

4th January 2018

Newsletter 9 Spring Term 2018



Dear Parents

With the beginning of a New Year and the spring term, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you all have had a good Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who came to watch the children perform in their different Christmas performances prior to the end of the autumn term. The children very much enjoyed taking part and it was lovely to see the children's singing, dancing, music making and acting. I would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work. We do hope you enjoyed these special events. Thank you for your kind and generous donations to the Julia House Charity which helped us to raise the amazing amount of £1056.00. Thank you also for your support, good wishes and gifts to all the staff at the end of the term.

This term's exciting new Learning Adventure is called 'The Kingdom of Mishmashovia'. The Learning Adventure provides the continuation of the story of the king and his family, building upon 'The Search for the Stolen Stories' and 'His Majesty, the King' Learning Adventures from previous years. During this Learning Adventure, the children will explore the Kingdom of Mishmashovia, including the different places within the kingdom and the characters that live there. They will also help to solve a range of problems linked to the characters that they meet. As part of the Learning Adventure, the children will have the opportunity to work with the drama facilitator, Mr Tony Horritz and his team of actors, engaging in a range of drama activities to develop their thinking skills and to support their creative writing.

As part of this new Learning Adventure, the children have been invited to attend a special Royal Celebration at the Palace. The dates for the Royal Celebrations are as follows:

Foundation	Tuesday 9 th January
Year 1	Tuesday 9 th January
Year 2	Tuesday 9 th January
Year 3	Wednesday 10 th January
Year 4	Wednesday 10 th January

To mark the importance of this event, the children can wear smart party clothes [suitable for a royal celebration] to school on their allocated day [see above], for example, an outfit such a dress, skirt and blouse, trousers and shirt or perhaps a waistcoat and jacket. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any questions. We look forward to welcoming the children to the Royal Celebrations next week.

We will keep you updated about the children's adventures in Mishmashovia.

Attendance

Attendance has a significant impact on a child's learning, achievement and well-being. Our local schools work together to improve attendance for all our children across the pyramid. There are times when your child may be unwell, however, we consistently work towards a goal of 100% attendance for all children. High levels of children's achievement and high levels of attendance are inextricably linked. Promoting excellent attendance and punctuality is a shared responsibility between the children, parents and school.

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and punctually. All schools are required by law, to keep attendance registers and each child's attendance is regularly monitored. In addition, the performance of a school is benchmarked nationally to assess its overall performance.

Rushcombe First School
Hanham Road, Corfe Mullen
Wimborne, Dorset
BH21 3PX

Tel: 01202 695722
Fax: 01202 657890
E-mail: office@rushcombe.dorset.sch.uk
Web: www.rushcombe.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Mahon

A reminder that the school gates open at 8.35 am and registration for all children is at **8.45 am**. Children should arrive at school on time to ensure their learning session can start promptly. If you arrive with your child after the gates have closed, please enter the school via the main entrance. If your child is late for registration this may be recorded as an unauthorised absence. The school day finishes at 3.05 pm.

The school is required by the local authority to keep you updated with your child's attendance, particularly if the attendance is below national expectations. If there are concerns about your child's attendance we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and work together to improve your child's attendance. You are also welcome to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's attendance with the school. In addition, Dorset's Attendance Service monitors attendance and if there are ongoing concerns about a child's attendance the matter may be referred to Dorset Local Authority Attendance Service and in some cases, families will be invited to attend an attendance meeting/panel to discuss a child's high absence rate. We understand the local authority can recommend a number of outcomes including a further period of close monitoring with specified targets for attendance, issuing a £60 penalty notice, a parenting order and seeking prosecution.

A reminder that school is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances; holiday requests do not fall into this category and will not be approved as authorised absence.

Dorset Local Authority has issued the following guidance:

In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their children at school. Therefore any unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays in term time, can result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the Magistrates Court of up to £1000.

If, after carefully considering all of the above, you still wish to request permission for your child to be absent from school, please complete an absence of leave request form [available from the school office] and submit the application with a covering letter and supporting documents. Please note that your application will not be considered unless a letter is attached.

Home Learning

At the end of this week, the children will be bringing home their home learning logs. In addition, regular reading is vital and should be the main focus of home learning, with children spending approximately 10 to 20 minutes a day either reading with an adult or if they are fluent readers, reading on their own. It is important that children have opportunities to discuss their reading to enhance their understanding and comprehension. We would appreciate if children could bring their reading bag and book each day so that staff can continue to hear the children read regularly.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

During the spring 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. Information about after-school clubs will follow soon [please see separate year group letters for further details]. Specialist music lessons for Years 3 and 4 will continue throughout the term.

Reception/Foundation Intake for 2018

Any parents wishing their child to come to Rushcombe First School in September 2018, for children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014, need to apply for a school place. Applications should be completed on-line at www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2018. I am happy to meet parents and show them around the school. Please pass this message on to any families you may know. If you need any advice or further information, please see myself or Mrs Wardman in the school office.

Year 4 Transfer to Middle Schools

Parents of Year 4 children have received information from the local authority about their child's transfer to middle school. Applications should be completed on-line via the local authority website at www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2018.

Dates for your Diaries:

Thursday 25 th January	KS1 Handwriting Information Meeting at 6.00 pm – details to follow
Tuesday 6 th February	Willow class [Year 2] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 8 th February	Chestnut class [Year 2] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 8 th February	Year 1 Phonics information meeting at 6.00 pm for parents – details to follow
Friday 9th February	Staff training day – school closed to all children
Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February	Half Term
Monday 19 th February	Children return to school for the second half of the spring term
Tuesday 20 th February	Parent Teacher Consultations: 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 22 nd February	Parent Teacher Consultations: 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 1 st March	KS2 Handwriting Information Meeting at 6.00 pm – details to follow
Tuesday 6 th March	Beech class [Year 3] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Wednesday 7 th March	Willow class [Year 2] visit to Safewise
Thursday 8 th March	Chestnut class [Year 2] visit to Safewise
Friday 16 th March	Maple class [Year 3] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Tuesday 20 th March	Pine class [Year 1] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 22 nd March	Elm class [Year 1] Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of term – school closes 1.00 pm

Monday 16th April

Tuesday 17 th April	Staff training day – school closed to all children
Monday 7 th May	First day of the summer term for all children
Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June	School closed – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 25 th July	Half Term
	Last day of term – school closes 1.00 pm

Monday 3rd September

Tuesday 4 th September	Staff training – school closed to all children
	First day of autumn term for all children

Further details of other events and activities will follow during the term.

Yours sincerely

C Mahon

Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher