

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 20 – 9th February 2024

School News

Well it has been a transformational week at Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School with lots of moving things around and trying to improve the spaces around the school. I need to say some very big thank yous as the work completed this week wouldn't have happened without the support of some of our families. I would like to say a big thank you to Luke, Hunter and Nicola's dad, who came and painted the round room by the school office. Luke and his dad came in the evenings this week and have completely changed the space. It is now bright and fresh and has been converted into a SENCo office where work can be completed with children and parents can meet with our SENCo (once we have recruited!) My second heartfelt thank you goes to Del, Teddy's dad, who has spent the day moving several rooms around. He has worked tirelessly to create a new sensory space, breakfast club/nurture room and re-created a KS2 library (where it used to be). Without Del's help, I could not have achieved any of this. I'm sure you would all join me in thanking our wonderful families who continue to support the school and help take us forwards on our upward journey.

I hope you all have a very restful half term and I look forward to seeing everyone on 19th February.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Friday 9th February	END OF TERM 3 (Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February HALF TERM)
Monday 19th February	Beginning of term 4
WB 19th February	Bikeability
WB 4th March	Book Week at Rusthall and World Book Day

Pancake Flip



Wow, what a fun day we had with all the classes taking part in the pancake flip. Everyone took part brilliantly and we were amazed at how well the children did.

Here are the winners from each class!

York: Maria 48 flips

Winchester: Isabella 70 flips

Exeter: Ettie 120 flips

Durham: Sonnie 153 flips

Rochester: Alexavier 115 flips

Thank you so much for all of your support and sponsor money. Don't worry if you didn't bring the money in today. You can make a bank transfer or bring the cash after half term. All money raised goes towards enriching the children's experiences at school and we are currently saving for new school playground equipment.

Finally, thank you so much to our helpers today. We can't run these events without your help and support.



Breakfast Club

After half term, breakfast club will no longer be in the KS2 building. Children will need to be delivered to the school office as the room for breakfast club is now in the KS1 corridor. If you have any questions, please do email the school office or send a Dojo.



Sensory Room KS1

KS1 now have a dedicated sensory space where they can do sensory circuits or use the sensory aids such as the light box, sensory tent and Fish water tube. It is a fantastic space for children to go when they need support with calming and meeting their sensory needs.



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!

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.

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

Or simply scan the QR code above 

Thank you and happy shopping!

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.

How much does the EarlyBird Plus course cost?

This is a free course, but donations of £40 are warmly welcomed.

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: Evie E, Ettie, Grace, Teo

Orange Rainbow Awards: Nicola, Toby P, Toby W, Michael, Sophia, Alfie C and Aidan, Sonny, Lacey, Lyla C-B, Ruby B, Holly F, Darcie T, Elliot, Ivy G

Yellow Rainbow Awards: Jesse Y, Amelie P, Amelia W

Reading Stars: York Class – Stephen, Winchester Class – Asher, Exeter Class – Callan, Durham Class – Hayley, Rochester Class – Iyla

100% Reading: York – Eliza, Emily P, Tamanna, Winchester – Amelie P, Ivy G, Ivy W, Ruby, Maisie, Exeter – Hattie, Ted C, Joseph, Bella, Martha, Esme, Charlie W, Rochester - Isabella, Bea, Ben, Alex, Lola, Mia, Alexavier, Jack, Hitha, Iyla, Jacob, Durham – Aidan, Agnes

Golden Book: York Class – Evie P and Hunter, Winchester Class – Stepan and Lyla, Exeter Class – Lacey and Charlie W, Rochester – Jack and Tommy, Durham – Hayley and Michael

House point winners: St Andrews

Weekly Attendance winners: Durham – second time this term!!



Forest School

Mud, mud, glorious mud! Our final Forest school session was the wettest we've had this term and therefore the muddiest! After arriving at the site on the common we shared some gratitude with each other. We then got straight into learning a couple of knots to help us put up small tarp shelters. I wonder if your children can show you? We learnt a 'timber hitch' and a 'taut tarp hitch'.

The children worked well in their groups to get their tarps up.

Some children chose to do something fire lighting. Not easy in wet weather!

They very quickly realised they had to use their body to give some protection

to the sparks and this worked well. One child spotted a little mouse this week which was very exciting.

It didn't take long for the children to find a slope, clear the branches out of the way and begin to slide down it.

Another child realised there was a 'tap' with water running quickly from a tree. They grabbed a saucepan and began filling it up and used the water to tip on the mud slide, to make it even more slippery.

After realising that getting clean was going to take some time this week, we came back to school a little earlier than normal and had our hot squash and biscuit in the classroom.

The children have been brilliant. Well done everyone.

York Class



This week York Class have started new texts in English. Year 1 are learning about the adventures of Claude in the city and Reception have been exploring The Train Ride. On Tuesday York Class had their first visit to Rusthall Library, we learnt how the books were organised and how we use the library. We have a class library card so each child was able to choose a book to bring back and share in class. In phonics we have continued to work on learning our sounds.



Reception have now learnt one way to make each of the 44 sounds in the English language and Year 1 are working hard on learning all the alternatives.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: 92.41%
This Year: 92.01%

Winchester Class

Winchester class have continued working very hard this week. In English, we have continued learning about writing recounts. We have written a shared recount about our visit to Rusthall Church and we are now writing an independent recount about our recent visit to Rusthall Library. The children are working hard to ensure they write in chronological order, use the past tense and use time connectives in their writing. In maths, we have been continuing to learn our 2 times table. The children are very enthusiastic and I'm sure they will want to continue practising their 2 times table at home! In art, we have been learning the features of a landscape drawing and we have been creating our own landscape drawings. We hope everyone has a restful half term and we look forward to carrying on with our learning very soon!

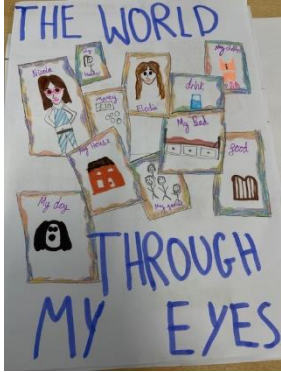
This Week: 82.27%
This Year: 94.15%

Exeter Class

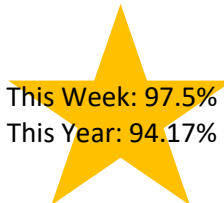
Exeter have had a very busy last week of term. We have written a setting description for our quest writing based on a cold and snowy environment in English and worked hard and attempted to answer inference questions in reading. In maths we have been focusing on division. We have created our own sprites and backgrounds using scratch in ICT and made our sprites glide using coordinates. We have also earned our marble reward and have chosen to watch a film with a snack and teddy!

This Week: 90.77%
This Year: 91.89%

Durham



As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we thought about how we can help ourselves when we are feeling negative. We discussed how thinking about the things we are grateful for can improve our mental health as it changes our mindset and focuses on positives. The children created 'The World Through My Eyes' posters, where they thought about what they were grateful for in their lives. We discussed the skills, hobbies and qualities of ourselves that make us unique and special and recognised how these should be celebrated and shared. In English this week, we used the 'Box It Up' planning method to create a plan for a newspaper article about Skellig being found. The children then used these to write newspaper articles and I have been astounded with the vocabulary, sentence structure and effectiveness of their writing. After half term, the children will be consolidating their knowledge of newspaper articles by writing a completely independent article about an ancient Maya site being discovered.



This Week: 97.5%
This Year: 94.17%

Rochester

Wow, what a term! This term we have started our new style spelling lessons to great success as well as continuing with our reading theatre. Our book Skellig has been a massive hit and we are currently reporting on a sighting of him in our English Newspaper reports. This week Year 5 got their first taste of swimming. I was so proud to hear that everyone got into the main pool and gave it their best. I look forward to hearing their updates next term. Whilst year 5 were swimming year 6 were dancing. We were applying our knowledge of canon, unison and formation to create effective sequences. The hardest part was keeping to the beat but we ended up with some very carefully choreographed phases. Great work Rochester class!

This Week: 87.62%
This Year: 93.01%