

10th January 2019

Newsletter 10 Spring Term 2019



Dear Parents

I hope you all have had a good Christmas and I would like to wish you all a very Happy 2019.

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 £1074. Thank you also for your support, good wishes and gifts to all the staff at the end of the term.

I would also like to thank you so much for all your kind messages and support at this difficult and sad time. It is very much appreciated. The children are doing so well and I am very grateful to the staff team who are providing care and support for all the children. As you are aware, the school has now been informed that Mr Smith's funeral will take place on Friday 18th January and the school will be closed for the day as a mark of respect. I apologise for the short notice and any inconvenience this may cause but I feel it is important that all the staff are able to attend the funeral of their dear friend and colleague. Your continued support at this time is very much appreciated.

This week, we welcomed Mrs Lovett to the school office administrative team and next week Mrs Child who will also be joining the school office team as our Finance Officer. In addition, two new teaching assistants, Miss Lazenbury and Mrs Fenwick have recently been appointed and have joined our school team this week. I am sure everyone joining Rushcombe First School this term, will soon feel at home.

Reception/Foundation Intake for 2019

A reminder that any parents wishing their child to come to Rushcombe First School in September 2019, for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, 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 2019.

Year 4 Transfer to Middle Schools

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 2019.

School Nurse Drop In

The school nurse, Mrs Mawhinney will be in school on Thursday 17th January from 2.15 pm to 3.00 pm. If you have any queries about the health and development of your child, please feel free to come in and have a chat with her.

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.

The school is required by the local authority to keep you updated with your child's attendance, particularly if the attendance is below national expectation. If the school has 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. We understand the local authority is issuing Penalty Notices for unauthorised absences and that Penalty Notices are £60 per parent per child.

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. Please note that your application will not be considered unless a letter is attached.

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. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

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. After-school clubs will commence in due course [please see separate year group letters for further details soon]. Specialist music lessons for Years 3 and 4 will continue throughout the term.

Home Learning

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.

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.

Dates for your Diaries:

Tuesday 12th February Year 2 Willow class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Friday 15th February Year 2 Chestnut class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 8th February Year 1 Phonic Information Meeting 6.00 pm [further details to follow]

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February **Half Term**

Monday 25th February School closed for a staff training day
Tuesday 26th February Children return to school for the second half of the spring term
Tuesday 5th March Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 7th March Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Wednesday 13th March Year 3 Maple class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 14th March Year 3 Beech class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Tuesday 26th March Year 1 Pine class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Wednesday 27th March Year 2 visit to Safewise [further details to follow]
Thursday 28th March Year 2 visit to Safewise [further details to follow]
Friday 29th March Year 1 Elm Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Friday 5th April **Last day of term**

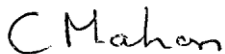
Tuesday 23rd April School closed for a staff training day
Wednesday 24th April Children return to school for the summer term
Monday 6th May School closed – Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May **Half Term**

Tuesday 23rd July **Last day of term**

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher