

5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2017



Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone and I hope you all had a good summer break. A special welcome goes to all our new children and their families joining our school this year, including all the children in our Foundation base. I would also like to welcome Miss Keep to our team. I am sure everyone joining Rushcombe First School this term, will soon feel at home. Please do remember that the staff are always on hand to answer your queries.

I would like to thank you all for your support, good wishes and gifts to myself and all the staff at the end of the academic year. It is very much appreciated. We look forward to working with you in the new academic year and are committed to providing high quality education for all the children in partnership with you.

### Class Names

As you may be aware, each class has a name based on different trees in our environment. The class names are as follows:

Foundation:	Mr McCormick ~ Oak	Mr Smith ~ Ash
Year 1:	Mrs Holmes/Mrs Sinclair ~ Elm	Mrs Webb ~ Pine
Year 2:	Mrs Joyner ~ Willow	Mrs Ely/Mrs Russell ~ Chestnut
Year 3:	Miss Pitman ~ Beech	Miss Maese ~ Maple
Year 4:	Miss Hardy ~ Hawthorn	Mr Preston ~ Rowan

### 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 for the new academic year 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]
- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt [white & red polo shirts with the school logo are available]
- Red school sweatshirt with logo [no cardigans please]
- Red and white striped or checked summer dress
- Black, grey, white or red socks or tights as appropriate
- Black flat sensible school shoes [no trainers, pumps or slip on shoes to be worn please]

For PE all children are required to wear the following kit:

- Rushcombe white PE t-shirt with logo
- Rushcombe Red PE shorts
- Plain black trainers or plimsolls can be worn for outdoor PE

Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled to prevent them from getting lost around the school. In addition, small plain silver or gold stud earrings are the only jewellery allowed. Hair accessories, such as hairbands, should be in appropriate school colours. Thank you for your continued support of the uniform guidelines.

### Universal Infant Free School Meals

Parents with children in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and who wish to order a free packed lunch for their child, should use Chartwells online ordering system for the forthcoming school year. Please note the on-line ordering system requires parents to order their child's meals up until the cut off time of midnight on Sunday – 7 days before the full week in which the meals are to be served. A sample of the menu can be found online. It is recommended that parents complete their child's order for the whole term.

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**Headteacher:** Mrs C Mahon

If you have a child in Year 3 or Year 4 and you wish to purchase a cold packed lunch for your child at the price of £2.00, please see Mrs Wardman in the school office or visit Chartwells website at <https://dorset.mealselector.co.uk>.

### **Food Taster Session**

A reminder that Chartwells, the catering company, will be hosting a 'taster session' for parents to attend on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00 am to 11.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for you to come along and sample some of the meal options available for you to order for your child.

### **Free School Meals and School Uniform Award**

For those families that are entitled to a free school meal due to income it is important that your child is registered for the free school meal. If you would like to find out if you are eligible, please visit the online eligibility checker at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/free-school-meals>. This online form only takes a few moments to complete and will give you an immediate response. We would encourage you to do this as the school also receives much needed additional funding for each child that is registered. Once an award is made, please inform the school office. Meals are ordered on-line via the Chartwells website as above. If you have any queries, please see Mrs Wardman in the school office.

If your child does qualify for a free school meal [due to income] and the award is granted by the Local Authority, the Governing Body of Rushcombe First School has agreed that those children who are in receipt of a free school meal award will also be eligible to receive a one off annual school uniform award. This will include the following: one Rushcombe First School sweatshirt, one Rushcombe PE t-shirt, one pair of red shorts and one Rushcombe book bag. This is approximately to the value of £24.00. The items can be claimed once at any time during each academic year.

### **Safety in the School Grounds**

Please can I remind you that all children including small pre-school children and older children should be carefully supervised whilst on the school site at the beginning and end of the school day. At the end of day all parents/carers should collect children from their classrooms and the children should stay with an adult. We would appreciate your help if you can please ensure that children do not ride their scooters and bicycles in the playground or play in the outside Early Years area, the adventure play area or on the adjacent bank as these areas are not supervised. Please ensure that additional care is taken whilst riding bikes / scooters on the pathway adjacent to the school gates as it can be very busy. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our school a safe place to be during these busy times of the day.

### **Welcome to the New Academic Year Information Session for Parents**

All parents with children in Years 1 and 2, 3 and 4 are invited to come along to a Welcome to the New Academic Year Information Session with members of the leadership team and your child's class teachers. The information sessions for parents with children in Years 1 and 2 [Key Stage 1] will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September and the information sessions for parents with children in Years 3 and 4 [Key Stage 2] will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 pm

At the group meetings, you will be able to find out about the experiences and learning opportunities offered to your child, how the year groups are organised and the different ways that you can help support your child's progress and development. The meeting will take place in the school hall. Entry into school will be via the main office/reception and we would appreciate that children are not brought with you on this occasion. Later in the term, we will be organising individual parent consultations to enable children's progress to be reviewed in more detail.

### **Foundation Stage Information Sessions for Parents**

The Foundation Stage Team will be holding two early learning information sessions this half term. The first on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 pm will be focusing on English skills and the second on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00 pm will be focusing on maths skills.

### **Volunteer Help**

We greatly appreciate parents and other family members helping around the school, including supporting in class, helping with gardening and a range of general activities. If you are interested and able to help in any way, please call in to the school to make an appointment to see Mr White to discuss different volunteering opportunities at Rushcombe First School. All regular visitors to school are required to complete a DBS [Disclosure Barring Scheme] assessment.

### **Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

During the autumn term there will be a range of interesting and enjoyable opportunities for children to become involved in during the school day, in after school clubs and at special events. Further information about extra-curricular opportunities will follow in due course.

### **Road Safety and Car Parking**

Please can I remind those parents who drive their children to and from school, to consider the safety of other children and parents, and not to park on either the school keep clear markings or the double yellow lines for any amount of time, as it is prohibited. Please use the parking bays. The school would also encourage you to consider our neighbours convenience and safety when you park. Your support with this matter is appreciated.

### **ParentMail**

Rushcombe First School uses ParentMail to communicate efficiently and effectively with you. ParentMail has proved invaluable with keeping parents up to date and we encourage you to register with ParentMail. Future newsletters will be emailed to you if you have registered with ParentMail. If you do not have access to a computer paper copies of newsletter will be sent home with your child as usual. In addition, newsletters can be found on our school website.

### **Further autumn term dates for your diaries:**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Photographer in school to take individual and sibling photos
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Phonic Information Session, 6.00 pm – details to follow
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed for staff training day
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Flu Immunisation - further information to follow
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of the autumn term – children will finish at 1.00 pm

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Mahon  
Headteacher