

# Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 19 – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## School News

What a week it has been! The roof work is well under way with the scaffolding going up on Monday and Tuesday. The builders have started to remove the tiles and hopefully, by the end of next week this will be completed. Then we will begin to see the new tiles being added and we will be able to see how everything is coming together.

Next week is the last week before we have half term. Whilst the weather is beginning to improve, please do make sure that children are still coming to school with coats and appropriate outer wear because, as we all know, British weather can change very quickly.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

**Mrs Smurthwaite**  
**Head of School**

## Events and Dates

<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 5 Swimming begins
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	FORS Sponsored Pancake Flip Rusthall Re-jig! Parent Help needed.
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>END OF TERM 3 (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February HALF TERM)</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Beginning of term 4</b>

## HELP NEEDED!

I am looking to move some areas of the school around, have a sort out of some of our resources and try and make some improved spaces for the children. I need to move the Hub into the KS1 building, sort the library books and the donations we have received, and move the library into a proper room. Ideally, I would like to get this done by half term. It will likely take most of the day to do this.

I am asking for any parents who are willing to come and help on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February to contact me so that I can get a working party together. I can provide tea, coffee and some lovely biscuits and cakes.

Please either Dojo me or email me on [rusthallheadofschool@inspiream.org.uk](mailto:rusthallheadofschool@inspiream.org.uk)

Thank you in advance for your support!



## Thought for the Week

Get your children thinking by talking about this week's discussion questions: What makes someone inspirational?

Mar Galcerán, an advocate for **inclusivity**, made history as Spain's first legislator with **Down syndrome**. The 45-year-old voted to Valencia's regional assembly, reflects on her path, and emphasizes the importance of being recognized for more than just her impairment. Galcerán's political career began at the age of 18 when she joined the conservative People's Party (PP), enticed by its traditionalist values. Years of dedication paid off in May, when she secured the 20th slot on the PP's candidate list for Valencia's regional elections, resulting in her historic feat. Carlos Mazón, the regional PP leader, celebrated her victory on social media, calling it "great news for politics, overcoming barriers." Galcerán's victory places her among the few people with Down syndrome to have entered politics.

## 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.



## #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/rusthallstpauls/?utm\\_source=whatsapp&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=gs-wa1](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 ☺



## FORS Sponsored Pancake Flip

It's one week until our sponsored pancake flip! Please continue to get as many sponsors as you can and bring your completed forms and money into school any day next week.

We need 15 frying pans and people to help on the day (timings to be confirmed). Please let Mrs Mackintosh know on dojo if you can help.

Thank you for your support  
The FORS team

## 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).

## CELEBRATIONS!

**Head Pupils:** Alfie C and Jack

**Red Rainbow Awards:** Eli, Harley, Teddy, Alex D, Harry P, Iyla

**Orange Rainbow Awards:** Ethel, Noah, Hayley, Flora, Lola, Dolcie, Jack, Alfie S-M

**Reading Stars:** York Class – Tamanna, Winchester Class – Taylor, Exeter Class – Leo, Durham Class – Durham, Rochester Class – Hither

**Golden Book:** York Class – Savanna and Emily C, Winchester Class – Amelia and Andrea, Exeter Class – Ted C and Martha, Rochester – Dolcie and Ben, Durham – Tyron and Flora

**House point winners:** St David's with over 400 House Points! What an achievement!!

**Weekly Attendance winners:** Winchester



### Forest School

In Forest school this week we went to our magical place on Rusthall Common. The children listened to a reading about Imbolc, a Celtic festival in the wheel of the year, which celebrates the mid way point between winter solstice and spring equinox (1st/2nd February). The children made beeswax candles, using clay for the base. We then melted the beeswax over the fire and carefully poured the wax into the clay, holding onto the wick so it stayed central.

The children really enjoy the freedom on forest school and played a very enthusiastic game of hide and seek. Some children chose to paint and others played with the birds and continued work on their den. At the end of the session we gathered in a circle and lit our candles to make wishes for spring time and the return of the light. Spring is on its way!

#### York Class



This week in York we have had a Design Technology focus. We began the week by learning a poem called Chips! After tasting different fruits and vegetables Reception wrote a new poem called fruits! and Year 1 wrote their own poems, they looked at using adjectives and following the structure to create their own verses. Reception have learnt to use a knife and fork and how to cut where as year 1 have used tools to peel, grate and chop. On Friday we finished our week by applying our skills. Reception made rice cracker faces and Year 1 made fruit kebabs. The best part as you can imagine was the eating at the end!!



#### ATTENDANCE

This Week: 95.52%  
This Year: 91.91%

#### Winchester Class

Winchester class have had a very exciting week. On Tuesday we made our first class visit to the Library. The children enjoyed sharing books with their friends and then getting to borrow a book of their own that they can read in school. We also read some of our class story which had them all mesmerised and they were very sad when we had to stop to get back to school. In Art the children have continued to work on their 3D drawing and have learnt the features of a landscape picture. They are now looking at how to draw in perspective . They are finding some elements tricky but are all persevering and are creating some lovely work in preparation for their final piece. Math's has seen us start to learn our times tables and begin to see how division and multiplication facts are linked which we will be continuing next week.



This Week: 98.18%  
This Year: 94.77%

#### Exeter Class

This week Exeter class have been writing their own reports on an imaginary creature they have created. We focused on describing its appearance, habitat and special features. In maths we have been working on our multiplication skills and have begun using a written method to solve more complex multiplications. PE has been great fun: putting a sequence of movements together in dance and learning to shoot in basketball.

This Week: 90.38%  
This Year: 91.95%

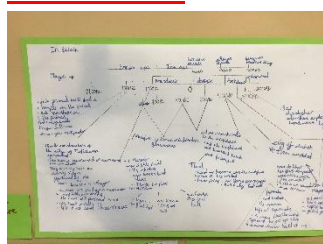


## Durham

This week in Durham we have begun to look at newspaper articles in English. We have spent time unpicking the features of a high-quality article as readers, before text mapping to help us retell it. We've then unpicked key ingredients and language features as writers, which has been fantastic in helping the children to see the structure of different sentence types, the formal language which is used and how punctuation can be applied for effect. After we did this, we used the 'box it up' planning method to further look at how our example article is put together and what the writer has used within the beginning, middle and ending. These steps are key to helping the children understand the organisational features and language features of a newspaper article and will support them in writing their own articles next week on the Maya. In History, we deepened our knowledge and understanding of the Maya and how they used temples and pyramids. We found out that some of the pyramids they built were like Russian nesting dolls and were actually built one on top of the other - an excellent example of this is El Castillo. Next week, we will be writing newspaper articles in role as journalists who are reporting on a Maya site being found, where the children will explain how Historians have used artefacts to piece together information about Maya civilisations.

This Week: 96.11%  
This Year: 94%

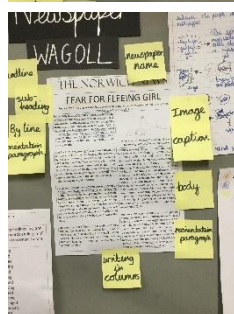
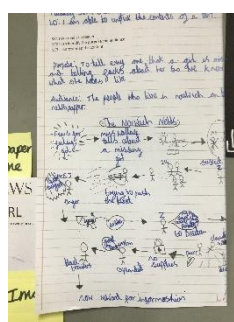
## Rochester



This term we have really embraced dance in PE. As the weeks have gone on our sense of rhythm has improved and we enjoy challenging each other to a keeping the beat competition. Our confidence has grown and Miss Collis was thoroughly impressed by our

mirroring and group work this week. We are also enjoying putting our own twist on the Cha Cha Slide.

In English and history we have published our non-chronological reports on the Ancient Maya and they look great. We have applied our knowledge of structural, language and presentation features to create informative reports. We have dived into our new English unit this week- newspaper reports- and have done a great job at reading them as a reader and reading them as a writer. I look forward to seeing what the class produce when they report on the exciting events in our book -Skellig. In reading theatre this week we have really got to grips with acting in our reading theatre and have completely engaged with our main character Michael.



This Week: 92.59%  
This Year: 93.34%