

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 21 – 23rd February 2024

School News

It has been a very busy first week back and we are hitting the ground running as we pass the half way point of the year. I am pleased to say that the roof works are coming along well and we anticipate the builders being finished next week. The weather has caused some delays but we are excited to get things back to normal as soon as possible.

Year 6 have been busy on their Bikeability course and have shown fantastic determination and resilience, completing level 1 and 2 even with the awful weather. Year 5 had their second swimming lessons and we have been blown away by their perseverance and hard work to improve each week. They have made the school very proud with their behaviour whilst away from the school site. Library visits also recommenced this week with Rochester returning their books and choosing new ones. We are so lucky to have such a fantastic resource on our doorstep.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Tuesday 27th February	Mrs Smurthwaite is unavailable, see Miss Sheldrake for any issues Exeter Library Visit
Wednesday 28th February	Yoto Carnige Book Club Begins
Friday 1st March	Book week workshop (launching book week)
4th – 8th March	Book week
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day – dress up and character parade
Tuesday 12th March	Winchester Library Visit
Wednesday 13th March	High Hopes Assembly
Tuesday 19th March	York Library Visit
Wednesday 20th March	Gymnastics Competition Mrs Smurthwaite out at training – see Miss Sheldrake for any issues
Tuesday 26th March	Durham Library Visit
Thursday 28th March	LAST DAY OF TERM

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children in Kent

[i-THRIVE](#) is a new mental health support tool for young people which helps them find extra emotional wellbeing and mental health support they need when facing difficult situations.

[KCHFT](#) offers a range of resources, information, advice, and guidance including how to access counselling support.

Visit [Kent Resilience Hub](#) where you can increase your understanding, find approaches and tools or navigate your way to support and services relating to resilience and emotional wellbeing.

[EBSA](#) - Emotional based school avoidance can be difficult for parents and carers to manage. There is a range of support and information available if your child becomes anxious about coming in to school. This document shared by the Kent resilience hub is particularly helpful. Please do speak to school if you are worried or need further support with this.

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 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).

#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 ☺

Solihull parenting online courses

Kent offer a number of online courses for parents and carers including modules on sleep, behaviour, emotional regulation and different parenting styles. The link to access these is:

[Online courses for parents - Solihull Approach | Parenting \(solihullapproachparenting.com\)](https://solihullapproachparenting.com)

The password to access these courses for free is:
INVICTA

Educational Psychology Phone Consultation Service

The Kent Educational Psychology Service Parent Consultation Line - gives a free 30 minute phone or video consultation with an educational psychologist.

For further information, email:
kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk

CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Iyla and Xena

Orange Rainbow Awards: Yasin, Noah, Stephen, Eliza, Tyler, Savanna, Yusuf, Emily, Joe W, Stanley, Teddy, Betsy

Yellow Rainbow Awards: Andrea

Reading Stars: York Class – Eliza, Winchester Class – Holly, Exeter Class – Martha, Durham Class – Noah, Rochester Class – Tommy

Golden Book: York Class – Hunter and Tyler, Winchester Class – Ivy G and Isabella M, Exeter Class – Violet and Teddy, Rochester – Lola and Alfie SM, Durham – Nicola and Aerin

House point winners: St Patrick

Weekly Attendance winners: Winchester



York Class

During our first week back York Class have been busy learning their new texts. Year 1 have been learning about the adventures of Claude in the city and have this week written a retelling of his visit to the city. They are now moving on to writing a new adventure based on his visit to Rusthall, we look forward to sharing these with you. Reception have been using the text The Train Ride, they have learnt to retell the story, draw and write about what you can see out of the window and have thought about how you might write a list. In maths Reception have been looking at doubles and Year 1 have been comparing and ordering numbers to 20. In our experience this week Reception have been thinking about emergencies and how they might respond, they have learnt what an emergency is and how to make a 999 call. In Year 1 they have been learning about the United Kingdom, they can now name the countries, capital cities and seas of the UK.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: 93.79%
This Year: 92.09%

Winchester Class

Winchester class have worked very hard this week. In Maths we have been working with money, understanding the values of notes and coins and working out totals. We have even been solving problems using money. It would be great if the children can do some money work at home, maybe helping with a little bit of shopping. In English we have been writing expanded noun phrases ready for our final piece of work. We have reminded ourselves what nouns and adjectives are to help us give extra details and keep the reader interested. The children have really enjoyed their reading where we have been exploring 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. They have thought carefully about the words that are used and the meanings behind them. We are excited to see what happens next!



Exeter Class

This week we have started a new RE topic – Salvation. We started by watching some cartoon clips and discussed how the characters have helped to save others. In Geography we used maps and atlases to locate different European countries. We created our own key to show where each country was. We have worked really hard on our journey stories – using lots of descriptive language and building suspense.

This Week: 87.69%
This Year: 91.07%

Durham

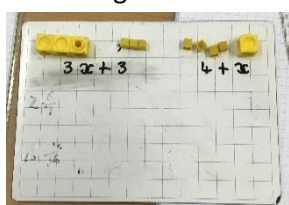
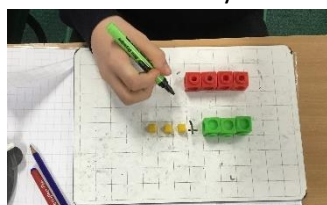
What a jam-packed first week back! This week, some of the Year 6's took part in bikeability, whilst the Year 5's had their second swimming lesson. All of the children were fantastic - it was brilliant to see them progressing in their skills and thoroughly enjoying being active! In English this week, the children wrote some incredible newspaper articles about the discovery of a Maya temple or pyramid. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to demonstrate what they have been learning during History, whilst also applying their knowledge of the organisational/language features of a newspaper article. In History we identified who Fredrick Catherwood was and how significant his artwork is in understanding more about Mayan civilisations. We explored how his artworks were created using a camera Lucida and discussed how this impacted the reliability of his work. We also explored the significance of Maya gods and the beliefs they held as a civilisation about them. The children explained how gods were worshipped and how their beliefs impacted everyday life. In P.E, we begun our new topic of 'Indoor Athletics', where the children worked hard to carry out exercises to build their stamina, teamwork and performance. In PSHE we are looking at developing our team work skills and started by tackling a collaboration challenge. We were given 6 sheets of newspaper and one roll of masking tape in our groups. We had to build the tallest tower using only those resources. We then looked at who managed the tallest, who built the most stable and who worked most Collaboratively. Miss May was so impressed by the groups this one was a draw!



This Week: 81.05%
This Year: 93.54%

Rochester

This week we dove straight into our new RE unit all about Salvation. We were able to make links between Incarnation and salvation identify how this form part of the 'big story'. We then shared everything we knew already about Salvation and hoe this relates to the Easter story. On Tuesday we had our second trip to the library. We returned and renewed our previous loans and got excited about all the others we could choose from. We then sat and enjoyed a part of our class book Skellig. On Thursday we started our new class reading book - Room 13- and are simultaneously terrified and intrigued about what will happen next.



Year 6 have shown resilience and perseverance in maths this week and as a result they have taken to algebra like a duck to water. Take a look at us exploring forming expressions using cubes and dienes before substituting

in letters to create formulae.

In our Tuesday PE slot we will be learning the skills and knowledge required in rugby. This week we stated at the beginning and looked at how to defend, how tag others and how to hold the ball. We were naturals when it came to passing. Next week we will working on running forwards, passing back and staying on side.

This week year 6 have taken part in Bikeability. All those who took part achieved their level one and level two. We are particularly proud of their resilience and determination despite the wet weather. Well Done!

This Week: 87.14%
This Year: 92.69%