

Rusthall St Paul's Primary

School Newsletter



Edition 15 – 5th January 2024

School News

Welcome back to term 3 and I hope you all had a wonderful New Year. It has been a very quick start after the bank holiday but everyone appears to be refreshed and ready for the new term. It is lovely to see all the children coming back, excited to see their friends and teachers and get back into their learning. We have some fantastic topics coming up this term and some local visits too. It's going to be an exciting term!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Wednesday 3rd January	START OF TERM 3
Tuesday 9th January	Rochester Library visit
Wednesday 10th January	Police Cadets Award Ceremony to Parents (details below)
Friday 12th January	Attainment progress reports out to parents Come and See Afternoon (details below) St Andrews Home Clothes Day
Tuesday 16th January	Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th January	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

Last term I introduced an afternoon per term when we open our classroom doors and welcome you in to see what your children have been learning. In term 2 we had a fantastic number of families who came in to celebrate their children's work and it was clear to see how much the children enjoyed showing all that they have achieved. Therefore, I would like to welcome everyone again this coming Friday.

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. If you have more than 1 child there will be enough time to visit multiple classrooms.

"Come and See!" will be Friday 12th January at 2.30pm.

Police Cadets

During the Autumn term, 13 of our pupils from KS2 participated in the Police Cadet programme.

The feedback from the PCSOs and PCs that ran this training was overwhelmingly positive and they were very impressed with the attitudes and responsibility shown by our children.

As part of this programme, the children will have an award ceremony to celebrate their success.

The parents of the children who completed the Cadet course are invited to watch them receive their certificates on **Wednesday 10th January at 2.40pm.**

Please let the office know if you are able to come.



St Andrew's House Point Day

Before the Christmas holidays, St Andrew's House won the House Point award. This means that they are owed a home clothes day as they do this in the term following their success. Therefore, they will have their home clothes day on

Friday 12th January.



Parking In The Locality

We have had communications from members of the community about parking during school drop off and pick up times. Please can I ask that families park considerately, ensuring they are not blocking driveways and are not parked on double yellow lines. This will also support the safety of the children.



<p>Kent Early Help Support Services <u>Reducing Parental Conflict Training and Resources</u></p> <p>Frequent, intense, and poorly resolved conflict between parents, whether intact or co-parenting, can significantly affect the long-term mental health, educational attainment and long term outcomes of children.</p> <p>If you would like to be able to access this support or resources, parents need to visit https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents to create an account to access the courses.</p>	<p>Road Safety</p> <div data-bbox="746 129 1110 533"> </div> <p>Please can I ask all families to speak with their children about the importance of being safe on their way to and from school. Following a 'near miss' today, it is a reminder to all of us about how important it is to be aware of the dangers around us when we walk to and from school.</p>
<p>CELEBRATIONS!</p> <p>Head Pupils: Jacob and Flora</p> <p>Reading Stars: York Class – Eliza, Winchester Class – Joseph, Exeter Class –, Durham Class – Xena, Rochester Class – Isabella</p> <p>Golden Book: York Class – Leo K and Tamanna, Winchester Class –Ivy W and Jamie, Exeter Class – Bonnie and Ettie, Rochester – Dolcie and Haron, Durham – Sonnie and Flora</p> <p>House point winners: St Andrews</p> <p>Weekly Attendance winners: Winchester with 100%. Absolutely AMAZING!!</p> <div data-bbox="1139 613 1445 851"> </div>	
<p>Forest School</p> <p>We had a beautiful bright morning for forest school this week. The fire was already lit as the year 5 children came out onto the field. We started with wishing each other a happy new year and took turns to share our gratitude. Many of the children were grateful for their friends. We started with a fun game of Giants, Dwarves and Wizards. As we sat around the fire, the children were reminded of the rules and boundaries before we started the activities. The children made 'magic pouches' for their forest treasures which we will collect/make throughout this term. They each chose a special stone to decorate and this was the first item to go in their pouch. I wonder what we will find next week? The children enjoyed tree climbing, making bird feeders, creating some delicious recipes in the mud kitchen and free play. We finished with a mulled apple juice around the fire and shared our highlights from the session.</p>	
<p><u>York Class</u></p> <p>York Class have had a great first 3 days. Reception have been learning the story of the Gingerbread man. They have been making and drawing their own Gingerbread men. In Year 1 we have been learning to write a 5 part story. We began by learning a model version about a baby mouse and adapted it choosing our own animal to write our own story. We have all been to the computer suite to learn how to use a paint package on the computer. Year 1 have extended this learning by also learning how to add text.</p>	<p>ATTENDANCE</p> <p>This Week: 98.9% This Year: 91.3%</p>
<p><u>Winchester Class</u></p> <p>Winchester class have settled back into school really well. They have worked very hard this week and they have consistently demonstrated our school values. In English, we have read the beginning of the story 'The Fox and the Star' and we will be learning about how to write letters. In maths, we have started learning about money and we will also be starting a topic on multiplication. This term in RE we will be considering the question 'What is the good news that Jesus brings?' and yesterday we started thinking about the gifts that Christians believe God gives to humans.</p>	<p>This Week: 100% This Year: 94.7%</p> <div data-bbox="1225 1594 1449 1800"> </div>
<p><u>Exeter Class</u></p> <p>This week we have been focusing on factors in maths and identifying features if a non-chronological report in writing. We enjoyed reading a short extract about meeting Henry VIII and answering questions about the text. We also created some fantastic portraits of Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon.</p> <p>Our topic this term is Henry VIII and influences he had on religion in England.</p>	<p>This Week: 86.4% This Year: 90.7%</p>

Durham

It has been so lovely to see all of the children back at school this week. They have settled back in brilliantly and I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about their Christmas breaks! Over the last three days, we have been focusing on consolidating our History learning about World War Two. Through this we have learnt about the Blitz, rationing and propaganda. The children used their knowledge to create their own rationing books and they have also made some eye-catching propaganda posters. In P.E, the Year 6's begun their topic of Handball, where we focused on recapping and building on our catching and throwing skills, whilst Year 5 enjoyed their first Forest School lesson for the term!

This Week: 96.7%
This Year: 93.3%

Rochester

The class have been finishing their World War 2 topic this week. We have looked at the Blitz using photos to enhance our discussion and investigation. We have been learning about what makes historical sources reliable or not and so we read a newspaper article. We discovered that it was lacking important information such as when it was written, by whom, for what publication and so it was untrustworthy.

We also used images of an air raid shelter built to accommodate council workers in Tunbridge Wells, which were very similar to what would have been on our school site. Did you know ours was against the fence between the bike shed and blue vehicle gate? We also looked at rationing, what this meant and some of the ingenious ways people made the best of the resources they had available. It has been absolutely fascinating and the children have really thought hard about what it would have been like living in that time period.

We can't wait to get stuck into our next topic and use the historical skills we have already learned.

This Week: 87.3%
This Year: 92.4%