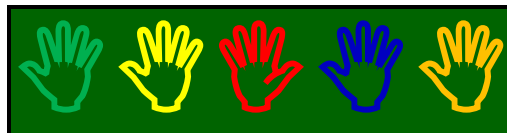


Rusper Primary School



Rusper, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4PR

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Head teacher's note

The most recent Department for Education research into parental engagement with schools states...

*Reported outcomes for pupils at schools, where the level of **home-school partnership** is judged as outstanding by OFSTED, include improved academic performance; improved relationships between parents, teachers and schools; and increased parental involvement in school – 'DfE RAPID REVIEW of PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT, 2013'*

Improving your involvement at Rusper Primary School is a matter of great importance because I too believe it can lead to improved pupil achievement. OK, there is a touch of JFK about this: "Ask not what your school can do for you, but what you can do for your school..." However, for parents to feel involved in school matters; be informed about teaching techniques; and be excited about collaborative learning events is not about doing the teacher's job for them (the standards of teaching at Rusper are good, and improving), it's about how hugely motivational and beneficial it can be for your child. So I would like to thank those parents who have followed up the report card from the Autumn Term with questions to the Rusper staff like 'What else can we do at home?' This bodes well for your children because it is likely that school and home support will be more in sync with each other and be more driven on the child's behalf. If you have unanswered questions from this report, please do raise them at the upcoming Parent/ Teacher meetings.

I would also like to thank those parents who attended the Behaviour Policy workshop in January. Among the feedback comments the school received was "This is so important and helpful. I can't believe there aren't more parents here!" Of course, it stands to reason that the slot provided wasn't convenient for some, but maybe there are other reasons that the school should consider in the future. If you wish to be more involved in parent workshops and school events, but face certain barriers, please take a moment to fill in the slip at the bottom of this letter, and return it to Mr. A via the school office. Thank you.

The next parent workshop offered by the school will be 'Understanding Phonics & The Song of Sounds'. Phonics is the foundation of successful reading and spelling, and it is incredibly important that your children receive consistent support at home and school in order for this bedrock to be firmly secure. THIS WORKSHOP IS A MUST FOR ALL **GRUFFALO & UNICORN** PARENTS; and it will be fun... Please see below for details.

Thank you, as always, for your time and continued support, NA

Key Dates

Tuesday 14th February	1:15pm - 3:15pm	<i>Y5 Transition activity – 'Billy Elliot' at Forest school</i>
Tuesday 14th January	3:40pm	<i>Song Of Sounds Phonics Workshop for all KS1 parents</i>
Monday 20th – Friday 25th February		<i>Half Term</i>
Monday 27th February – Friday 3rd March		<i>Book Week</i> (Please see separate schedule attached)
Monday 6th March & Wednesday 8th March	4:00pm – 6:30pm	<i>Parent Teacher Meetings</i>
Tuesday 7th March	6:45pm – 8:30pm	<i>Horsham Dance Festival at the Hawth, Crawley</i>
Tuesday 14th March	1:00pm – 4:00pm	<i>Tag Rugby tournament at Horsham Rugby Club</i> (spectators welcome)
Friday 17th March	1:00pm – 3:00pm	<i>ASSH Football tournament</i> (letter to follow)
Wednesday 5th April	tbc	<i>Easter Egg Trail at Ghyll Manor</i>
Friday 7th April	tbc	<i>Easter Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Rusper</i>
Monday 24th April	All day	<i>End of Term</i> <i>INSET DAY</i>
Monday 1st May	tbc	<i>Rusper Mayday Celebrations</i>

Notices

Neat & Tidy: Rusper primary has introduced two new incentives to encourage pupils to be more independent in looking after their own possessions and keeping all areas of the school clutter-free.

- Mr. A's Black Bag: a fun idea which involves Mr. A collecting things not put away properly. Pupils are required to then come and retrieve their trainers, gloves etc as they need them.
- The Golden Dustpan: a beautiful trophy awarded on a weekly basis to the tidiest classroom. It will hang on that class' door for the following week.

PTA Half Term Disco: Friday 17th February 5.15-6.30 in the Village Hall. Tickets are £3.50/child, available from PTA members in the playground and from the school office, all years welcome. There will be games, prizes and a tuck shop so bring your pennies!

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers: It's that time of year again when we are collecting the Active Kids Vouchers, please have a rummage in your handbag and drop your vouchers into the school office. Thank you.

Reminders

Healthy Eating and Drinking: All schools encourage this. The Rusper Healthy Eating policy ensures that clean drinking water is available to pupils at any point of the day through the water fountain. Pupils may also bring water in a bottle from home for drinking throughout the day. Pupils who have a packed lunch may bring a bottle of fruit squash to have as part of their lunch. Squash sent in from home should be zero sugar. Lunches should not include chocolate, fizzy drinks, sweets or nuts. If you have any concerns please see Mr. Avey. Thank you.

Pupil Absence: The school continues to monitor attendance figures and aims to reduce persistent or repetitive absence. Current policy requests that parents who wish their child/ren to be absent for a period should make an appointment to discuss this with Mr. Avey. The Rusper pupil absence policy is due for review.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Best wishes, Mr. A

Please read, complete and return to the office

I would like to attend more parent workshops and school events, but can find it difficult to do so because...

The time that would be most convenient for a workshop is (please circle)

9:00 am

3:30pm

After 6:00pm

Other (please state) _____