

6th September 2019

Newsletter 1 Autumn Term 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone and I hope you all had a good summer break. I am delighted with all the children. It has been a lovely start to the new academic year. 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 Miss Frost 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.

I would also like to thank all the families who cared for the chickens over the summer holidays. It is much appreciated.

During the summer holidays, further works have been completed to enhance the school environment including the completion of a new roof/fascia and some new doors. It is anticipated that further development of our school grounds will commence later this term.

This week, children have been taking part in a range of learning activities, exploring the theme "new beginnings" as part of the PSHE curriculum. Children have about a range of areas, including setting targets for the new academic year, celebrating their strengths and skills, exploring emotions linked to change and building the community within their classroom. This half-term's exciting new Learning Adventure is due to start next week. We will share details of their new Learning Adventure in due course.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Sinclair who had a beautiful baby boy in August. Both are doing well and we wish them all the best for the future.

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:

Early Years Foundation Stage:	Mr McCormick ~ Oak	Miss Maese ~ Ash
Year 1:	Mrs Webb ~ Pine	Mrs Russell ~ Elm
Year 2:	Mrs Joyner ~ Willow	Mrs Ely/Mrs Holmes ~ Chestnut
Year 3:	Mrs Sutcliffe ~ Beech	Miss Frost ~ 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
- 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.

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.

School Meals Taster Session

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.

A reminder, 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**.

E-Safety Information Sessions

On Thursday 19th September, Dorset Police [Safer Communities Team] will be leading a session Year 2 children on the safe use of Information Technology. During the day, there will also be a session for all parents from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm in the school. Entry will be via the main office / reception area. All parents are welcome to attend this session however we would appreciate it if younger/older siblings are not brought with you on this occasion as the content may be unsuitable. To help us with arrangements, please complete the slip overleaf indicating if you are able to attend and how many seats you require. Please return it to school by Monday 16th September. We look forward to seeing you at the session.

Learn Together – Parent and Child Workshops

This year we will be once again holding our 'Learn Together' workshops which will provide tailored information about the key skills, understanding and knowledge that children will be developing during the year. The event will be in the form of parent and child workshops for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. 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 Wednesday 25th September, 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 1st October at 6.00 pm will be focusing on English skills and the second on Wednesday 6th November at 6.00 pm will be focusing on maths skills.

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.

Further autumn term dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 22nd October Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 24th October Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Friday 25th October School closed for staff training day

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November HALF TERM

Monday 4th November Flu Immunisation [Further information to follow]
Tuesday 5th November Photographer in school to take individual and sibling photographs

Week Commencing Monday 2nd December Christmas Decoration Week [Further details to follow]

Monday 9th December Foundation Christmas Nativity in the school hall at 1.45 pm
Tuesday 10th December Foundation Christmas Nativity in the school hall at 10.15am
Wednesday 11th December KS1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play in the school hall at 1.45pm
Thursday 12th December KS1 [Year 1 & 2] Christmas Play in the school hall at 10.15 am & 1.45pm
Wednesday 18th December KS2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall at 1.45pm
Thursday 19th December KS2 [Year 3 & 4] Christmas Concert in the school hall at 10.15am & 1.45pm
Friday 20th December Last day of the autumn term

Monday 6th January School closed for staff training day
Tuesday 7th January Spring term commences for the children

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

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher

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

E-SAFETY PARENT INFORMATION SESSION – THURSDAY 19th SEPTEMBER, 2.00 PM – 3.00 PM

Child’s Name:..... Class:

I / we will be attending the E-Safety Information Session and will require number of seats.

Signed: Date: