break the Rules Day
Saturday 2nd December	Village Christmas Fete – Rusthall children singing
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)
Wednesday 13th December	Whole school trip to the Panto!
Friday 15th December	END OF TERM

The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from child across the England on what they think is important! In the Lead up to the General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to make sure the Government hears young people's voices.

Please click [here](#) for further information.

The survey is open until **15th December 2023** and can be completed by clicking [here](#).



Christmas Cards

On the first day back after half term, all children designed their own piece of Christmas artwork that can be used for Christmas cards and other gifts.

Your child has come home with a copy of your child's artwork and their own reference number and pin for you to be able to order cards and gifts with your child's artwork on. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MIDNIGHT 24TH NOVEMBER, FOR FREE DELIVERY TO SCHOOL.** (Any orders after this time will incur a home delivery charge of £8.95).

All orders generate commission for the school so you are helping to raise money for the school and spread festive cheer! 🎄

Thank you for your support!

The FORS team 😊

PE Kit

I have written previously about school uniform expectations. PE kit continues to be a problem, especially in KS2. PE days are not home clothes days and children need to be in school clothes. Due to the number of children not in school PE kit, the school are looking to invest in some kit so that children can borrow this on the day. If you are having trouble buying uniform, please let the school know and we are happy to support families with this.

Coats

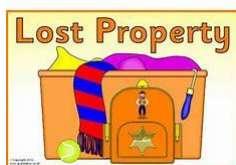
As the weather is becoming more unpredictable and colder we would like to remind parents to ensure your child is sent in with a coat. Please make sure these are clearly labelled with your child's name.



Lost Property

We have a large number of items in the lost property room. We will sort through and return any items that are named. If your child is missing any items please do check there.

If there are still unclaimed items in the lost property room by **Friday 15th December** then we will donate them to the PTA for a future pre-loved sale.



KS1 Nativity & KS2 Carol Concert

Thank you to everyone who filled in the doodle polls. I am pleased to say that we have enough people to run all productions. On **Tuesday 28th**, tickets will be available from the school office. There will be a **maximum of 2 tickets per child, per performance**. If you wish to attend both KS1 performances, you can. However it will still be **2 tickets per child for each performance**.

Once all families have collected their tickets, any spares will be offered on a first come, first served basis. This is for both KS1 and KS2 productions. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Staff Development and Training

This week in our staff development meeting we focussed on spellings and handwriting. We have developed a new handwriting and spelling policy which clearly outlines the progression of knowledge and skills the children will be covering in every class over the course of the year (this can be found on the school website). The children will be taught handwriting daily with modelling from the class teacher. In KS2 spellings will be changing in format. The children will be taught a spelling rule each week. They will then be sent home with 15 or 16 spellings that follow that the spelling rule of the week and they will be tested at the end of the week on 10 of these spellings. This way they are learning the spelling rule which they can apply to their everyday work rather than just learning spellings for a test. We will be tracking the children's scores to see how they are doing and seeing if anyone needs additional support.

#EasyFundraising



Now that we are well into the Christmas shopping season we are asking each and everyone of you, who shops online, to do so via EASYFUNDRAISING. This costs you absolutely nothing! You simply download the app. You can also set up your phone so you get donation reminders. Lots of our supporters have left

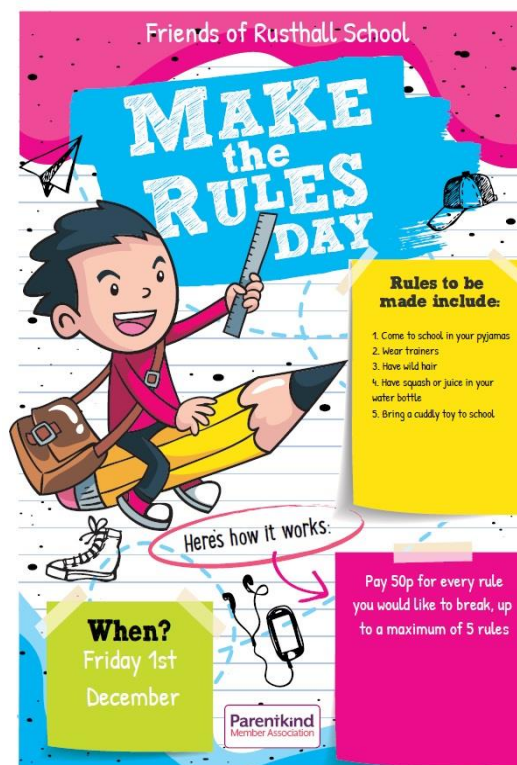
the school now so we are particularly keen on those who have just joined us or those with younger children. PLEASE get on board with this. We are soon going to be spending a HUGE amount of money on replacing the playground equipment so everyone can help if you shop online.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rusthallstpauls/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-wa1

Or simply scan the QR code above

Thank you and happy shopping!

The FORS team ☺



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.

CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Flora and Jacob

Rainbow Awards RED: Betsy, Ruby, Lyla, Elliot, Holly, Ivy G, Asher, Joseph H, Dottie, Stepan, Charlotte, Emma, Maisie, Isabella M, Andrea, Amelie P, Taylor, Jamie, Darcie, Amelia W, Ivy W, Jesse

Reading Stars: York Class – Tamanna, Winchester Class – Jesse, Exeter Class – Teo, Durham Class – Fraser, Rochester Class – Ben

Golden Book: York Class – Tyler and Leo M, Winchester Class – Amelia and Elliot, Exeter Class – Charlie B and Leo, Rochester – Tommy and Ted, Durham – Nicola and Sophia

House point winners: St Andrews

Weekly Attendance winners: Exeter Class – who made a substantial improvement from last week when they were under 90%! Well done Exeter!



Forest School

The sun was out today, giving us some lovely dry weather. The children enjoyed making some Christmas crafts, using up some of the willow left from our bows and arrows last week. Mrs White has kindly been baking some oranges for us to make some decorations. We used these to thread string through and added cloves and cinnamon sticks. Some lovely festive smells today!

We had a new piece of kit today - a slack line! This was purchased with some money generously donated by Joe and Eli's dad so a very big thank you must go to him. The children will get lots of use out of it.

The children climbed trees, played adventurous games and gave thanks to the woodland during a sit spot.

We also made wishes when we caught leaves falling from the trees in the breeze.

<p>York Class</p> <p>This week York Class have been learning about instructions during our English sessions. We played Simon says to learn about verbs - words which tell us what we need to do. Year 1 extended this work by writing commands which used both a time word and a verb. In Reception we have been learning to write shopping lists - we looked at how we can use our phonics to write the letters we can hear in words or how we can draw pictures to show what we want to buy. In Maths Reception have been working on 1 more and 1 less. Year 1 have been adding 2 amounts together, we now know how to record in different ways. We have also been very busy practising the songs for our Nativity.</p>  	<p>ATTENDANCE</p> <p>This Week: 93.79% This Year: 93.10%</p>
<p>Winchester Class</p> <p>In Winchester class this week, we have been excitedly rehearsing for our nativity. We have been learning our lines and practising when to come on and off the stage. Next week, we will be rehearsing on the stage without our scripts! In maths, we have been learning to add two 2-digit numbers using exchanging. We have been using dienes to exchange ten ones for one ten and we have all become much more confident using this method. We look forward to a very busy week next week!</p>	<p>This Week: 95.00% This Year: 93.96%</p>
<p>Exeter Class</p> <p>This week we have all been working really hard throughout assessment week. Exeter class have shown amazing focusing skills as well as lots of perseverance when questions seemed tricky! We still had Cricket and Forest School, and even a few minutes extra play some days, to keep us active through the busy week of assessments. We have also been busy with carol concert practices. In between all of that, we have continued with learning multiplication and division facts from the 7 times-table and have started a new topic (Biographies) in English. It has been a jam-packed and brilliant week!</p>	<p>This Week: 95.91% This Year: 92.26%</p>
<p>Durham</p> <p>This week in Durham, we have been exploring formal letter writing and the children did an excellent job of identifying the features of a formal letter, before using their knowledge to write their own letters in role as Alfie (the main character from our text 'Stay Where You Are Then Leave'). In History, we have been developing our knowledge of what evacuation was like during WW2. The children identified who would have been evacuated, what they would have been allowed to take with them and they then compared different primary and secondary sources with a focus on their reliability. In P.E, the children continued to build on their knowledge of how to play cricket and the skills which are needed. They focused this week on using clear and strong communication, when working as part of a team.</p>  	<p>This Week: 92.63% This Year: 94.07%</p>
<p>Rochester</p> <p>Wow, what a busy week! It seems to have flown by. This week we have really got into the swing of practicing for our Carol Concert, as well as all our other learning. Our reading theatre practise has come in handy as we have got dramatic with our friezes and grown in confidence with our singing. We look forward to sharing the final product with you at the concert. It has also been assessment week so we have also show great resilience and perseverance. Our reading records were introduced on Monday, it has been great to see Rochester class take such pride and enthusiasm in filling them out and sharing what they have read with each other.</p> 	<p>This Week: 94.00% This Year: 95.23%</p>