

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 16 – 12th January 2024

School News

It's been a wonderful week at Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School, despite the snow and bitter cold that we have been subjected to. The staff have been hard at work making sure the children have been able to hit the ground running and new topics are already well underway. This term is a relatively short one in comparison to the Autumn term but that means there is a lot to pack into a short space of time! I would ask for your continued support to ensure your children are in school on time and as regularly as possible so they maximise the learning opportunities we provide for them. This also extends to supporting and encouraging them to engage with any home learning they are set including 'Times Table Rockstars' as well as daily reading practice. Language and reading is so important to the educational outcomes of children and regular daily practice is key. A student who reads 21 minutes per day outside of school reads almost 2 million words per year – that is just amazing! We look forward to seeing everyone at parents evening next week where you can discuss your child's progress and any additional support they may need to reach their full potential.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Friday 12th January	Attainment progress reports out to parents Come and See Afternoon St Andrews Home Clothes Day
Tuesday 16th January	Durham Library Visit Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th January	High Hopes Assembly Parents Evening
Tuesday 23rd January	Exeter Library Visit
WB 22nd January	Rusthall Children Begin Visiting Seal Community Farm (all children will visit over the course of the term)
Thursday 25th January	Mrs Smurthwaite out at Head Teacher Meeting – contact Miss Sheldrake for any issues arising
Tuesday 30th January	Winchester Library Visit
Friday 9th February	END OF TERM 3 (Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February HALF TERM)



Come and See Your Children's Learning

Thank you so much to every who came up to see their children's work including grandparents and other extended family. It is so wonderful to watch the children proudly showing everyone their work and the school – some lucky families even got shown the toilets!! I will continue to open the doors to the school each term so you can see you the children are progressing.

If there are ever any families who can't make it, please do contact the teachers directly as we are always happy to organise for families to come in after school and have a look.

Police Cadets



Well done to our amazing Police Cadets who had their celebration ceremony this week. They received their certificates, presented by Inspector Ian Jones and PCSO Sarah Stanley. It was lovely to hear from the Inspector that this is the best group of children they have worked with (and they work with children in lots of schools). It makes us all very proud of the children at Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School.

Thought for the Week



Picture news is running a new campaign to help get children and families thinking about important topics. This week's thought for the week is: is an

e-reader better than a book?

A study from the university of Valencia, Spain, found that reading books could boost skills by 6-8 times more than digital reading, for example on a tablet. The study, published in the Review of Education Research, also found that while there is a negative relationship between digital reading and comprehension for primary pupils but it is positive in secondary schools.

Government Attendance Campaign

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan said: "Tackling attendance is my number one priority. We want all our children to have the best start in life because we know that attending school is vital to a child's wellbeing, development, and attainment as well as impact future career success."



Child Anxiety

Kent Emotional Well Being Team have asked us to share details of their online platform which is designed to help parents and carers to learn techniques to help their child (aged 5 to 12 years old) to overcome difficulties with worries/fears/anxiety.

The platform has supported parents and carers to support their child with a range of worries for related to going to school, bedtime fears, specific phobias e.g. dogs, insects, injections.

The intervention is a combination of weekly calls with the service and online guidance. The aim of these interventions is to help parents and carers guide their young person to feel braver and happier in overcoming their worry or fear. If you wish to access this service you will need to email the team and read the information of their website. Further information can be found by [clicking here](#).



Online Safety

As our children use many online gaming devices and Apps it is important, we keep our knowledge up-to-date on how to keep them safe online. Kent Police have asked us to share the following general online safety information by [clicking here](#) with all our parents and carers.

Please also click on the following links below for online safety using the following gaming platforms:

[Xbox](#) [Ninetendo](#) [Playstation](#)

Please also click on the following links below for online safety using the following Apps:

[Tiktok](#) [Whatsapp](#) [Snapchat](#)



CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Alfie C and Jack

Red Rainbow Awards: Esme D-T, Joe W, Tyler, Tamanna, Evie P, Yusef, Stephen, Lola, Sophia, Ethan, Michael, Toby W, Tyron

Orange Rainbow Awards: Emma and Joseph H

Reading Stars: York Class – Maria, Winchester Class – Elliot, Exeter Class – Bella, Durham Class – Toby P, Rochester Class – Ted

Golden Book: York Class – Tyler and Teddy, Winchester Class – Darcie and Amelie, Exeter Class – Daisy P and Ollie M, Rochester – Isabella and Alfie SM, Durham – Ethan and Xena

House point winners: St Andrews

Weekly Attendance winners: Winchester – second week in a row!



Forest School

We had a very chilly morning in the woods this week. The Forest school site looked beautiful with snow on the ground. We got the fire going straight away. The children enjoyed exploring the woods again. They remembered the safety aspects of lighting small fires and some had success in lighting cotton wool. The children climbed the

trees and some enjoyed making a new den area with a pathway into it. We all stopped and listened to a woodpecker which was close by. Unfortunately we didn't see it but hope it will be there next week for us!
We finished with a warm apple juice before we packed up and walked back to school.

York Class

A busy week in York Class! We have been learning about the parts of our body in year 1 and the importance of brushing our teeth in Reception. In maths, measurement has been a focus. Reception have been weighing using non standard measurements and year 1 are using non standard units to measure length. In English we are learning our focus texts. Reception have focused on the story Brown Bear by Eric Carle and Year 1 have been learning a non fiction text about dogs.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: 96.55%
This Year: 92.25%

Winchester Class

Winchester class have worked very hard this week and they have been demonstrating key skills such as perseverance and determination. In English, we have been continuing with our letter writing and we have been looking at all the features and what to include in our own writing. In maths, we have continued learning about money and we have started our topic on multiplication – make sure you ask your children what skills they have learned so far! This term we will be learning about habitats in science and practising our drawing skills in art.

This Week: 97.73%
This Year: 94.67%

Exeter Class

This week Exeter class have been working hard on our non-chronological reports. We have researched Henry VIII and the Tudor period and selected information for our own writing. We are particularly interested in famous Tudors, Tudor houses, Tudor food and Tudor animals. We have also learnt about how children were treated in school! We have enjoyed playing basket ball in PE this week and learnt lots of new dribbling skills, including: the basic dribble, side yo-yo and dribbling through our legs.

This Week: 89.9%
This Year: 91.88%

Durham

This week in Durham, we have been diving into our new English genre: Non-chronological reports. We have analysed different, high-quality non-chronological reports in order to identify the key features and structures needed. From this we have then used the 'box it up' method, to plan our own non-chronological report, which will be based on a magical creature from our key text 'Skellig'. The children have been thoroughly enthused by this text and are eager to find out what 'Skellig' is, as all we know so far is that, Michael, our protagonist, has found him in his garage, looking rather filthy, pale and dried out. In History, we have begun our new topic of the Ancient Maya, where the children have created maps and located where the Mayan civilisation lived and what countries can be found there now. Next week, we have got our library trip, which the children are very excited for!

This Week: 95.63%
This Year: 93.9%

Rochester



This week we have been starting lots of new things. In PE we have found our sense of rhythm and created simple 8 beat routines. We were thinking about how we can improve our steps and make the routines more fluid. On Tuesday we took a trip to Rusthall Library. The whole class behaved fantastically and



were excited by the range of books. We asked the librarian lots of questions and chose a book to read together. In reading we have been reading an infographic book all about the



Ancient Maya. Our focus has been on our retrieval skills and as a result we have learned a lot about the Maya. Did you know they believed if they ate the heart of a warrior, they would gain their strength? This is also helping us prepare for our English outcome- a non-chronological report on the Maya.



This Week: 92.26 %
This Year: 93.47%