

19th July 2018

Newsletter 21 Summer Term 2018



Dear Parents

I was delighted that so many people came to our Summer Fair on Friday. The opening dances, actors, singers and accompanying narration were fabulous. It was such a lovely afternoon and the children enjoyed the many different activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for making our Summer Fair such a success and approximately £3,400.00 was raised for the school. This will help provide additional resources, equipment and opportunities for all the children including the further development of our outdoor environment. Congratulations to all the staff, parents and friends of Rushcombe including local organisations for their immense hard work before, during and after the event. As always, it is impossible to name all those who contribute to the Summer Fair as so many people are involved in running stalls, organising games, serving refreshments, donating items for sale and, not least, coming along and enjoying the afternoon. Please accept my thanks for all your support and a special thank you to those staff and parents who coordinated the event. It is much appreciated.

Recently, Year 4 children have visited their middle schools and our children in Foundation, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have met their new teachers and spent time in their new classroom. Thank you also for your support at the recent parent teacher consultation meetings.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone for their support this year and wish everyone a lovely summer holiday. It continues to be a privilege to be the Headteacher of Rushcombe and I am delighted to see how the children have developed over this academic year. I am proud of all their achievements. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and support throughout the year. Well done, everyone.

Year 4 Leavers Concert and Disco

This year, the Year 4 Leavers Concert will be on Tuesday 24th July at 10.00 am and 1.15 pm in the school hall. A letter about the arrangements for the concerts has been sent out recently and we look forward to seeing Year 4 families at this special event. On Tuesday 24th July, Year 4 children will be having their Leavers Disco between 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm.

Universal Infant Free School Meals - for the new academic year

In September, parents who will have children in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and wish to continue to order a free packed lunch for their child should continue to 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 menu is attached for your information. It is recommended that parents complete their child's order for the **whole term**.

In September, if you have a child who will be 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>.

Chartwells, the catering company, will be hosting a 'taster session' for parents to attend on Tuesday 18th September from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm in the school hall. This will be an opportunity for you to sample some of the meal options available for you to order for your child. Your child is welcome to join you after the end of the school day.

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Free School Meals

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.

School Uniform Award

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 PE 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.

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 summer, 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 such as leggings]
- Red and white striped or checked summer dress
- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt [white & red polo shirts with the school logo are available]
- Rushcombe school sweatshirt with logo – all children should have a school sweatshirt [no cardigans please]
- Black, grey, white or red socks or tights as appropriate
- Black flat sensible school shoes [no trainers, pumps or slip on shoes]

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

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

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. 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. Some items of school uniform are available to buy from the school office at any time. Office opening hours are Monday to Friday: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm during term time.

End of Term

This year we are saying goodbye to our Year 4 children and three of our teaching assistants. My best wishes go with all the Year 4 children as they move on to middle school and thank you to their families for all their support over the years. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Mr Payne, Mrs Scotney and Miss Scott for their hard work during their time at Rushcombe and wish them all the best for the future.

Finally, the children will finish on Wednesday 25th July at 1.00 pm and will return on Tuesday 4th September. I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher

Encs An academic calendar for the year 2018/19, including 4 staff training days, one still to be confirmed.