

PARENT FORUM

Mrs Cornell and Mrs Humphrey will be holding a school vision forum (combined session for both schools) on **Wednesday 31st January from 2.30 - 3.30pm** in the hall at RSM. You are invited to drop in at any point during this time. We shall be inviting parents to share their thoughts about the school vision and how we can make our vision a reality. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions or talk to either Mrs Cornell or Mrs Humphrey



Dates for the Diary:

Surlingham

Please note change of date of
Paddingtons Lunch:

1st February – Paddington's brunch.

3rd Feb – third installment of Holt Hall due

April 18th - PM Tempest Class Photos

Rockland St Mary

9th Feb – 2nd Installment of Holt Hall due

The updated Behaviour policy is now available on both of the schools websites.

We apologise for the late notice but due to an oversight in the last week of term the following message did not make it out to you all.

Following lengthy discussions between staff at both schools, we have decided to adjust the times in the day when assembly is held. This will affect the Friday sharing assembly which will now be held at 9.10am. The move to a morning time will allow the children to earn 'golden time' during the week - golden time will allow them to experience a range of enrichment activities for the last half an hour on a Friday afternoon. Clearly, as golden time is a reward for good learning behaviours and conduct over a week, we need to wait until the last part of Friday to enjoy it.

In addition to this, staff have felt for a long time that by 3pm on a Friday, the children are tired and so often lack the enthusiasm for sharing their learning with each other and parents/carers. We hope that they will feel fresher on a Friday morning.

We appreciate that for some, the change to a morning will make attendance less convenient and for others, open it up as a new possibility. We are still very keen for as many of you to join us for this assembly as we share in the children's learning and successes over the year. And, as with all changes, we shall monitor this and re-discuss as a staff team before Easter.



*Wanted

Chestnuts. Always collecting items for junk modelling please

Current News from the classes at Surlingham

Chestnut

Chestnut class have indulged themselves into the lives of fairy tale characters through various different subjects. The children have explored materials to build a bridge strong enough to hold 3 animals (3 billy goats Gruff). This lead to an in depth discussion around the use of materials and their suitability. The children have also interviewed the 'Troll' and tried to see his point of view within the story. The children then held a debate against whether they believed the troll was good or bad. Through the drama and role play activities the children were able to write a short persuasive passage to convince a jury as to whether or not he should go to jail.

Hawthorn

Throughout spring term we will be finding out more about the Stone Age. We started out new topic by investigating cave art. We looked at many different types of cave art from all around the world and put them on a timeline, as the Stone Age was actually a very long period of time that lasted 3.4 million years! We decided that Stone Age people may have drawn paintings and carvings in caves for many different reasons; to tell stories, to prevent evil spirits, to mark their presence to other tribes/people and to act as maps or plans of settlements. We used only resources available in Stone Age times to paint our pictures, including feathers, sticks, egg yolk and natural paint pigment. Please feel free to come into our class and have a closer look!

Willow

Firstly, a big thank you for the cards and gifts that were received in Willow Class for Christmas. It is much appreciated. It is hard to believe we are in our second term already.

For the Spring Term, our topic is Rainforests and, in geography, we have already explored the definition of a rainforest and their locations. We will use our topic as a writing stimulus to discuss the issues around deforestation, the rights of indigenous peoples and to create a balanced account of the differing views in regards to climate change. We will create some artwork based on the creatures of the rainforest and continue to practise our Asian inspired CASMA songs ready for our performance at The Open on the evening of 5th February.

In maths, we will revisit and extend our knowledge of decimals, fractions and percentages. We will reinforce our fluency in these areas with reasoning and problem solving activities, which makes what we learn relevant to the maths that is all around us. In science, we are beginning to investigate 'Earth and Space' – deepening our current understanding of the topic. Meanwhile, in PSHE, we will spend the term establishing our dreams and goals and practising some mindfulness. We look forward to a busy term ahead.

Current News from the classes at Rockland St Mary

Maple

My name is Ms Firth and I will be working with Maple Class while Mrs Marsden is on her maternity leave. I love reading and I particularly enjoy picture books so am really enjoying sharing lots of different traditional tales with Maple Class. We focused on The Three Billy Goats Gruff for the first week, looking at how traditional tales are structured and exploring how different authors include different ideas and phrases in their retellings. We have also been very busy developing our role play area so that it reflects lots of different tales. We have a beanstalk, a magic mirror, a princess and a knight so far.

When I am not teaching I spend lots of time outside walking, often with my greyhound, playing the piano and baking. All the children, staff and parents at Rockland St. Mary have made me feel very welcome and I am looking forward to my time here.

Birnam Oaks

My name is Mrs Norris and I have been teaching for 12 years. I am passionate about learning - our world is such a fascinating place! I really enjoy being a teacher as children ask the most wonderful questions which lead to an exciting learning journey. My most favourite subject is Maths - I love it! Anything and everything to do with Maths - puzzles, patterns, shapes, numbers - it's the most interesting subject! I also really love music, singing in particular, and learning more about our world through history and geography.

When I'm not being a teacher I am a mummy to two boys who keep me very busy! We enjoy playing outside, visiting the farm, sharing books together and playing/watching/reading about their favourite thing - trains!! I am becoming quite a train expert!

I am very excited to have joined the team at Rockland St Mary and am looking forward to getting to know you all. (See page 6 for a continuation)

Redwood

Redwood class have made a fantastic start on their Science and Inquiry topics. The children very much enjoyed creating the orbit of the Earth around the Sun and the Moon around the Earth with various sized PE equipment. You may have witnessed such a demonstration in Sharing Assembly on Friday morning. The children have also begun learning about the formation of coastal features, such as: caves, arches and stacks.

Parent Survey 2018

Each calendar year we shall begin by conducting two parent surveys (one for each school) which will be accessed completely anonymously through the school website or directly from the link below.

The survey is based on the typical questions the SET Trustees or an Ofsted team would ask and is designed to help the schools to hear about your views on all matters from learning, behaviour and enrichment. There are two boxes at the end for you to comment about the strengths and areas you would like to see developed. The survey should only take around 5 minutes to complete so please can I encourage you to take the time to complete it as the outcomes will become the focus for staff and governor discussions over the rest of the year. We shall share a summary of the survey data with you in the next letter.

RSM parent link - <http://perspective.angelsolutions.co.uk/diagnostics/Survey.aspx?link=110b06e1-2c99-4650-9d71-8d19c1a1d9f9>

SPS parent link - <http://perspective.angelsolutions.co.uk/diagnostics/Survey.aspx?link=e90da47a-ed0e-4be7-bb8a-20bad835eab9>

The survey will be open until Friday 26th January.

Surlingham school council selected a fabulous Christmas Jumper day cause for the last day of term. This year gifts were collected and taken to the hospital for the Smile Campaign. The aim was to collect gifts to be given out in the wards for those staying in hospital over the Christmas period.

As we collected after the deadline date, the Hospital were able to ask for items they were short of, so it worked really well. The gifts provided were amazing and incredibly generous. Thank you everyone.



Assemblies

Some of the Sharing Assemblies will be organised by classes, but everyone is welcome. The dates are as follows:

9th February, years 3 and 4 Surlingham

16th February, years Rec/1/2

23rd February, years 3 and 4 Rockland St Mary

22nd June, years 5 and 6

They will start at 9.10am in the Hall

Thank you.

Nut Allergies

Please remember that we are nut free schools, therefore no nut products should be brought to school for snack or packed lunches. We have some children with severe allergies so please check all labelling.

This includes products such as Nutella, Kinder, marzipan and a lot of granola/health bars

F&F

5% CASH DONATION TO YOUR SCHOOL

YOUR UNIFORM EMBROIDERY SERVICE

MADE IN THE UK

Earn Clubcard Points - Free Returns
Order Online at tesco.com/ues

Why You Should Choose us:

- All your uniform options in one place at tesco.com/ues in your school or organisation's colours.
- No minimum quantity – just buy what you need, when you need it.
- 5% cash donation for your school or organisation on every purchase.
- Earn Tesco Clubcard points.
- Free returns.
- Uniforms are embroidered in the UK.
- All uniforms are high quality and adhere to the ethical trading initiative.

5% Cash donation

With a 5% cash donation on every purchase, your school or organisation benefits too.

How to order

It's easy to shop online with the Uniform Embroidery Service from F&F.

1. Go to tesco.com/ues.
2. Select your school from the list and you'll see all the customised items you can buy.
3. Choose the quantity and sizes you'd like, then add them to your basket.
4. Pay easily with a debit or credit card at the checkout.
5. Your embroidered items will be delivered within 28 days (14 days if ordered between the months of November - May). You can also browse our full range of non-embroidered uniforms and clothing all year round at: f-f.com

Earn Clubcard Points - Free Returns Order Online at tesco.com/ues

Surlingham now offer a choice for getting school uniform. You can still use School Trends, but can now also use Tesco to supply any uniform you need. This means you can get clubcard points and the school gets 5% on each order. There is a link on the school website to take you straight to the right page. **Rockland St Mary will be joining the scheme very shortly too.**

Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be absent from school please ensure you contact the school office by **9.30am** on the first day of absence, giving a full explanation of the reason. We would be grateful if messages are not passed to the school via a third party, i.e. breakfast club or another parent as, on occasion, messages either do not get passed on for various reasons or will be incorrect.

Except in the circumstances of sickness or diarrhoea, where a 48 hour exclusion period applies, please ensure that if your child is absent for a second day you contact the school to provide an update. **If your child's absence then continues the school will require a daily update.** This is particularly important for safeguarding reasons to ensure we know they are safe, either with yourself or at school.

If we have not been contacted directly by the parent/carer by 9.30am you should expect to

ATTENDANCE

**A few minutes
won't affect their
chance to learn -
will it?**

**When you are late
your child loses out**

But we're only 5 minutes late!

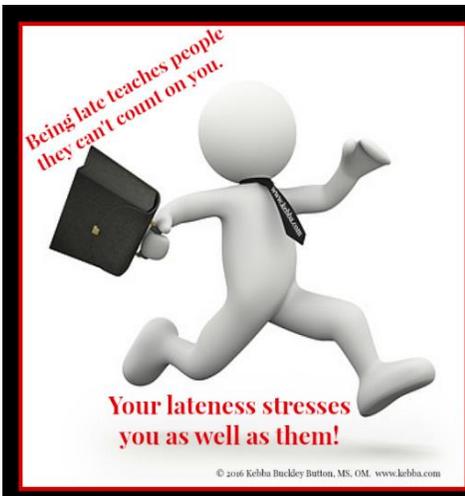
- 5 minutes once a week
- Over half a day in school each year
- 5 minutes twice a week
- More than one day in school each year
- 5 minutes every day
- Nearly 16 hours or 3 days at school each year

That's nearly 7 weeks missed over your child's school career

But we're only 10 minutes late!

- 10 minutes once a week
- More than one whole day in school each year
- 10 minutes twice a week
- More than two and a half days in school each year
- 10 minutes every day
- More than one week and one day each year

That's nearly 14 weeks missed over your child's school career



But we're only 20 minutes late!

- 20 minutes once a week
- More than two and a half days each year
- 20 minutes twice a week
- More than one whole week each year
- 20 minutes every day
- More than two and a half weeks each year

That's nearly 28 weeks missed over your child's school career



Willow class investigating the best biscuits to 'dunk' to create our 'Rate Your Effort' chart.



Below: Christmas Pictures from Surlingham. Nativity, Christmas Party and Christingle Service



Chestnut Class.



Governors Corner

Governors have been into both schools monitoring. This includes:

- Talking to children in Reception, Y1 & Y2
- Checking the safeguarding procedures in place, feeding into a recent self evaluation of safeguarding
- Speaking with children about maths learning

Governors also represent the schools at a number of external meetings. This includes the cluster meeting which took place before Christmas, and the Finance & Infrastructure committee for Sapientia Education Trust which will meet for the first time this January

Birnam Oaks Continuation

Hello, my name is Mrs Sinclair and I join Mrs Norris in teaching Birnam Oaks - the Year 3/4 class at Rockland. The children and staff across both schools have been very welcoming. I am in school Wednesday to Friday. I have been teaching since 2005. I trained and taught in London and Essex and moved to Norfolk in 2010. I enjoy all areas of the curriculum and I aim to incorporate creativity into our lessons as much as possible. Mrs Norris and I are looking forward to getting to know the children and parents further and the exciting term ahead. If you are free on Friday mornings – do come along to our sharing assemblies to see what your child has been up to!

We can recycle:

- Bags used to cover electrical appliances or furniture
- Bread bags (shaken out)
- Bin bags (clean)
- Bubblewrap
- Can & drink pack outers & joining rings
- Carrier bags
- Cling film (clean)
- Compost sacks (clean)
- Courier bags (without paper labels)
- Drycleaning garment covers
- Mailing wrappers (without paper labels)
- Polythene recycling categories 2 and 4 (as marked on the film)
- Thin bags used in supermarkets for fruit & veg etc (shaken out)
- Toilet roll and nappy pack outer

We cannot recycle:

- Plastic bottles
- Cereal packet inners
- Crisp packets
- Compostable bags (of any type)
- Greeting card wrappers (cellophane)
- Magazine wrappers from book stalls (polypropylene)

Have you been watching the Blue Planet? Do you want to do more for the environment?

Surlingham School are now collecting items that can't go in your recycling bin at home as a parent has very kindly offered to arrange a collection of items on the above list. If it's stretchy and not crunchy plastic, even if it says not currently recyclable, they can take it. There is a box in the Office and one in Early Years.

Thank you

Rockland St Mary can also collect, and it can be brought to Surlingham



After School Activity Clubs

Surlingham Primary School:

AEM HAI Martial Arts – Every Tuesday between 3:30pm-4:30pm

Pro Coach – Monday KS2 and Friday KS1 3:30pm-4:30pm

Choir – Wednesday 3.45 for 4.35pm

Spanish Club – Will restart in the summer term

Rockland St Mary Primary School:

Pro Coach –to be confirmed

Spanish Club – Will restart in the summer term

AEM HAI Martial Arts – Every Tuesday between 3:30pm-4:30pm

Choir - Wednesdays at Surlingham 3.45–4.35pm

Federation Dates for the Diary:

Swimming every Wednesday 1.30-2.30pm starting with Year 3 and 4.

31st January – Parent Forum for both schools at RSM at 2.30pm

5th February – Casma concert years 5 and 6 2-8pm at OPEN

3rd May – **BIG SING** years 3 and 4

13th/15th June – Year 5/6 residential Holt Hall



FORMS and the classes raised a terrific £410 from the Christmas fayre and raffle and £40 for Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper day. Well done everyone.

Our Safeguarding Statement

Each individual child's welfare is of paramount importance. Our Federation will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children at both our schools in the Federation will be able to talk freely to any member of staff at either school if they are worried or concerned about something.

There is a copy of the safeguarding policy on the school websites.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do speak to the Safeguarding designated professionals and these are:

Mrs Humphrey, Executive Head Teacher.

Mrs Bayliss, Senior Teacher, Surlingham Primary based.

Thank you for working together with us towards this, and striving to ensure a safe environment for all members of our school communities.



Attendance for both schools for (14/12/17 to 16/01/2018)

Surlingham

Chestnut: 97.19%
Hawthorn: 96.24%
Willow: 96%
School Total 96.55%

Rockland

Maple: 96%
Birnam Oak: 94.47%
Redwood: 97.78%
School Total 96.08%

February 1st 1887. Obligated to give a holiday this morning – all the children going round the village for Valentines – 61 persons in afternoon. E Large Head Teacher