

10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Newsletter 10 Spring Term 2020



Dear Parents,

With the beginning of a new year and the spring term, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and I hope you all have had a good Christmas.

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 £953.56!

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

As many of you aware, the first anniversary of Mr Smith's sudden and sad death was in the recent school holidays. He was an amazing teacher and a great colleague who is missed by us all. During the holidays, the staff team utilised the kind and thoughtful gift presented to us at the summer fair to come together in memory and celebration of Mr Smith. I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments and best wishes. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you to all the families for their help with looking after our chickens over the Christmas and New Year period – it was very much appreciated.

### **Learning Adventure**

Our exciting new Learning Adventure, 'The Colour Thief', began this week, with a special, interactive drama facilitator Tony Horitz and his team of actors. The theme, which is a bespoke project designed between the school and Tony, has established the scenario of a fantasy setting in which colours are disappearing and everything is turning grey and gloomy. The storyline involves three characters (Sophie, Monty the Monkey and Cassandra the Crow) who go on a quest to bring the colours back in the world, going in search of the mysterious and legendary 'Colour Thief'. At the end of the stimulus, the children were invited into the drama and have agreed to join the characters and help find the Colour Thief. Over the coming weeks, they will be going on an imaginative adventure as they explore the new setting and characters, facing a range of challenges and aiming to restore colour in its many forms to the world. The Learning Adventure will provide a range of engaging curriculum opportunities, including creative writing, RE and philosophical inquiry, learning about emotions in PSHE and exploring colour in Art and Design. We will keep you updated about the children's adventures over the coming weeks.

### **School Nurse Drop-in 15<sup>th</sup> January**

The school nurse, Mrs Mawhinney will be in school on Wednesday, 15th January from 8.30am to 9.30am. 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.

### **Visual Screening Foundation Stage 20<sup>th</sup> January**

All children in Foundation have been invited to a vision screening check, which will be carried out on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January. Letters were sent home at the end of last term. If you do not wish your child to have this check, please complete the form and return it to the school office by Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January.

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**Headteacher:** Mrs C Mahon

## **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 this. 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 regarding this, 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 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

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

## **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.

## **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 soon [please see separate year group letters for further details, which will follow soon]. Specialist music lessons for Years 3 and 4 will continue throughout the term.

## **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.

### Reception/Foundation Intake for 2020

A reminder that any parents wishing their child to come to Rushcombe First School in September 2020, for children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016, need to apply for a school place. Applications should be completed on-line at [www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions). The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2020.

### Year 4 Transfer to Middle Schools

A reminder that applications should be completed on-line via the local authority website at [www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions).

The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2020.

### Dates for your Diaries:

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Willow class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Chestnut class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 Phonic Information Meeting 6.00 pm

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February      **Half Term**

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school for the second half of the spring term
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher Consultations 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Beech class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 visit to SafeWise
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 visit to SafeWise
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Maple class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Pine class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Elm class Celebration Assembly at 2.45 pm in the school hall
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Last day of term</b>

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School closed for a staff training day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Children return to school for the summer term
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	School closed – Bank Holiday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May      **Half Term**

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Classes and Leavers - school photographs
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Last day of term</b>

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September      Autumn term commences for the children

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

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon  
Headteacher