

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 17 – 19th January 2024

School News

Despite the bitterly cold weather, it has been a great week at Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School. We had a fantastic visit from High Hopes who led us in our worship this week. They never fail to get everybody motivated and excited for a truly engaging experience.

It was lovely to see so many families at parents evening this week. I particularly enjoyed the seeing the children attending and listening to what their teachers said about how they could develop even further. This partnership between home and school is vital to the children becoming the best they can be. Please do remember that if you are unable to make the meetings for any reason, contact your class teacher and they will be able to arrange a suitable time, either in person or via telephone.

With the weather set to get a little warmer albeit possibly a bit wet, I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Tuesday 23rd January	Exeter Library Visit
WB 22nd January	POSTPONED Rusthall Children Begin Visiting Seal Community Farm (all children will visit over the course of the term)
Tuesday 23rd January	Reception Parents Phonics Workshop (see letter to parents)
Thursday 25th January	Mrs Smurthwaite out at Head Teacher Meeting – contact Miss Sheldrake for any issues arising
Tuesday 30th January	Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop (see letter to parents) Winchester Library Visit
Wednesday 31st January	Mrs Smurthwaite out at training – contact Miss Sheldrake for any issues arising
Friday 9th February	FORS Sponsored Pancake Flip
Friday 9th February	END OF TERM 3 (Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February HALF TERM)

FORS Cake Sales



Class Cake Sales will be starting at the end of this month! These are monthly cake sales which are run by parents of each class. Cake donations need to be bought in, on the morning and we need two or three volunteers to help set up and run the stall at the end of the school day. These cannot run without volunteers so please let Mrs Mackintosh know via dojo if you can help.

Here are the dates for your diary:

Wednesday 31st Jan - YORK
Wednesday 28th Feb - WINCHESTER
Wednesday 27th March - EXETER
Wednesday 24th April - DURHAM
Wednesday 22nd May - ROCHESTER



FORS Sponsored Pancake Flip

On Friday 9th February

ALL children in school will take part in a sponsored pancake flip. We trialled this last year and it was a huge success! We are excited to bring this event back again. Sponsor forms will be coming home with your children next week. Please get as many friends and families involved as possible.

We hope to beat last year's target of funds raised! All money raised goes towards enriching the children's experiences at school.

Thank you for your support.

Tunbridge Wells Childrens Centre



Tunbridge Wells Childrens Centre have started sharing their monthly newsletter with us which shows you everything that's going on at the centre and within the local community along with lots of useful information for yourself and your family. Please click on the link to take you to their newsletter:
<https://sway.office.com/SyDO1V6hYo4JBDpk?ref=Link>

Early Bird Course

NAS EarlyBird Plus (ages four-nine) is a support programme for parents and carers created by the National Autistic Society (NAS), offering advice and guidance on strategies and approaches to working with children with autism spectrum conditions.

The programmes work on understanding autism, building confidence to encourage interaction and communication, and understanding and supporting behaviour.

Spurgeons' Parent Support Workers are licensed to offer this course which aims to empower parents to understand more about autism.

How much does the EarlyBird Plus course cost?

This is a free course, but Spurgeons would welcome a donation of £40 to cover our Parent Support Worker's time and the costs of the material supplied.

How do I sign up for this course?

Choose Parent Support - Self (refer your own family)

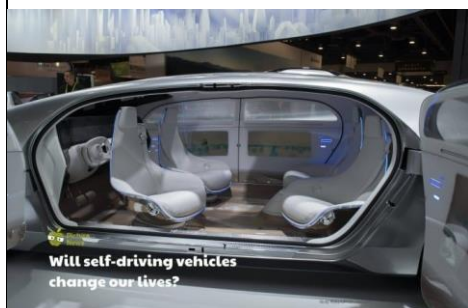
[Make a referral](#)

Where can I attend the course?

Up to 10 families will attend a course, sharing their lived experiences, ideas and strategies. The courses run either online as Teams meetings or in-person (currently available in Kent, Surrey and Sussex).

Thought for the Week

Picture News has a new discussion point for this week. What do your children think about this?



Motorists in Britain could be completing journeys using driverless cars by 2026 the transport secretary, Mark Harper, has predicted. He believes that fully autonomous vehicles,

in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual rollout. The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for autonomous cars, without a safety driver, after pressure from industry, MPs and Sir Patrick Vallance in his recent review of technology regulations.

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."



Farm Education/Visits



I just wanted to give a little update about our visits to Seal Community Farm. Unfortunately due to the ongoing very cold weather we have been having, we are going to need to postpone our visits to the farm. At the moment it is not the ideal time for the children to get the most out of their time there as most of the animals as safely and warmly tucked up in their barns.

I have spoken to the Farm Leader and we have re-organised for later on in the year when the weather will be much better. Also, by then the lambs should have been born and we will have lots of lovely baby sheep to visit!

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: Isabella A, Emily C, Keaton, Hunter, Stanley, Leo M, Savanna, Maria, Sam, Archie, Parker

Orange Rainbow Awards: Beatrix

Reading Stars: York Class – Yusef, Winchester Class – Isabella, Exeter Class – Ted W, Durham Class – Xena, Rochester Class – Tommy

Golden Book: York Class – Keaton and Parker, Winchester Class – Dottie and Jesse, Exeter Class – Hattie and Joseph H, Rochester – Hitha and Mia, Durham – Xena and Noah

House point winners: St Andrews with 212 House Points!

Weekly Attendance winners: Winchester



Forest School

Wow what a beautiful frosty morning we had this week. The children came well prepared for the weather (even if Mrs Smurthwaite had to lend her hat and gloves!). We started with a game to warm us up and then had a go at identifying some of our trees on site. Not easy at this time of year!

There was a lot of ice and not much mud in the mud kitchen. We had an ice display, some ice sculptures and of course a lot of fun breaking the ice!

It was National Popcorn Day so we had popcorn cooked (or should I say popped!) on the fire. This caused great excitement and turned into a song/chant while we waited. A lovely session.

York Class



This week York Class have been looking at health. Reception have looked at the role of the dentist and have enjoying pretending to be the dentist and the patient. They have also been looking at foods which are friendly and unfriendly for our teeth. Year 1 have been thinking about the importance of exercise and what activities are exercise and can help to raise our heart beats. In our English we have been looking at our model texts and changing them. Reception have created new pages for the book Brown Bear Brown Bear changing the animals and the colours. Year 1 have begun to look at changing our report on dogs to a report on humans. The children were fascinated that humans are a kind of animal just like dogs. In maths Reception have continued their work on the composition of numbers to five and year 1



are looking at the composition of numbers from 11 to 20.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: 87.93%
This Year: 91.94%

Winchester Class



Winchester have had a busy start to term but have jumped into their learning with lots of enthusiasm. This week we have started to learn some drawing skills thinking about the different types of lines that we can draw and see in pictures and have moved on to look at 2D drawing and explored this creating our own shape pictures. In math's we have started to explore multiplication looking at groups and arrays and different ways to say and write multiplication sentences. Dance has seen us exploring moving in beats of 8 and thinking about how different animals would move and then changing speeds and heights of our movements. We are all looking forward to learning some more skills next week.



This Week: 98.3%
This Year: 94.85%



Exeter Class



This week Exeter have been busy living in the past. We have created timelines using our chronological knowledge showing the events of the Tudor period and when these took place in relation to important

world events. We have also written chronological reports all about life in Tudor England and begun to understand how Henry VIII's 'big problem' effected the lives of people living in England at the time and how they worshipped.

In PE we have also been using action and reaction in dance and have developed passing and dribbling skills in basketball.

This Week: 92.79%
This Year: 91.93%

Durham

This week in Durham we have been delving even further into non-chronological reports and have started to unpick the necessary vocabulary and punctuation needed in order to create a high-quality shared piece. The children have learnt about complex sentences and what these are made up of and wrote some of their own to use in a non-chronological report about our character 'Skellig'. I have been so amazed by the children's vocabulary choices and how these have been made to impact the reader. We then started looking at hyphens, dashes, colons and semi-colons and the children have been working hard to identify how and when they could use these in their own writing. We found out that 'Skellig' is part angel and part owl and that he has powers to heal - we are very excited to find out how this is going to impact the family he meets in the story! On Tuesday, we got to have our first visit to Rusthall Library, where the children picked out texts to read and keep in the classroom. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged with the books they selected!

This Week: 91.88%
This Year: 93.75%

Rochester

What another wonderful week. Rochester class have well and truly got the reading bug. We started our new book Skellig in guided reading and each lesson the class are asking if we can read a little bit more. They have had a lot of great ideas about who and what the creature might be. They have also thought carefully about how Michael, his mum and his dad may be feeling and why. The reading bug has stretched beyond these lessons and into our reading for pleasure time, They are thoroughly enjoying their library picks and are making recommendations to each other. In English we have been working on a share write non-chronological report about a mystical creature. They have used their imagination and team works to invent some wonderful creatures and are carefully compiling their ideas to create detailed and informative fact sheets. Our new approach to spelling seems to be a big hit, the children are enjoying the new approach and the test results from last week suggests they are being effective.

This Week: 92.86%
This Year: 93.49%