

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 32 – 7th June 2024

Growing together, learning forever

It has been another busy week at Rusthall St Paul's and this is just the first week of the term! We have had lots going on including training for staff, working with the diocese about how they can support our school to be the best it can be, and year 6 have been auditioning for their parts and beginning rehearsals for their end of year production. This is just a few examples of what has been going on this week with so much more happening in classes!

I am pleased to say that we have managed to re-book the Key Stage 1 Sports Day and we are hoping that the weather is kinder to us this time round. Please make sure York, Winchester and Year 6 come to school in PE kit including their house colour t-shirts on the 21st June ready for sports day.

Next week the children will be completing their assessments which go alongside their class teacher's judgement of where they are in their learning, ready to share with you in their end of year reports. Year 1 and some year 2s will be completing their phonics check and year 4 will be completing the multiplication check. Please reassure the children that they just need to do their best but ultimately, we already know how amazing they are!

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

Monday 10th June	Start of assessment week (including phonics and multiplication check)
Wednesday 12th June	Welcome meeting for Reception parents September 2024
Friday 14th June	Mrs Smurthwaite at Kent Head Teacher Briefing – please see Miss Sheldrake for any concerns
Tuesday 18th June	English Hub in for Phonics development in KS1
Friday 21st June	Key Stage 1 Sports Day – Take 2!
Wednesday 26th June	High Hopes visiting for whole school worship Provisional date for Colour Dash
Thursday 27th June	Year 6 safety talk for secondary transition
Tuesday 2nd July	English Hub in for Phonics development in KS1
Tuesday 9th July	Visit from Kent School Improvement Advisor
Wednesday 10th July	Provisional date for Year 6 Production
Friday 12th July	High Hopes Year 6 Transition Workshop
Monday 15th July	End of year reports home to parents
Thursday 18th July	LAST DAY OF TERM 6

Collective Worship



This week the children have been introduced to our school story – 'The Tiny Seed' which is based on the parable of the mustard seed. We thought about how our vision for Rusthall is based on Jesus' parable of the mustard seed, where the smallest seed grows into a mighty tree. We believe our school is like the tree, a home for children, parents, staff and community members to grow and flourish. The children took time to think about how the parable links to our values. We started this week with the value of belonging and that if our school is like the mustard seed tree, we are like the birds of many colours and species who came to live in it. Every one is welcomed and celebrated because they belong. The children came up with statements about what belonging means to them, their class, the school and the community. We decided that it means the extent to which we all feel personally accepted, respected, included, and supported by others in our school environment. Each week we will look at a new value and decide what it means for us at Rusthall. Once we have done this and we fully understand them, we will know how we can demonstrate this every day.



Class Structure for September

Decisions regarding staff distribution are yet to be finalised, however following parental feedback I wanted to share the class structure for next year. In September the class distribution will be as follows:

- Reception – York Class
- Year 1 and 2 – Winchester Class
- Year 3 – Exeter Class
- Year 4 and 5 – Durham Class
- Year 6 – Rochester Class

We know that mixing the years may concern some of you where your children have been in single year groups, but we wish to reassure you that this class set up happens in many other schools and smaller schools inevitably have to have mixed classes. At Rusthall, due to our unique situation with pupil numbers, we have to look at the pupil numbers and legal requirements when it comes to the class groupings and make decisions accordingly. We also want to ensure that each year group has the best possible opportunities. Therefore, we want you to rest assured that your child will be accessing a full curriculum that is appropriate to their age. The foundation stage curriculum and national curriculum is organised so that this can happen as parts of it are Key Stage related rather than year group specific. Elements of the curriculum are taught on a cyclical basis, that is, knowledge and skills are taught on a number of occasions over a period of time and therefore all children will be accessing learning that is at the right level from them. If you have any questions about the classes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Key stage 1

Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials



Phonics Check

Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read. By ensuring high quality phonics teaching, we want to improve literacy levels and give all children a solid base to build on as they progress through school.

Through phonics, children know how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

The phonics screening check is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps your school confirm whether your child is making the progress expected in the national curriculum.

With some exceptions, all pupils who have reached the age of 6 by the end of the school year must take the check during that academic year, including those in maintained nursery schools. For most pupils, this will be in year 1.

Multiplication Check

The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. This is a government initiative which is statutory for all schools. Every child must complete the check when they are in year 4. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

Parking on the Zig Zags



A reminder to all parents that the yellow zig-zag lines outside our school indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. If you park on these clearly marked, yellow zig zag lines you are putting the safety of our children and their families at risk. Cars should not be parked on the zig zag lines for any amount of time - even if it is just a minute or two to drop off children. Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.

Alternative Arrangements for Collecting Pupils

Please can I remind parents that if someone different is picking up your child, you need to let the office know so that this information can be passed to the class teacher. We will not release children if we have not been told that there are alternative arrangements in place for safeguarding reasons. A quick call or dojo will ensure that the end of the day runs smoothly.



CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Hitha and Yasin

Red Rainbow Awards: Victoria

Green Rainbow Awards: Flora, Aerin, Michael, Yasin, Fraser, Sonnie, Aidan

Blue Rainbow Awards: Nicola

Reading Stars: Rochester Class – John, Durham Class – Aidan, Exeter Class – Yasir, Winchester Class – Lyla, York Class - Evie E

Golden Book: Rochester Class - Haron and Harry, Durham Class - Fraser and Josh F, Exeter Class - Francis and Esme, Winchester Class - Amelia and Elliot, York Class - Tyler and Teddy

Attendance Winners – Winchester



York Class

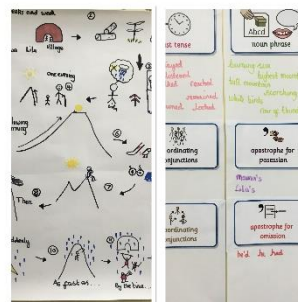
Reception have been reading the story of The very hungry caterpillar. They have been retelling the story using probs in school and writing about what happened. They have begun to find out about the life cycle of the butterfly and have started to find out information on butterflies ready to write their own information book. In maths reception have been adding and taking away practically using resources in class. They have been investigating habitats and thinking about which animals live in which habitats. Year 1 have been learning a story called "On the way home." They have worked on learning the story and using more adventurous vocabulary in their sentence writing. They have enjoyed using words such as prolonged, unfortunate and ravenous. In maths year 1 have been finding out about and making arrays. They have learnt about columns and rows. The experience learning this term is centred around maps and comparing locations. They have learnt what a village is and what a town is.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: %
This Year: 91.41%

Winchester Class

Winchester have had an amazing start back to term 6 and have been really eager to start their new learning. In English we started our new text, Lila and the Secret of rain. The class have listened to the story, created a story map and have been able to retell the story in their own words, we have also identified the features in the writing. We are looking forward to writing a shared version based on this story.



In Geography we have started to think about the continents and oceans, where they are located and some interesting facts. Pe was great fun and the children really demonstrated their catching and throwing skills as well as being a lot more accurate in there delivery. We are really looking forward to the new challenges in next week's learning.



This Week: %
This Year: 95.28%

Exeter Class

Exeter have had a very busy start to term 6! We have started a new maths topic on shape, focusing on turns and angles. We have learnt about quarter, half and three-quarter turns and made these turns clockwise and anticlockwise. We have also learnt about right angles, acute angles and obtuse angles.

In reading we have started a new class book: How to Train Your Dragon. In writing we have read Tell me a Dragon and written some of our own dragon poems. We are going to publish these and make our own book!

In science we have been learning about teeth- their names and what they are used for. In RE we have looked at how Hindus worship in their own homes and designed our own puja tray, explaining what each of the objects on the tray are used for and what their significance is.

This Week: %
This Year: 93.74%

Durham

This week in Durham, we finished our narrative pieces based on our own twisted versions of "Donkey Cabbage." I was incredibly impressed with the children's use of vocabulary to create imagery, as well as their use of dialogue to advance the action and develop character. We then began to recap our knowledge of diary writing before the children then chose a character to write in role as. In P.E, we have begun our unit on rounders and have built on our skills of accurately throwing as a bowler and then used this to play mini games in trios. This week we also held auditions for the Year 6 (with support from Year 5) end of

This Week: %
This Year: 94.17%

<p>year production. The children were amazing during their auditions, and it's been heartwarming to see how enthused and excited they are! They should be very proud of themselves for the efforts they have put in so far.</p>	
<p><u>Rochester</u></p> <p>This week Rochester class have been looking at applying their knowledge of tenses, subordinating conjunctions and precise descriptive language to diary entries. We have been twisting our fairytales even further and writing in role as our favourite characters. In PE, Year 6 have been working on their hand-eye co-ordination for racquet-based games and the whole class have been thinking about bowling and fielding for bat and ball-based games. It has been great to see them applying and developing their skills which we learned in cricket earlier this year. We have also had an exciting time auditioning for our end of year production. The Year 6 are preparing to step into the lime light and the year 5s are ready to support. Everyone has a role to play and we can not wait to see it all come together. Miss Beasley and I were blown away by the hidden talent and the effort many children put into learning their lines.</p>	<p>This Week: % This Year: 91.89%</p>