



Rushmere Hall Primary School

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

Newsletter

18th Oct
2018

www.RushmereHallPrimarySchool.com

Acquire
skills for life

Aspire
to greatness

Achieve
reaching your full potential

Parents, Carers,

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE make sure you keep yourself updated with things here at Rushmere Hall by reading the monthly newsletters. This is the one stop shop for everything Rushmere! It has virtually everything you need with upcoming important dates and details about specific events that are coming. The office process a number of enquiries every day and in a large number of cases the information being requested is stored in the newsletter.

Piecing the information to create this newsletter takes time but is totally worthwhile if parents utilise the information included and are more informed.

Half term has fallen slightly earlier this year and a few events we need to tell you about happen quite soon after the half term. Therefore, we decided to release this newsletter earlier than usual.

Judging by the shelves in Tescos; Halloween and Christmas are literally round the corner! :) At the end of October, we will release our Christmas is coming Newsletter which gives you all the details you need regarding events here at Rushmere Hall over the Christmas period. Look out for it and make sure the dates are written in to your diary OR added to your google calendar!

Mr Fykin

Head teacher

Autumn Term 2
THIS HALF TERM ENDS ON THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2018
Staff training day on Friday 19th October 2018
SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN – Monday 29th October 2018



Governor Elections

We are currently looking for three new Parent Governors. An application form and information sheet will be sent out to all parents after half term. If you have any questions about what it means to be a governor, visit the school office and they will be able to link you up with one of our current Governors.

Sometimes it is useful to clarify what being a Governor involves and what it doesn't involve. The information sheet is written by a Governor and so should answer all of your questions. The table below highlights some of the differences between the role of Governor and those things that can be achieved or discussed at Parent Forum.

Parent Forum	Governor
Changing the school uniform	Strategic direction of the school
Discussing communication	Financial stability of the school
Content of the curriculum	Safeguarding regulations
School events (sports days)	Policies, procedures and processes
Ask questions about the day to day running of the school	Challenge for leaders over performance data
Clubs at the school	Development planning
	Dealing with escalated complaints



NEON Disco – Friday 2nd November 2018

DRESS CODE: Bright coloured clothes or NEON

To minimise the amount of journeys parents have to do, pick up and drop off, pupils in Years 1,2,3 will **need to bring their outfits into school** and will be supervised by class teachers into the disco, meaning that parents of children in these year groups will only need to pick up at the end of the disco. Reception children will have their disco during school time and therefore will also need to bring their clothes into school.

TO CLARIFY - If your child is in Years 1,2,3 and is attending the disco, you do not need to pick up until 5:00pm.

Yrs 1,2 & 3 & Mrs Cleaves class 3:30 – 5:00pm

The Year 4,5,6 disco starts at 5:30pm. Parents who have children attending both discos will need to collect their child from the first disco at 5:00 and wait until the doors open at 5:30 to drop off their other child.

Yrs 4, 5 & 6 5:30 – 6:45pm

If you feel like it's too much back and forth... why not offer to help out at the discos? Speak to the school fundraisers who I am sure will definitely be able to find a job for you!

Every year we have children who turn up to the disco who don't like loud music, don't like the hall being dark, don't like dancing and don't want to be there! Before booking please check that your child actually wants to attend the disco and they are aware that it will be dark and there will be loud music. Dancing is optional.



Blocking people's driveways

Please be mindful of local residents when bringing your children to school. A number of residents report not being able to get out of their driveways because parents have parked in front of them.

Please look at the Traffic page on our website. You may not believe it, but parking a 5-minute walk away WILL actually save you time. In order to find a space outside the school, you'll have to get here extremely early and trying to get out afterwards is slow and hazardous. Try it! You will realise that it is stress-free and will actually save you some time.



PHASE LEADERS – Who are they? And what do they do?

In July's newsletter, we shared information about the role of the two Deputy Head teachers. We felt it was important that parents understood the role they have within this very large primary school. In a school this size, the Deputies would be equivalent to Head teachers in smaller schools.

The Phase Leaders are a layer of the leadership which help run the school on a daily basis.

Currently we have four Phase Leaders and they are responsible for leading the phase for which they work. The phases contain 6 classes and so the Phase Leaders act as line managers for the staff within the phase. Again, in smaller schools these staff members would be the equivalent of Deputy Head teachers.

Mrs Hills, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Steward and Mrs Yates are our phase leaders.

Our Phase Leaders are very experienced and manage their teams extremely well. They also sit on the Senior Leadership Team along with myself (Head teacher), the Deputy Heads, the School Business Manager, Family Liaison Manager and the SENCO. When looking at the chart that shows who to report concerns and issues to, the Phase Leaders are next in line after the class teacher and the year group leader. They are more than well placed to handle your concerns. They teach and, therefore, know the children well but they also have leadership responsibility and so have the power to put things into place following any concern raised.



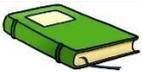
Children In Need 2018 – Friday 16th November 2018

You may remember my letter this time last year regarding the charity events the school supports. We felt it may be useful to reiterate the schools position on supporting charity events before we are bombarded with Parents asking while the children aren't coming to school in their pyjamas or why the children can't wear spots to school?

Across the course of an academic year there are a number of charity events that the school supports. There are also a number of themed days / weeks which naturally schools follow. All of these are extremely important but often quite expensive for families. They do also mean a day spent not following the curriculum.

For Children in Need this year, similar to last year, a giant outline of a Pudsey Bear will be drawn on the floor of the KS1 and KS2 playground. The challenge is to cover the entire space with SILVER coins! Last year we managed the complete the outline of three different sized bears. This year the aim is COVER just one bear in each playground. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could raid your silver jar and send your child into school on Children In Need day with the coins to add to the outline.

Again... we hope that by running the day like this parents are under less pressure. As parents you then have the choice to pledge during the actual show *if you want* to. There is no need to go out and spend extra money on items for this day (especially having Halloween and Fireworks night in the last couple of weeks). You may also have other charities which you support and would rather send your money in that direction.



Advanced warning – World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2019

We have avoided dressing up as book characters for the last two years on World Book Day. However, this year the children will be given the opportunity to dress up as book characters to mark this year's event. Why am I telling you so early? So that you can plan for this event and hopefully not have to spend too much on getting an outfit sorted. With Halloween in the next few weeks, you might just want to hold onto the witches outfit (The Worst Witch) or the skeleton costume (Funnybones) or the Harry Potter attire (Harry Potter).



Parents Forum minutes and next meeting

Parents joined me (Mr Fykin) for the first parent's forum of the year. There was little on the agenda and so the meeting was a chance to address concerns and issues raised by the parents who attended. Whilst the member of staff leading the meeting is in the spotlight for the entire meeting, it still remains a very useful and productive use of our time. Often Parents walk away feeling more confident as to why certain decisions have been made and any misconceptions about things that happen here at Rushmere Hall are addressed. Having information about why we do what we do can help immensely. From the outside, some of the decisions we make as a school can be baffling, having the explanation around it makes it much more obvious why we did what we did.

As always (brief) minutes of the meeting are stored on the website on the parent page for you to browse.

The next meeting takes place on **Friday 6th February 2019 at 2:30pm.**

If you are unable to attend but want us to discuss something in particular, please use the Parent forum form on the school website.



Change for SNACKS (Key Stage 2)

When providing children with money for playtime snacks please can you avoid using £5, £10 or £20 notes. There are a number of reasons why, but the two main reasons are:

1. The school kitchen does not hold huge amounts of change and, therefore, would not necessarily have change for a £5, £10 or £20 note.
2. Children can potentially lose their notes or their change (and that is a lot of change to lose).



War Centenary event at Rushmere Hall – Friday 9th November 2018

You may have seen the poppies and soldiers attached to the school gate that have been made by the children at Rushmere Hall.

To mark the centenary of the World War we have made an application for a temporary road closure permit for **Friday 9th November 2018** and it has been granted by Suffolk county Council. This road closure will take place from **10:00am** until **11:30am** and will affect Lanark Road and Angus Close.

A road block will be set up at each end of Lanark Road at **10:00am** by 'Suffolk Highways' and manned by two people at all times throughout the closure. During this time Lanark Road and Angus Close will be open to pedestrians only.

Our children will be lining up in the road in front of our poppies from **10:15am**, ready for our service of remembrance which will start at **10:40am** after which we will observe the two-minute silence, followed by the last post at **11.02am**.

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents to join us in what will be a special occasion for all.

May I ask you to be mindful of our children's safety and request that you do not take photographs during the service and that mobile phones are switched to silent throughout the service.



MYTH – How does the school choose which teachers teach which class? Is it dependant on which classroom they are in?

The decision as to which teacher depends on a number of factors. The classroom they were in currently has NO effect on who teaches the class in the following year. (It has been purely coincidental that the class based in the biggest Year 1 classroom have transferred to Mrs Dunne in Year 2).

The decision is complex and relies on a number of factors. Ultimately, the decision is based on ensuring the children get the best teaching for them. The teachers do not choose the year group and class they are allocated to. This is the decision of the Head teacher and the Deputy Head teachers who consider the different factors before allocating a class to a teacher.



EYFS & KS1 PARENTS – ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Please sign up even though you currently get them free! Read more below!

Universal Free School Meals

You only have to pick up a newspaper or watch ITN news to hear constant headlines about how schools are receiving less and less funding. We are affected by this, but also affected by the fact we were expanded to three-forms of entry by the Local Authority but still remain partially full. In some year groups, we are missing around £80,000 worth of funding where we have to be staffed for three class but have around 66 pupils in the year group. This is something that we have discussed with the Local Authority and something which we continue to work on. It is for this reason that 12 Teaching Assistants were made redundant in July 2017 and why another 6 staff members who left in July 2018 were not replaced.

For us, another source of income is money that the school receives for children who arrive from low income families. Pupil Premium funding was previously linked to Free School Meals, and in KS2 it is. However, in September 2015, the government announced that all state funded infant school children will receive a free school meal. That meant if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 from September 2014, you no longer were required to pay for school meals.

Previously, low income families were entitled to free meals under the old criteria and had to register their information. For every child that was registered the school received **£1,300** worth of additional funding; not to pay for school dinners, but to enhance the provision for children in the school.

Each year since the introduction of the initiative, the number of parents registering for free school meals has understandably declined as children are already entitled to Free School Meals under the new government initiative.

The decrease in the number of parents registering has made a massive impact on our budget and in turn will make a difference to the provision that we can offer.

Q - If my child's dinners are free anyway, why would I need to register?

We totally understand that any parent would question why they would need to register for Free School Meals when their child receives free school meals anyway! As explained above, the school receives additional funding for any child who is registered and this money is used to improve the provision the school offers for *all* pupils. As the school receives this extra funding, it is able to offer additional provision above the standard provision e.g. Specialist Music Teacher, Specialist P.E. coaches, additional booster groups and support.

Q – What are the school doing to try and increase the amount of people registering for Free School Meals entitlement?

Once registered, Parents can receive subsidised uniform, trips, music tuition for their child.

Q – Why are the school predominantly focusing on Infant classes?

The drop in parents applying for Free School Meal entitlement has been noticeable in the Infants. Parents may believe that there is little need for them to register their information as their child is already going to receive free meals.

Q – What about my child who may not be entitled to Free School Meal entitlement?

As mentioned above, for every child that is registered the school receives around £1300 to improve the provision and resources it provides. ALL CHILDREN benefit from this; regardless of whether they trigger funding or not. Therefore, the school is trying to do its best to trigger as much funding as it possibly can to improve provision for all children.

Q – How will I know if am eligible?

If your joint family income is less than £16,190 then you can apply.

Q- What do I do next if I am eligible?

Please contact Francesca Randell at the local authority...

Email: freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk

Telephone: 01473 260989

Thank you for your co-operation. This funding is vitally important to a school this size and so therefore we really do appreciate anyone who takes the time and energy to register.

Parents Evenings

Meet The Teacher Presentations 10th Sept **18** 2:50 - 3:30pm* (Class 5C,5CL & Year 6)
11th Sept **18** 2:50 - 3:30pm* (Years 1 & 2)
13th Sept **18** 2:50 - 3:30pm* (Year R)
14th Sept **18** 2:50 - 3:30pm* (Year 3 & 4 and Class 5H)
*Time adjustments from previous year

Meet The Headteacher & Deputy Heads

An opportunity to find out more about Mr Fykin, Mrs Rogers and Mr Smith. A chance to identify things the school is doing well and to tell us things that things that still need improvement. 12th Sept **18** 2:50 - 3:30pm

Parent Consultation Evenings

Autumn Term **18** (Years R to 6) 17th Oct & 18th Oct **18** 3:30 - 8:00 / 6:00pm
(3M & 4B - 16th & 18th)
Spring Term **19** (Years R to 6) 13th Feb & 14th Feb **19** 3:30 - 8:00 / 6:00pm

Open Night

(A chance to come in a look at your child's work over the year and a chance to say hello to your child's new class teacher for September -

NOTE:- this is not a Parents Evening.)

Release date for new classes... Monday 15th July - via newsletter

Summer Term Tuesday 16th July **19** 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Parent Forum

Autumn Term 1 Friday 12th October **18** 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Spring Term 1 Wednesday 6th February **19** 9:00am - 10:00am
Summer Term 1 Tuesday 7th May **19** 9:00am - 10:00am

Regular PTA events...

NEON Disco Friday 2nd November **18** Yr1-3 3:30pm - 5pm Yr4-6 5:30-6:45pm
Christmas Fete Friday 7th December **18** 3:45pm - 5:30pm
Surf Disco Friday 17th May **19** Yr1-3 3:30pm - 5pm Yr4-6 5:30-6:45pm
Summer Fete *REPLACED BY RushFEST2019* Friday 12th July **19** 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Sports Days

Nursery Friday 21nd June **19**
Reception Friday 28th June **19**
KS1 & Year 3 Thursday 4th July **19** 1:15 - 3:30pm @ Rushmere Hall
KS2 Thursday 4th July **19** 9:30 - 12:00pm @ Northgate Sports Centre

Reserve day in the event of bad weather for KS1 and KS2 will be set if needed. This will not take place at Northgate Sports Centre.

Productions

Year 1 Harvest Festival	Wednesday 10th Oct 18	2:30 - 3:30pm	
Year N Nativity	tbc		
Year R Christmas Concert	Friday 14th Dec 18	2:30 - 3:30pm	
Year 2 Christmas Production	Wednesday 12th Dec 18	10:00 - 11:00am <i>(performance for parents with toddlers)</i> Thursday 13th Dec 18	2:30 - 3:30pm <i>(No toddlers allowed)</i>
Music Concert	Monday 17th December 18	6:30pm - 8:00pm	
Year R Easter Production	Wednesday 3rd April 19	2:30pm - 3:30pm	
Spring Term Concert	Tuesday 2nd April 19	6:30pm - 8:00pm	
RushFEST2019	Friday 12th July 19	3:45pm - 5:15pm	
<i>Outdoor 'music festival style' concert on the school field with food, drinks and performances from multiple year groups.</i>			
Year 6 End of Year Production	Thursday 11th July 19	2:00pm - 3:30pm (P.M perf.) 6:30pm - 8:00pm (Eve perf.)	
Year 6 Graduation Ceremony	Tuesday 23rd July 19	2:15pm - 3:15pm	

Christmas Events

Christmas Fete	Friday 7th December 18	3:30 - 5:30pm
'Carols In The Classroom' Year 1	Tuesday 18th December 18	2:45 - 3:30pm
Christmas Craft Making afternoon	Friday 23rd November 18	2:00pm - 3:00pm 2:30 - 3:30pm RECEPTION CLASS
