



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

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

Headteacher: Nick Avey (BEd Hons)

**Together we learn, together we succeed**

13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the new term. Existing pupils have come back eager to learn and have settled into familiar routines quickly and effectively. Our new pupils are transitioning into school really confidently. Thank you to all parents and carers for the wonderful job you have done preparing your children for such a smooth start to the term.

This letter will provide updates and further new information. Again, to avoid overload, parents will be pointed to various sections of the school website, where relevant documents can be accessed and downloaded as required.

### **Event Dates**

There is a Calendar on the Rusper Primary website. It can be found as one of the main tabs at the top of the home page. Key dates to look out for before half term are

- Parents Meetings in school
- Census Day (where pupil attendance is essential)
- Lacrosse events for KS2 (see below)
- Flu vaccinations

Please do refer to the calendar regularly as it will be updated frequently with new dates. Changes to planned events will be avoided as far as possible. Parents will be notified of any essential event date changes.

### **Curriculum Development '21-'22**

We have a full programme of curriculum development at RPS this year which includes

- Improving our **Reading** resources and our teaching approaches across the school
- Developing our provision for teaching **PE**
- Developing our provision for teaching **RE**
- Developing our provision for teaching **Music**
- Further improving our provision for **pupils with additional needs**
- Further improving the way we support all pupils to promote positive **mental health**.

### **Curriculum Information**

The following documents can be found in the Curriculum section of the website.

- **Termly overviews** for the subject themes covered in each class this term
- Specific subject information under subject headings is being developed and added to the website all the time

**Homework** will be managed via Teams for pupils in Y1 – Y6. All pupil users are being set up in new class groups. The first homework for Y1 – Y6 will be set in w/c 20<sup>th</sup> September.



Find out more about  
returning to school safely at  
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**PE** Pegasus and Hobbit will have access to an additional **PE** opportunity during the Autumn Term. Horsham Sports Services will provide Lacrosse teaching to Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. These sessions will take place on **Fridays: 17<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November**. These dates are also on the website calendar. On these days please can Pegasus and Hobbit wear PE kit to school.

**Music** We aim to provide a range of instrument tuition again at Rusper beginning this term. A letter containing information on the range of available lessons will be published shortly.

**Clubs** A letter has already been sent out offering a variety of clubs this term. Please discuss the clubs on offer and please sign up if your child expresses an interest by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Clubs begin w/c 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **School Dinners**

As you are aware Pegasus and Hobbit classes are required to order their hot meals through 'Mealselector' online. Please can those ordering hot dinners update their child's details. We currently have children showing as the incorrect year group and class. As you can imagine, this can cause some confusion. We would be grateful if this could be corrected as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Attendance**

Following the enforced breaks in school attendance for many pupils during Covid lockdowns, it is really important that attendance is maximised for all pupils this academic year. Persistent absence can have significant negative impacts on pupil progress and in turn, future aspiration.

Last year, RPS had too many pupils with persistent absence (less than 90% attendance of the school sessions available). The laws surrounding pupil attendance at school marks 'persistent absence' as a **safeguarding** issue. Schools are legally required to act upon all safeguarding concerns by engaging parents and if necessary external agencies such as West Sussex 'Pupil Entitlement'; who in turn can instigate legal proceedings against parents if unauthorised absence becomes persistent.

Our aim this year is to reduce absence for the good of the pupils. However, since returning on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we have already seen several holiday requests, and some incidents of unauthorised absence – ie absence without legitimate reason.

Rusper Primary will be proactively monitoring and managing attendance throughout this year. As well as publishing positive attendance posters (please see the notice board outside main entrance), RPS will be monitoring attendance weekly, speaking with parents if attendance becomes a concern and making referrals to the relevant authorities if absence becomes persistent.

We ask that parents remind themselves of the Attendance Policy content – this is found on the school website under 'Policies' tab. Although the policy will be reviewed shortly and some school protocols may be adapted, the legal responsibilities of parents, plus the strategies for managing unauthorised attendance will remain largely the same.



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We sincerely appreciate all parental co-operation with school attendance; and with all other school matters mentioned above, and in general. Working effectively together for the good of the children is our collective aim. Thank you.

Kind regards

Nick Avey, Headteacher, Rusper Primary School



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