

8th June 2021

Dear Parents,



I hope you all had a good half term holiday and enjoyed the break.

Our next exciting Learning Adventure will be launched with the children during the course of this week. The Learning Adventure will provide opportunities to explore a range of curriculum areas, including a specific focus upon Art and Design, whilst also providing rich opportunities for creative writing. Further details will be provided once children have been introduced to the theme.

Over the next few weeks, the children will complete some assessments to contribute to the teacher's overall assessment of your child's achievements and development throughout the year. In July, you will receive your child's annual report and there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and report at our next parent teacher consultations later in July. Further details will follow in due course.

As you are aware, the school has been planning for some events, such as, year group sports afternoons to go ahead for the children and their families during this half term, however, it may not be possible for parents to attend the events due to national guidelines and increasing infection rates. The events will go ahead for the children as planned. If parents are able to join us for events, there will need to be some adaptations to minimise risk to the school community. The school will update parents soon.

In addition, Year 4 will soon begin to prepare a special Leavers Event, which will go ahead for the children as planned. If in the event parents are not able to join us, the school will create a short film capturing some of the special moments for you to watch at home with your family. It is anticipated that the special Year 4 Leavers Event will be held towards the end of the summer term. Further information will follow in due course.

Staff News

At the end of this academic year, Miss Frost will be leaving Rushcombe First School to commence a new teaching role at another school in the autumn term. Miss Frost will be able to complete the academic year with her current class. We are grateful for her hard work and commitment during her time at Rushcombe and wish her all the best for the future.

In addition, three of our teaching assistants will be leaving at the end of this academic year. Miss Cole will be commencing teaching training in the autumn term, Mrs Fenwick will be retiring at the end of the academic year and Miss Flynn will be relocating to another part of the country. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their hard work and support.

The Governing Body has recently made two new teaching appointments for the new academic year and preparations for September are well underway. Miss Byrant and Mr Perry will join our dedicated staff team at the beginning of the autumn term. They will be visiting the school again soon to continue to familiarise themselves with the children, staff and the school. We look forward to working with them in providing high quality education for all the children at Rushcombe and continuing to build on the success of the school. Further information about year group arrangements will follow in due course.

School Photographs

A reminder that the children's individual school photographs are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9th June. The photographer will be taking the photographs in our lovely grounds. If the weather is inclement, the session will be postponed and we hope that it can be rescheduled although this cannot be guaranteed.

Sun Protection and Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a sun-hat to wear and a water bottle in school. Sun hats and water bottles can be purchased from the school office. We recommend you apply sun lotion to your child/ren before school. Further protective sun screen can be applied during the day by the children. We have been notified by the school nurse that some sun lotions contain nut products. We would appreciate if you could not use these products at school, as we have some children who have severe allergic reactions to nuts. The children will be told not to share sun lotion with other children. A reminder, that water bottles should contain water only rather than fizzy drinks, squashes or juices. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

Department of Education: Primary School Children and Rapid Asymptomatic Testing

On advice from Public Health England [PHE], children in primary schools have not been included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. Recently, the Department of Education have updated their information to indicate that parents may wish to consider whether to test asymptomatic children under the age of 11. The DfE information states that 'Advice from Public Health England is that there is currently limited public health benefit from testing primary school age children with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Primary school age children may find the LFD testing process invasive and unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.'

If a child or a member of your household develops potential symptoms of Coronavirus you should continue to follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child. **Rapid LFD tests should not be offered to individuals who develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, regardless of their age.**

Confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR] Testing for Positive Lateral Flow Device [LFD] Tests

Please note that a confirmatory PCR test is required for anyone receiving a positive LFD test. The PCR test should be booked immediately either [online](#) or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days. Anyone who had a positive LFD test result and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR test result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the person and their close contacts can then end their self-isolation.

Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance

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

It is important that anyone with symptoms is tested. If your child presents with Covid-19 symptoms, they will not be able to come to school and you should book a test. A PCR test can be booked or ordered 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.

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).

The school will endeavour to remain open, however, if there are confirmed case/s or insufficient safe staffing levels, the school may have to close or partially close for a period of time. The school will keep parents updated with any decisions by parentmail as soon as they can. If in the event that children have to self-isolate at home or that our school has to be partially/closed, teaching staff will provide home learning for each child/year group via Microsoft Teams.

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.

Finally

Please continue to keep to the school's staggered system for school drop off and collection times, including the use of the one-way system on the playground, maintaining appropriate social distancing, utilising a face mask/cover during drop off and collection times [unless you have a pre-existing health condition] and ensuring only one person accompanies your child to school. If you have any messages for your child's teacher, please contact them via the school office email, rather than relaying messages on the door in the morning - this will help to ensure that the staggered timings work effectively and help to keep everyone safe. Your support, understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

By working together, we hope that we can ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community.

The school will continue to keep you updated as more information is available.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher