

29th July 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer break. I am writing to provide you with further information about the arrangements for the new academic year.

Staff News

The Governing Body has recently made an additional teaching appointment for the new academic year enabling the school to provide additional support for the children within their year groups and across the school. Miss Lamper will join our dedicated staff team at the beginning of the autumn term and we look forward to working with her in the new academic year. Preparations for September are well underway.

Year Group and Class Arrangements

In the new academic year, the year group teachers will be as follows:

Early Years Foundation Stage	Miss Maese and Mr McCormick
Year 1	Miss Lamper, Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Webb
Year 2	Mrs Carvell, Mrs Ely and Mrs Joyner
Year 3	Miss Cosgrove, Mrs Holmes and Mr Preston
Year 4	Miss Frost and Miss Hardy

In September 2020, as usual, the children will move with their class to their new year group and your child/ren's new class teacher/s will be as follows:

- **Ash** [Miss Maese] class will move to **Pine** class and be taught by Mrs Webb. Mrs Sinclair will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 1.
- **Oak** [Mr McCormick] class will move to **Elm** class and be taught by Miss Lamper. Mrs Sinclair will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 1.
- **Elm** [Mrs Russell] class will move to **Willow** class and be taught by Mrs Joyner. Mrs Ely will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 2.
- **Pine** [Mrs Webb] class will move to **Chestnut** class and be taught by Mrs Carvell. Mrs Ely will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 2.
- **Chestnut** [Mrs Ely/Mrs Holmes] class will move to **Beech** class and be taught by Mr Preston. Mrs Holmes will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 3.
- **Willow** [Mrs Joyner] class will move to **Maple** class and be taught by Miss Cosgrove. Mrs Holmes will provide additional support for teaching and learning across Year 3.
- **Beech** [Mrs Sutcliffe] class will move to **Rowan** class and be taught by Miss Frost.
- **Maple** [Miss Frost] class will move to **Hawthorn** class and be taught by Miss Hardy.

The teachers are looking forward to welcoming the children back in September and getting to know your child in the autumn term. Some of the teachers will already know your child and/or family.

The New Academic Year

As you are aware, the government has announced that all children will return to school in September. It is anticipated that all children will return to the school on Monday 7th September. Rushcombe First School is working hard, in conjunction with Dorset Council and other local schools, to make decisions about the reopening

of schools to all children in the new academic year. Alongside this, we have been putting in place the necessary arrangements so we can reduce risks and safeguard the staff and children, as much as we can, on their return to school. It must be recognised that the school cannot eliminate all risk. The health, safety and wellbeing of all our children, staff and wider community is of paramount importance.

The Department for Education has identified a system of controls that are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection'.

Prevention:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus [COVID-19] symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- continuing enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing, wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment [PPE]

Response to any Infection:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus [COVID-19] amongst the school community
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The school appreciate that many families will be anxious about their child returning to school especially with the on-going concerns about COVID-19 very much in all our minds and after so many weeks at home; we will endeavour to do our best to make sure that we support them with the transition back into school in a positive manner. However, it is important to be aware that when your child returns to school in these current exceptional times, their school experience will be different from the one they most recently remember or are familiar with as the appropriate health and safety measures are put in place. The school day will need to be organised to reduce the spread of infection and minimise the number of people who are in close proximity to each other. The children returning to school in September will be organised in their classes and year groups and will be taught by members of our staffing team in their class/year group.

The school will endeavour to encourage children to follow the recommended social/physical distances in line with government guidelines, however, it must be recognised that young children do find it difficult to maintain safe distances at all times. The school cannot eliminate all risk. It will be necessary for a wide range of additional safety and hygiene measures to be implemented including thorough and regular handwashing, staggered start and finish times for the school day and strict social/physical distancing for all. Parents will not be able to enter classrooms/the school building. Further information including details about staggered start and finish times for the school day will follow in due course.

As you are aware, when planning for the reopening for all year groups at Rushcombe First School, there are a number of significant challenges to be taken into account. This includes the layout of the Rushcombe First School building, so that we can meet the necessary guidelines. **Although children will be organised into classes/year groups, these groups cannot be fully self-contained groups.** Many of our classrooms and other rooms do not have their own external door and can only be accessed through another classroom. Most of the classrooms are also part of a two-room base, in which toilets and sink facilities are only available in one of the rooms. This will mean that **children will need to go through other class/rooms to enter and exit the school building and to access the toilet and sink facilities.** The school will endeavour to minimise the children's interactions with other classes/year groups, however, it is important to recognise that this will not be possible at all times.

Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance

The guidance regarding not sending your child to school if they demonstrate symptoms of coronavirus will apply to all children returning to school in the new academic year. Please remember that if your child or any member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus infection [COVID-19], **however mild**, you will all need to stay at home for 14 days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus [COVID-19] are:

- **High temperature [37.8 degrees and above]**
- **New continuous cough**
- **Loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste [anosmia]**

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Should a household member develop coronavirus symptoms late in the 14-day household isolation period [for example, on day 13 or day 14], the isolation period does not need to be extended, but the person with the new symptoms has to stay at home for 7 days. This may mean that your child/ren will be away from school for more than the minimum of 14 days. For further information and details, please refer to Public Health England and the Stay At Home guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

It is important that anyone with symptoms is tested. A test can be booked online via NHS UK, using the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> It is essential that the school is advised of the test outcome. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school, if they are well enough, and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If there is a confirmed case in school, it may be necessary for other children/groups of children and staff to isolate at home. We will work closely with Public Health England who will advise us of the course of action.

Please do not send your child/ren to school if they are demonstrating either a high temperature, new continuous cough, or are reporting a loss or change to their normal sense of smell or taste. Your child/ren should remain at home until 14 days after the onset of their symptoms. Please refrain from coming into school in person if you have any doubts about your child's/your own symptoms – this is to ensure the health and wellbeing of our school community.

If your child appears to present with any of these symptoms when they are in school, we will contact you and you will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

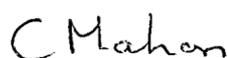
You can seek further medical advice from NHS 111 and you can also use the Department for Education coronavirus helpline, which is available to answer questions about COVID-19 on T: 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

Finally

I look forward to welcoming all the children back to school in September. The children will return to school in the week commencing Monday 7th September. The school will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops or changes and more information is available.

We thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
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