

13th December 2019

Newsletter 9 Autumn Term 2019



Dear Parents,

Our current Learning Adventure, 'The Amazing Children's Emporium', continues until the end of term, with the children completing a range of Design Technology projects. Across the school, the children have been developing their Design Technology skills, making a range of toys and products for the emporium, including Year 1 children making rockets for the underground hedgehog workers, Year 2 learning about axels and wheels to make toy cars, Year 3 learning about levers and linkages to make a picture book with moving parts and Year 4 making a toy which incorporates an electrical circuit. Next week, in Foundation, the children will be making kites and will hold a special celebration to open the emporium. The school's Learning Adventures continue to provide a range of high quality learning experiences for the children, as well as fostering high levels of motivation for learning. We look forward to sharing our new Learning Adventure with you at the start of the Spring term.

I would like to thank everyone for helping to make the school look so lovely and bright, by attending our recent Christmas Decoration sessions.

Last weekend, many of our Year 3 and 4 children accompanied the Westbourne Orchestral Society at their Christmas Concert, alongside Miss Hardy and Mr Marchant. I was thrilled with all the children. It was such a lovely opportunity for the children. Thank you to all the staff and families who supported the children at the concert.

Over the last week, our Foundation and Key Stage 1 children have performed in various Christmas productions. The children have very much enjoyed taking part in the different performances and it was lovely to see their singing, music making, dancing, storytelling and acting. We would like to thank you all for your support and we do hope you enjoyed the performances. Thank you also for your kind and generous donations to the Julia's House Charity.

I would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work. In addition, thank you to Mr Jones, Vice Chair of Governors, for his musical accompaniment at both the Foundation Stage Nativity and the Key Stage 1 Christmas Play performances and to Mr Hume for his musical accompaniment at the Key Stage 1 performances.

Next week, our Key Stage 2 children [Year 3 and Year 4] will be performing their Christmas Concert. We look forward to seeing you soon.

A reminder that all children can wear their own/party clothes for the last day of the autumn term and the children will finish on Friday 20th December at 1.00 pm.

I would like to thank all those families who have been helping with looking after the chickens at the weekends and during the forthcoming school holidays. It is much appreciated.

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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 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. 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.

Governor News

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in the parent governor vacancy. We are pleased to inform you that Mr Gorthy has been duly appointed to the role. We look forward to working with him and hope he enjoys his time serving as a governor.

As you are aware, Mrs Joint, our Inclusion Leader, will be retiring next week. I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Mrs Joint for all her hard work and support over the years and wishing her a very happy retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this term and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The children will finish on Friday 20th December at 1.00 pm and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Mahon". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher