

5th September 2018

Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2018



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 Mrs Payne 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.

During the summer, Miss Pitman got married and we wish her and her new husband all the best for the future. Miss Pitman will now be known as Mrs Sutcliffe.

This term's exciting new Learning Adventure is called 'Delights of the Deep'. During the Learning Adventure, the children will learn about the wonders of the oceans, including the dangers that plastic pollution poses to the creatures that live there. They will explore a wide range of curriculum areas, including Science, Geography and Design Technology.

The Learning Adventure began this week with the children taking part in a special challenge to design and make a sea creature out of plastic rubbish. The children have been busy developing some super ideas and designs for their creature, which they will be looking to make over the coming days. By taking part in the challenge, they have begun to explore the diverse range of creatures that live in the oceans, as well as having the opportunity to think about the amount of plastic waste that people create. Many thanks to parents and families for supporting the project by sending in a range of plastic items.

As part of the Learning Adventure, children will also be taking part in workshops with the artist Sarah Butterworth, during which they will be creating 3D representations of a range of ocean creatures – many of which will be large scale. The workshops will develop children's sculptural skills through using a range of materials and techniques and will be in preparation for the children staging a special performance about the wonders of the oceans in November. Further details will be provided about the performance during the course of this half term.

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:	Miss Maese ~ Oak	Mr Smith ~ Ash
Year 1:	Mr McCormick ~ Pine	Mrs Sutcliffe ~ Elm
Year 2:	Mrs Webb ~ Willow	Mrs Holmes / Mrs Russell ~ Chestnut
Year 3:	Mrs Joyner ~ Beech	Mrs Ely / Mrs Sinclair ~ 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 such as leggings]
- Red and white striped or checked summer dress

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- 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. Thank you for your continued support of the uniform guidelines.

School Meals

Please can we remind you that if you have a child/ren in Foundation, Year 1 or Year 2 and wish to order a free packed lunch for your child, please 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. It is recommended that parents complete their child's order for the whole term.

If you have a child who is 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.

Attendance

Attendance has a significant impact on a child's learning, achievement and well-being. 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.

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. 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.

Safety in the School Grounds and the Surrounding Environment

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

Learn Together – Parent and Child Workshops

This year we are introducing a new approach to our Welcome to the New Academic Year event. In order to provide tailored information about the key skills, understanding and knowledge that children will be developing during the year, the event will now be in the form of parent and child workshops for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the evening will be called 'Learn Together'. The 'Learn Together' workshops will provide an opportunity for parents to work with their children on a range of activities, which will be based around some of the key concepts the children will be learning about during the year, including aspects of the Maths, English, Science and other curriculum areas. During the workshops, your child's class teacher will be available to provide support and guidance about the activities on offer.

The 'Learn Together' workshops for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be held on Tuesday 2nd October, between 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm and will take place in your child's year group. If you have children in different classes, you will have the opportunity to visit each relevant year group. You are welcome to come with your child/ren from 4.00 pm onwards, allowing enough time for you and child/ren to participate in the different activities. It is anticipated that the year group activities could take approximately 30 -45 minutes to complete. We very much look forward to seeing you at our 'Learn Together' event.

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 25th September at 6.00 pm will be focusing on English skills and the second on Tuesday 16th 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. This academic year, we are also looking to recruit volunteers who are able to give a regular commitment of a couple of hours or more a week to support with reading. Mrs Joint, our Inclusion Leader, will lead a short reading workshop for interested volunteers. 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

A reminder to parents, that if you have not registered with ParentMail PMX, you **will need to verify your account**. All new parents will receive either an e-mail or text message from ParentMail. Please regularly check your 'Junk' or 'Spam' box as sometimes the emails go to these folders. When you receive the e-mail, please just follow the instructions below. If you have both a mobile number and an email address registered on your account, you will

receive a registration invitation by text **and** e-mail. You can decide which way you register – **but you will only need to register once.**

To verify your account: **Mobile registration:** Please click on the link from the text message and follow the verification process. You will be asked to enter some details, answer a security question to verify who you are and to set a password for your account. **E-mail registration:** In order to receive notification by e-mail, please ensure that the school office has your details. To verify your account, click on the link from the email and follow the verification process. As above, you will be asked to enter some details, answer a security question to verify who you are and to set a password for your account.

Downloading and registering with ParentMail [PMX], enables school messages / texts to be easily available on your smartphone:

- Access to ParentMail even when there's no network connection.
- No need to search through your busy personal inbox for school messages.
- Instant access – no need to login to complete forms or read messages.
- In app 'notifications' help make sure things don't get missed or forgotten.
- Helps preserve your data allowance.

If you have any issues or queries with the process please contact Mrs Wardman in the school office as soon as possible.

Further autumn term dates for your diaries:

Friday 19th October
Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October
Tuesday 30th October
Thursday 1st November
Monday 5th November
Wednesday 28th November
W/c Monday 3rd December
Monday 10th December
Tuesday 11th December
Thursday 13th December
Thursday 13th December
Friday 14th December
Wednesday 19th December
Thursday 20th December
Thursday 20th December
Friday 21st December
Monday 7th January 2019
Tuesday 8th January

Staff training day – school closed to all children

Half term

Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
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Photographer in school to take individual and sibling photographs
Flu Immunisation [Further information to follow]
Christmas Decoration Week [Further details to follow]
Foundation Christmas Nativity in the school hall at 1.45 pm
Foundation Christmas Nativity in the school hall at 10.00 am
KS1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play in the school hall at 10.30 am
KS1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play in the school hall at 1.45 pm
KS1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play in the school hall at 10.30 am
KS2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall at 1.45 pm
KS2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall at 10.30 am
KS2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall at 1.45 pm

Last day of the autumn term

Staff training day – school closed to all children

First day of spring term for all children

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher