

Newsletter 2 Autumn Term 2020

25th September 2020



Dear Parents,

It is lovely to see how the children are settling into their new classes and we are delighted with the way the early Years Foundation Stage children have started their first year at school. This week the children have attended school full-time. Thank you to everyone for keeping to the school's new staggered system for school drop off and collection times, including the use of the one-way system on the playground, maintaining appropriate social distancing and ensuring only one person accompanies your child to school.

The children are enjoying our new exciting Learning Adventure 'Amazing Animal Adventures' and we look forward to sharing with you how the Learning Adventure develops over the coming weeks.

Home Learning

Next week, we will be launching our new approach for the delivery of home learning, which will now be online via Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a secure app/website that includes a range of functions to support the delivery of learning when children are at home. In due course, your child will be provided with a username and password to enable them to access Microsoft Teams. You will also receive a more detailed set of instructions about how to use the new system.

Starting next week (Friday 2nd October), children in Years 1-4 will have their weekly home learning task (set every Friday) delivered through Microsoft Teams. This will replace the typed tasks that your child's teacher would formerly have stuck into your child's Home Learning Log. The system enables the learning produced by your child to be uploaded (submitted to their teacher), meaning that Home Learning Logs will no longer be required to be brought into school - they will only be intended for use at home. We will be providing children in Years 1-4 with a new Home Learning Log in which they can still complete their learning, but any learning they complete in their book can then be photographed and uploaded on Microsoft Teams. There will also be the option for children to complete their home learning electronically and to upload it via Microsoft Teams. When your child uploads their learning, it will only be their teachers who will be able to access it. Your child will then receive feedback on their home learning task from their teacher via Microsoft Teams. The new system will help to minimise the number of physical resources that need to transition between home and school, contributing to the safety and well-being of the school community.

Microsoft Teams will also be used to provide learning to those children who are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19. By using Microsoft Teams, your child will have access to the teaching screens that will be used in the classroom. It will also provide the opportunity for children to upload key pieces of learning and for the teacher to provide periodic feedback. Further information will be provided in due course.

Reading and Summer Reading Challenge

We greatly value the partnership between home and school and believe the time you spend supporting your child's learning can enhance their progress and development. The children participate in regular reading opportunities and activities throughout the week in school. Teaching staff have recently been reviewing and assessing the children's reading skills in Year 1 to 4. Regular reading is vital and your support at home is much appreciated. From next week, children will be able to take reading books home, although the reading books will then be required to be quarantined on return. This will impact on our usual arrangements for changing reading books. In addition, we recommend that children continue to use a wide range of reading materials and resources, whether that is books you may have at home, from the local library or online. Further information will follow soon.

Dorset Library Service has advised the school that the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge will finish on 30th September. They do have some medals available for children who have taken part, which can be collected from libraries while stocks last. They have asked schools to remind children/families that they can print off certificate/s from the [Silly Squad](#) website when their Summer Reading Challenge is complete. We hope children have enjoyed taking part this year and setting their own challenge goals. Well done, everyone.

PE and Outdoor Learning

As the autumn term proceeds and the weather begins to change, we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child has suitable clothing for outdoor PE and learning, such as, wellington boots, leggings/jogging bottoms and waterproof outer layer. Please can you also ensure that your child brings a coat to school, as we aim for the children to go out to play and get some fresh air every day. Thank you.

Reception/Foundation Intake for 2021

Any parents wishing their child to come to Rushcombe First School in September 2021, for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, need to apply for a school place. Applications should be completed on-line at www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2021. Please pass this message on to any families you may know. If you need any advice or further information, please contact the school office.

Year 4 Transfer to Middle Schools

Last Friday 18th September, parents of Year 4 children received information from the local authority about their child's transfer to middle school. Applications should be completed on-line via the local authority website at www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions. The closing date for all applications is 15th January 2021.

School Office and Messages for Staff

A reminder that the school office is only partially open to parents and visitors and we ask that you refrain from visiting the school office wherever this can be avoided. In the first instance, we request that all communications are made via email or phone to the school office, including any messages for your child's teacher. A telephone appointment to speak with a member of staff will be made for you if necessary. If you need to visit the school office for essential reasons [or if agreed with a member of the school office], the entrance area has been marked with physical/social distancing demarcations and there is a taped line by the office window to ensure the appropriate social/physical distance is in place. In the office foyer, there are two boxes/containers, one for paperwork, such as, letters/permission slips, and one for objects/parcels. Entrance to other areas of the school will not be permitted, unless by prior agreement/appointment. We would be grateful if you could wear a face mask/covering when visiting the school office, unless you have a medical exemption.

Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance [Please see separate letter for more detailed information.]

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 [feels hot to touch on the back or chest – a temperature of 37.6 degrees and above]**
- **New continuous cough [this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)]**
- **Loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste [anosmia]**

More detail of the symptoms can be found: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

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](#).

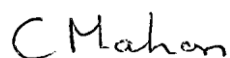
You can seek further medical advice from NHS 111 and you can also use the Department for Education coronavirus helpline, which is available to answer questions about COVID-19 on T: 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

You will need to be able to collect your child if we are unable to look after them safely due to staff absence, or there is a suspected/confirmed case.

Finally

The school will continue to keep you updated as the situation develops or changes and more information is available. We appreciate your support in helping us to sustain the safety and wellbeing of our whole school community.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher