



Rushcombe First School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Mahon

Newsletter 14 Summer Term 2009

21st April 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a good Easter holiday and welcome back to a new term.

At the end of the last term, the children enjoyed the Sensational Science Week and the different exciting workshops. It was lovely to see the children's interest in all the different activities, some of which were making and testing water-powered rockets, exploring how to build the tallest tower using building blocks and connectors and designing and creating optical illusions. I would like to thank Mrs Webb for coordinating the science week, all the staff for their hard work and to our expert visitors including Professor Burns and Intech.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that the Governing Body, following a rigorous selection and interview process, has appointed Mr Gavin White, the current acting assistant headteacher, as the new Deputy Headteacher of Rushcombe First School from September 2009. Mr White was an outstanding candidate and we all look forward to working with him in providing high quality education for all the children at Rushcombe and continuing to build on the success of the school.

As you are aware, Mrs Webb is due to commence her maternity leave after the summer half term break and I am pleased to say that Mrs Sarah Joyner will join the Year 3 team in June until the end of the summer term. Mrs Joyner is an experienced and skilled teacher who knows the school well. She has previously taught at Rushcombe and is currently teaching at the school on a regular supply basis. During this half term she will be working with staff and getting to know the children more to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of provision for the Year 3 children.

Mr White's Marathon

As you know, Mr White will be participating in the London Marathon this weekend. We wish him all the best and hope he enjoys the experience! A big thank you to you if have sponsored Mr White. If you still wish to make a sponsor donation to his chosen charity, Scope, the sponsorship form is still available in the school office, or you can visit Mr White's web page at:
<http://www.justgiving.com/gavinwhite2>.



Assessments

In the summer term, our teachers summarise the children's progress and achievements throughout the year, and towards the end of the term you will receive your child's annual report. Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 will complete some assessments in May to contribute to the teacher's overall assessment of your child's development. If you wish to discuss your child's progress and report, teachers will be available during Open Afternoon on Monday 13th July. Please see your child's class teacher prior to the afternoon to arrange an appointment.

School Uniform

Our school uniform provides the children with a sense of belonging, community and pride in their school. It is practical and the children do look smart in their uniform. Our school colours are red, white and grey. A reminder, that if you are purchasing new items over the term the children wear the following items:

- Grey trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafore dress as appropriate [trousers should be grey school type/tailored trousers and not fashion or casual trousers]
- Red and white striped or checked summer dress
- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- Red school sweatshirt or red school cardigan with school logo
- Flat sensible school shoes [no trainers please]

Many of the items are available from the school office. Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled to prevent them from getting lost around the school. [Information about printed labels is available from the school office.] Thank you for your continued support of the uniform guidelines.

PE Kits

A reminder, that all children should have their PE kit in school every day to participate fully in the PE curriculum. With the commencement of the summer term, please could you ensure your child has plimsolls in school to use for PE outdoors.

Attendance and Lateness

A reminder that it is important that all children arrive at school on time to ensure their learning sessions commence promptly. The school gates are open from 8.40 am and the register is taken at 8.45 am in KS2 [Year 3 and 4] and at 8.55 am in Foundation and KS1 [Year 1 and 2]. Children who arrive at school late and miss registration will be marked as late in the register which can be noted as an unauthorised absence. The Education Social Worker monitors class registers on a regular basis and will follow up cases of unauthorised absence or low attendance.

Sun Protection

With the beginning of the summer term, we hope that there will be plenty of sunny days ahead and the children will be able to make good use of the field and outside areas. Please make sure your child has a sun-hat to wear in the coming months. Sun hats can be purchased from the school office. We recommend you apply sun lotion to children before school. We have been notified by the school nurse that some sun lotions contain nut products. We would appreciate if you could not use these products at school, as we have some children who have severe allergic reactions to nuts. The children will be told not to share sun lotion with other children.

Friends of Rushcombe

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th April at 7.00pm which will focus on organising the summer term's events including the summer fair.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers and Tesco's Computers for School Vouchers

The school is currently collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers and Tesco's Computers for School Vouchers. We would appreciate receiving any vouchers you have to help us develop the school's resources.

Sale of Second-hand Uniform / Lost Property

There will be a sale of second-hand uniform on Friday 24th April at 2.45 pm in the quiet area [outside Year 1 and Year 2]. Should the weather be inclement, the sale will take place in the hall. Lost property will also be on display.

Rushcombe's Website: www.rushcombe.co.uk

Please remember that our school website includes lots of important information, including copies of newsletters, diary dates and club details.

Summer term dates for your diaries:


Friday 24 th April	Sale of second-hand uniform in the quiet area at 2.45 pm
Monday 4 th May	School closed - Bank Holiday
Wednesday 13 th May	Foundation Celebration Assembly [Mrs Connolly's class] at 2.30 pm
Thursday 14 th May	Foundation Celebration Assembly [Mrs Hayman's class] at 2.30 pm

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May HALF TERM

Tuesday 23 rd June	Foundation Stage Sports Afternoon [weather permitting] at 1.30 pm
Thursday 25 th June	KS1 [Year 1, Year 2] Sports Afternoon [weather permitting] at 1.30 pm
Friday 26 th June	KS2 [Year 3, Year 4] Sports Afternoon [weather permitting] at 1.30 pm
Friday 3 rd July	SUMMER FAIR
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 3 Celebration Assembly [Mr White's class] at 2.30 pm
Thursday 9 th July	Year 3 Celebration Assembly [Mrs Webb's class] at 2.30 pm
Thursday 9 th July	Annual reports home to parents
Friday 10 th July	Transfer Day [Year 4 children visiting their new middle schools]
Monday 13 th July	Open Afternoon, 3.10 - 6.00 pm
Thursday 16 th July	Year 4 Leavers Concert
Friday 17 th July	LAST DAY OF TERM, school closes at 1.00 pm
Thursday 3 rd September	School closed - staff training day
Friday 4 th September	School closed - staff training day
Monday 7 th September	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

Details of activities and further events will follow during the term.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher