



Rusper Primary School, Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4PR

Telephone: 01293 871272 Fax: 01293 871135

[office@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk)

[www.rusperprimary.eschools.co.uk](http://www.rusperprimary.eschools.co.uk)

Headteacher: Nick Avey (BEd Hons)

**Together we learn, together we succeed**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all.

### **January News**

2018 brings with it new incentives for improving experiences for pupils at Rusper. The common thread to all current plans is *"How do we better prepare our children for their future?"* This includes continuing to improve standards of teaching and learning to ensure they are best equipped for further learning. It also focusses on improving social opportunities, building self-esteem and confidence; and of course keeping them safe.

### **Collaborative Play**

Much recent parental feedback has led us to further consider the size of our school, and thus the limited opportunities pupils at Rusper have to build relationships and play effectively with others outside their immediate friendship group/class. Some Rusper pupils do not always enjoy positive play experiences. Occasionally, a pupil might find themselves on the periphery of a close-knit friendship group; lose self-esteem and in turn enthusiasm for school. This is something the school intends to address.

As one strategy to improve this, school leaders are currently planning a 'Collaborative Play' programme for lunch break times. This will see the oldest pupils (Hobbit) grouped to lead play for pupils of all younger ages. The 'Play leaders' will be responsible for resourcing and managing mixed age games, using all available resources. It is hoped this will

- Make play safer
- Enable pupils to develop levels of respectful behaviour (younger learning from older; older considering younger)
- Enable pupils to develop new relationships across the school
- Improve confidence and self-esteem for those pupils who don't always experience positive play times

### **Personal, Social, Health Education**

There are many social influences that can permeate the lives of young people today, which have negative effects on their development: from exposure to drug references /sexualised images in pop music; exposure to the self-image pressures / cyber bullying young people can experience when using social media; exposure to violence through gaming; disturbing news images; unfiltered internet searches etc

All parents work hard to protect their children from such things, but also to prepare them for and guide / support them through experiences as they occur.

Our school has a key role to play in children's social & emotional development and preparation for the future. School procedures need to prioritise child protection when accessing the wider world eg safer internet; but we also need to explain and teach appropriate responses to our pupils. As part of this, all elements of the school's PSHE policy has been updated and can now be found on the School Website, under the Curriculum Tab. There you will find the updated PSHE, Drug Awareness and Sex and Relationships Policies. You can also find a revised scheme of work for PSHE which shows the content of all future PSHE teaching.

It is important that we seek your consultation about such crucial aspects of the curriculum, and there will be opportunities for you to access the resources ahead of our teaching. The first opportunity will be for parents to look at the new SRE resources. SRE is planned to be taught in the summer term for all ages above Reception, in an age-appropriate way. Currently parents still have the right to request their child's withdrawal from this subject, so please do come and have a look at the resources when we run a workshop (either the end of this term or beginning of next).



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In the meantime, the government is currently consulting about revising the Department for Education policy on SRE. If you would like to research some of the current thinking or have your say please follow <https://consult.education.gov.uk/life-skills/pshe-rse-call-for-evidence/>

### **Maths Fluency**

This term, Rusper Primary aims to overhaul some its teaching approaches to maths. In particular we seek to improve pupil confidence with core number facts eg X Tables. In the way that phonics skills relate to reading proficiency, knowledge of multiplication/division facts is essential for mathematical competency. To this end, Mr. Snook is currently unveiling his vision for 'Maths Around The World' to the staff. In a nutshell, it involves daily games and exercises in number fact recall (at home as well as at school); and it comes with the incentive of country-hopping on a whole school map display, 'Maths Passport' stamping and whole school recognition of achievement.

There will be a grand launch with the pupils after half term; and then a workshop for parents. Please see the date below.

### **Notices**

#### **School**

#### **Nativity:**

Thank you to the parents who have provided valuable feedback following last term's Nativity at the Church. Concerns were raised that some parents were unable to see their children perform. These were valid points. Both the location of, and parental access to all future performances will be carefully considered ahead of the event.

#### **Reminder:**

Please can parents who wish to consult with a teacher make an appointment for after school at the office. It is a matter of both pupil safety and effective teaching that teachers are able to focus on the children once they have entered school. Also, any pupil related forms eg medical should be passed through Mrs Wickens or Mrs Pinder at the office. Thank you.

#### **Maternity Cover Teacher:**

We are pleased to announce that the school has successfully appointed Mr Edward Seagroatt as the stand-in teacher for Ms Oddie during her maternity. Mr Seagroatt comes with significant experience, excellent skills, humour, a caring & encouraging approach and an awareness of the importance of the role at Rusper. The pupils in Hobbit were overwhelmingly unanimous in choosing him. He will be set to join us before the end of the Spring Term. We wish him and the pupils in his care every success at Rusper.

#### **Uniform:**

Please could parents ensure that girls continue to wear their hair tied back with a narrow hair band only. Jo Jo Bows of any size are not permitted under the school uniform policy. Thank you.



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### **Dogs on site:**

There will be a secure hook fixed into the wooden gatepost (by the school entrance from the road). Once this has been added, parents will be notified, and we ask please could dogs be tied there rather than the fence near the inner gate. We ask that this be done out of respect for pupils on site who might be nervous of dogs. Thank you.

### **Playground Equipment**

You may be aware that the large climbing frame was condemned and taken down at the end of last term. This is now further limiting pupil play opportunities at school. We are planning to resurface the grassed area to the side of the playground where the climbing frame was located. Our vision is to then add a new climbing frame, two outdoor table tennis tables and possibly some outdoor exercise bikes / cross-trainers. This project will improve the play and exercise opportunities for all ages regardless of the weather. It will require approximately £20-25k to see this project through. The school will be working closely with the Rusper PTA, pooling available funding and making grant applications in order to make this happen for our children. Any local benefactors looking for a worthy project are encouraged to make contact with the school, where they will be warmly received ☺

### **New School Logo and School Clothing**

The new school logo at the top of this letter is now available on all forms of Rusper school uniform. Please ensure that any school garments bought from Taylor Made feature the new logo from now on. Thank you.

*Please see the dates below for information re upcoming school events*

### **Governors**

Have you ever considered becoming a school governor?

We have two parent governor vacancies coming up at Rusper. If you are interested, please keep an eye out for the relevant paperwork that will come to you via ParentMail.

The [role of the school governor](#) is very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community. School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Mr Avey is responsible for day-to-day management of the school and we as governors carry out the following three core functions as described in the Governor's Handbook 2017:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent

You do not need any qualifications to become a governor but what is really important is that you have the time and commitment to help drive school improvement and the passion and ambition to achieve the best possible education for the pupils at Rusper. You would need to make time to attend meetings, read reports and background papers before meetings, visit school during the day for monitoring purposes, take part in various panels where necessary and attend training courses. Training courses are provided by West Sussex and take place either during the day or in the evening.



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It is extremely worthwhile being a governor as you work as part of a team to make a difference to your school. It is very rewarding to know that you are contributing to the education of your child in a very positive way.

In the meantime if you have any questions, please email our Chair of Governors, Emma Worskett at: [eworskett@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:eworskett@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk).

We hope that you will give this some consideration because Rusper Primary School needs **YOU**.

### **PTA**

This term is going to be another fun but busy one for the PTA. We start with the next PTA meeting on Tuesday 23rd Jan 18:30 @school. We'll be discussing: what to spend funds raised on as well as future events - the kids valentines disco @village hall on Friday 9th Feb - the Comedy Night @village Hall on Thursday 15th Mar - the kids Easter Egg Trail @Ghyll Manor on Wednesday 28th Mar. If you want to get involved with making all this happen or running events on the day we'd love to hear from you. Why not come along to this weeks PTA meeting, send us an email to [pta@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:pta@rusper.w-sussex.sch.uk) or join us on [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com).

### **EVENTS**

<b>January</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup>		Clubs start
17 <sup>th</sup>		Swimming starts
22 <sup>nd</sup>	12:45pm	Lizzie Williams (British National Disabled Athlete) Assembly
23 <sup>rd</sup>	All day	KS1 'Wheels Day'
23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	PTA meeting
<b>February</b>		
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>		<b>HALF TERM</b>
19 <sup>th</sup>	All day	<b>INSET</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	All day	<b>INSET</b>
21 <sup>st</sup>	All day	'Maths Around The World' launch
26 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm	Maths Fluency Parent Workshop
<b>March</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	All Day	World Book Day
1 <sup>st</sup>	1:00 - 3:00pm	ASSH Tag Rugby @ St. Peter's, Cowfold
5 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoons	Bike ability for Y6
8 <sup>th</sup>		Horsham Dance Festival Rehearsal (1-3pm) Performance (7pm)
9 <sup>th</sup>	3:40pm	Boys Football Friendly v St. Peter's @ Rusper
12 <sup>th</sup>	4 - 6:30pm	Parents Meetings



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13 <sup>th</sup>	1-4pm	Horsham Tag Rugby Festival @ HRC
14 <sup>th</sup>	4 - 6:30pm	Parents Meetings
26 <sup>th</sup>	2:45pm	Rocksteady Concert
29 <sup>th</sup>	2:45pm	Easter Songs and Readings @ St. Mary Magdalene