

Rusthall St Paul's Primary

School Newsletter



Edition 18 – 26th January 2024

School News

Another busy week at Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School as we have been preparing for the new site work to start. Thank you to all the children and families for being so supportive and understanding with the changes that this work will bring.

We had a visit from the well-being lead at the Inspire Academy Movement Trust and while she was here, she met with several children to gather their views about how things are now. She also met with myself and some members of staff to see what we can do going forwards. We know that well-being and children's mental health is a massive priority and that if we can support this well, the learning will follow.

On the note of well-being, I hope you all have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs Smurthwaite

Head of School

Events and Dates

Monday 29th January	KS2 Roof Replacement Commences
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 FORS cake sale
Friday 9th February	FORS Sponsored Pancake Flip
Friday 9th February	END OF TERM 3 (Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February HALF TERM)

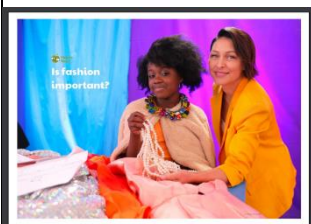
KS2 Roof

In case anyone missed the letter:

As you are likely aware, there have been some missing tiles on the KS2 roof for some time. Over time, this has caused water damage to some of the beams. To ensure the safety and comfort of our children it has been decided that the roof on the oldest part of the KS2 building needs to be replaced. This essential maintenance work will begin at the end of this week with the scaffolding being erected on Friday afternoon. It is anticipated that the work will take 3-4 weeks, 1 of which will be the half term.

During this period, there may be some temporary disruption in certain areas of the school. The pedestrian gate will still be accessible and therefore drop off and collection arrangements remain unchanged. However, access to the KS2 building through the activities hall will be suspended until the work is completed. Children will be able to access their classrooms through their class doors as normal. However, we will be using the door closest to the PE store to be able to enter and exit the building. Today Miss Sheldrake held an assembly with the children to share these changes so that they know what to expect and are not unsettled by this work. Please do speak to your children about this and let the school know if this has caused any worries.

Thought for the Week



Get your children thinking by discussing this week's discussion questions: is fashion important?

A new BBC programme called Style It Out will see nine fashion-loving kids from across the UK compete in a styling competition, hoping to win the prize of

having their designs showcased at London Fashion Week. It's all about **creativity and sustainability** too, as the designers have to use **pre-loved, vintage, second-hand and rescued materials**. Sustainable clothing is increasingly becoming more important to shoppers as people become aware of the environmental damage the fashion industry can cause. What do you think about trying to make fashion more sustainable?

Kent County Council



Kent Household Support Fund

For those of you who live within the Kent County Council area (all of Kent apart from Medway, Bexley and Bromley), you may be eligible to apply for the Household Support Fund, for a £100 energy voucher. The criteria and application form are on the website

here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/cost-of-living-support/urgent-financial-help-and-extra-support/household-support-fund>

Every little helps!

Children's Mental Health Week



We will be taking part in Children's Mental Health week, which runs from 5th-11th February. Children's Mental Health Week exists to empower,

equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This year's theme is My Voice Matters. Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them and to have their views considered and taken seriously. Empowering young people can have a positive impact in their health and well-being. During Mental Health Week, we will be holding assemblies and well-being lessons around this theme. If you would like further information about empowering your child please click [here](#).

Expanded Childcare Parental Survey

You may be aware that in the Spring Budget 2023 the Government announced the expansion of the Early Education and Childcare Entitlements to include children of working families from nine months upwards. At the same time, it announced the expansion of Wraparound Provision for Primary school aged children.

The Education People on behalf of Kent County Council are conducting a survey to find out parents and expectant's parents interest in childcare provisions. The results of the survey will help identify where there are gaps in the provision.

Please click [here](#) to take part in the survey.



FORS Cake Sales



Friends of Rusthall School

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.

#EasyFundraising



FORS 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/rusthallst>

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](#)

pauls/?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 😊

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).

CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Alfie C and Jack

Red Rainbow Awards: Harley, Jacob, Ben, Alfie S-M

Orange Rainbow Awards: Stepan, Ivy W, Jamie, Taylor, Tommy, Alexavier

Reading Stars: York Class – Sam, Winchester Class – Charlotte, Exeter Class – Esme, Durham Class – Joshua R, Rochester Class – Dolcie

Golden Book: York Class – Esme and Leo K, Winchester Class – Maisie and Taylor, Exeter Class – Daniel and Grace, Rochester – Harley and Alex, Durham – Agnes and Noah

House point winners: St Andrews (This week every house earned over 200 house points!)

Weekly Attendance winners: Durham Class – their first ever attendance award and it's for 98% attendance! Great work!



Forest School

What a difference a week makes! The frost from last week had disappeared and we were met with some warm winter sun on our faces. The children began by sharing gratitude. Lots of children named their friends. We played a game about the willow tree which was fun, even for the adults! We then gathered around the fire circle and I talked to the children about how to make charcoal using foraged willow. However, for this we needed a good fire and we simply couldn't get one going this week! Lots of learning happened here, as we discussed why it wasn't working and what we needed to try. We saw lots of perseverance from two very patient children! The rest of the group made a couple of fantastic dens using the tarps. One was on the ground and the other up higher, in amongst the trees. Some children made more bird feeders and put them high into the trees. Other children had a great time playing in the mud kitchen. A super session!

York Class



Reception have been using the book Polar Bear Polar Bear what do you hear this week. They have been listening to different sounds and thinking about how you can describe them. They have written new pages for the book about what they can hear. They have used the puppets to retell the story.

In maths they have been working on measures and sorting objects into long and short. Year 1 have continued their work on reports and have been writing reports all about humans. They are working hard to write independently



using the skills they have learnt. In maths Year 1 have continued with their work on numbers from 11 to 20. They have looked at different ways to represent the numbers including by drawing. In their experience work this week they have been thinking about the importance of washing their hands. They have set up an experiment looking at germs and how they grow using slices of bread. They are looking forward to observing what happens.



ATTENDANCE

This Week: 90.08%
This Year: 91.22%

Winchester Class

Winchester class have continued working hard across the curriculum this week. In art, we have been learning to create 3D drawings by developing our sketching skills. We are in the process of producing some beautiful sketches of trees. In English, we are writing poems and we have included similes and repetition in our poems. In maths, we are continuing to work hard on our topic of multiplication and on our topic of money. We have been finding different ways of making the same amount of money. Hopefully the children are enjoying telling you about their learning at home too!

This Week: 88.89%
This Year: 94.08%

Exeter Class



Exeter loved their trip to the library this week. When we arrived, we were shown where the fiction and non-fiction books were kept. We then spent time reading and sharing the books before picking one to take back to class. These were our Reading for Pleasure books. We have enjoyed Reader's Theatre this week. In English we have designed a creature based on a character in our book *The Snow Walker's Son* and are now writing a report about it. We are focusing on its appearance, where it lives and any special features it has.



This Week: 93.16%
This Year: 91.54%

Durham

This week in Durham we have been consolidating our knowledge of non-chronological reports, where the children have been applying their understanding and skills to their own reports based on a magical and mythical creature that they have created, which were inspired by our text 'Skellig.' I have been amazed to see the children's creativity flourishing through their character designs and how they have applied their knowledge of generalisers, complex sentences and varied punctuation, such as dashes, colons and semi-colons into their own reports. The children will be finalising their publishing of their non-chronological reports, before we move onto newspaper articles next week. In History, we created timelines where we mapped the Maya civilisation against the time periods within British History, before using research to identify how the city structures, temples and pyramids changed over the Maya period. In P.E, we have continued to build on our knowledge of Dance actions and have begun to apply these to sequences. The children were very creative when working in groups to use balances, gestures and movements to make objects.

This Week: 98.33%
This Year: 93.27%

Rochester

This week we have really got stuck into our History unit the Maya. We built on our knowledge of where they established their settings and looked at how this evolved over time. The Maya timeline is split into 3 key sections, Pre-Classic, Classic and Post-Classic. In each time many cities rose and fell but we found the most established and advanced were the classic era. We then became historians ourselves and looked at drawings from early historians to see what we could learn. Catherwood drew fantastic, accurate scenes of what he found in Mesoamerica. He used a Camera Lucida for projection. We were able to see the great architecture in their buildings, the detail in the statues and the magnitude of their pyramids. We were most amazed by the length of the ladders they built to reach the natural underground water stores. We have then applied our learning to writing our non-chronological reports on the Maya.

This Week: 91.53%
This Year: 92.08%