

Dear Parents

The children are busy preparing for our different Christmas performances over the next couple of weeks and we look forward to seeing you soon at the Foundation Nativity, Key Stage 1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play and Key Stage 2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall. Please remember to bring your tickets on the day.

A reminder that parents are able to take photos/videos of their child during school events but it is recommended that images that include other children should not be uploaded onto social media websites unless permission is sought from their parents. In addition, we would appreciate it if you could make alternative arrangements for the care of younger siblings. They often find it difficult to sit through a performance and can distract the children and disturb the audience. If however, you are bringing younger siblings and they are finding it difficult to settle, please could you step outside the hall with your child until they are quiet, settled and happy to return. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

I would like to thank everyone for helping to make the school look so lovely and bright by attending our recent Christmas Decoration sessions. Recently, a beautiful Christmas tree was delivered to the school. I would like to thank Haskins Garden Centre for their kind donation to the school.

Christmas Post

The Rushcombe post box is available in school for the children to post their Christmas cards to each other. Please can we remind you that all envelopes need to be clearly addressed with the first name, surname and class of the child it is being sent to.

Christmas Party

As part of our Christmas celebrations, all the children in the last week will be involved in a range of Christmas activities. On the last day, Friday 21st December, all children can wear their own/party clothes.

Universal Infant Free School Meals [Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2]

Chartwells, the catering company, have created a new packed lunch menu for the spring term. Please see online for details. 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 term. 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.

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.

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.

In addition, if your child does qualify for a free school meal and the award is granted by the Local Authority, the Governing Body of Rushcombe First School has also agreed that those children in receipt of the award will also be eligible to participate in one school-led club per term, free of charge.

School Uniform

Thank you for supporting the school's uniform guidelines. A reminder, that if you are purchasing new items over the holidays, 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.

Winter Closures

On rare occasions, especially in winter, there may be a necessity to close the school. We will endeavour to remain open however, if we have to close the school, we will contact parents by ParentMail via email and/or text message. Information will also be posted on the school website at www.rushcombe.co.uk, under 'News & Events/Diary of Events' and at the Dorset local authority website at: <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices/schools>.

Local radio stations will also make announcements at various times, but please do not contact them for information, instead please visit the above web pages for the latest up to date information.

Finally, a reminder that the children will finish on Friday 21st December at 1.00 pm.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher