

17th July 2019



Newsletter 23 Summer Term 2019

Dear Parents

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone for their support this year, particularly in a period of change and sadness, with the sudden death of Mr Smith: he was an amazing teacher, a great colleague and a supportive friend. The staff and I were very touched by the kind, thoughtful and generous words and gift presented to us at the Summer Fair. It is very much appreciated. The school is planning to mark Mr Smith's contribution to our school in the new academic year.

The school has continued to be committed to providing high quality teaching, stimulating learning opportunities and a caring environment enabling the children to continue to flourish and learn. I am delighted to see how the children have developed over this academic year and 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. It continues to be a privilege to be the Headteacher of Rushcombe and I wish everyone a lovely summer holiday.

I was delighted that so many people came to our Summer Fair on Friday. The dances, actors, singers and accompanying narration were fabulous. It was such a lovely afternoon and the children enjoyed the many different activities. Congratulations to Mr White who produced our "Cats" performance, Mrs May for the choreography and to all the children and staff. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank you all so much for making our Summer Fair such a success. We will update you about the amount raised in due course. Funds raised will help provide additional resources, equipment and opportunities for all the children including the further development of our outdoor environment and IT resources. 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. Well done, everyone.

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 consultation meetings. It is appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent KS1 Sports Afternoon. The children enjoyed the different activities and did very well. Well done, everyone.

Staff News

At the end of this academic year, Mrs Dillon, after sixteen years at Rushcombe First School, will be leaving to look after her grandchildren. We are grateful for her hard work and commitment during her time at Rushcombe and wish her all the best for the future.

Year 4 Leavers Concert and Disco

This year, the Year 4 Leavers Concert will be on Friday 19th July at 10.00 am and 1.15 pm in the school hall. Confirmation of seat allocation has been sent out recently. We look forward to seeing you at this special event soon. On Monday 22nd July, Year 4 children will be having their Leavers Disco between 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm.

School Meals

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. It is recommended that parents complete their child's order for the **whole term**.

Chartwells, the catering company, will be hosting a 'taster session' for parents to attend on Tuesday 17th 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.

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.

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. 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 two 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 Mrs Dillon and Miss Lazenbury for their hard work during their time at Rushcombe and wish them all the best for the future.

Finally, the children will finish on Tuesday 23rd July at 1.00 pm and will return on Tuesday 3rd 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

Enc. An academic calendar for the year 2019/20, including 5 staff training days