



Rush Green Primary School
Dagenham Road,
Romford,
RM7 0TL

'Strive to Succeed'

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*'Education is the most powerful
weapon to change the World.'*
Nelson Mandela

*'When you know better you do
better.'* **Maya Angelou**

January Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you had a good Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

We have another very busy term this term and I have briefly outlined some of the dates and upcoming events for you below:

New Way of Assessing Pupils (no More Levels)

The DFE have made drastic changes to the way that schools assess and have instructed all schools to remove levels and come up with their own systems for reporting to parents. We have worked with a large group of schools across London and Southend to develop our own system for measuring progress and we will be sharing this information in a series of information evenings for parents. **A separate letter will be coming out early next week to give you details of dates etc.**

Year 6 SATs Meeting for Parents

This month, we will be holding a meeting for parents of Year 6 children to explain how the SATs work and how we will be preparing your child for SATs week. This will be a **very important** meeting to attend, as we will be giving you lots of information that will support your child's learning at home. The DFE have made lots of changes and the SATs are very different this year. There are likely to be further changes ahead so even if you have attended SATs meetings in the past, it is important that you attend.

There will be a choice of a morning meeting (from 9.00am until 10.00am) or an evening meeting from 6.00 until 7.00pm. The meetings will be held in one of the upstairs Year 6 classrooms. **A separate letter will be coming out early next week.**

Free School Meals

Some of the funding schools receive is based upon eligibility for free school meals and the more eligible children that a school has, the more funding it will receive. At the moment it looks like our school will be worse off than previous years because many of our parents, who we believe are eligible, are not claiming free school meals. This could be partly because of the automatic entitlement to have free meals in year 1 and year 2 - after all, why apply for free school meals if you get them anyway? The difficulty with this, is that a large proportion of the budget we receive every year is based on the free school meal numbers that the Local Authority hold on its records. So if parents don't apply (even if their children receive infant free school meals), the school does not receive funding.



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As an incentive, we have agreed that Free School Meal pupils at Rush Green Primary do not have to pay for school trips (except for residential). Pupils in year 1 and 2 automatically have free school meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, but this is not based on financial circumstances at home. Pupils in the Universal Free School Meals scheme will not be entitled to free school trips and visits unless they meet the criteria set out below and are accepted by the borough as having Free School Meal entitlement.

Who can claim?

Claiming Free School Meals

If you are on a low income or receive Child Benefit and any of the following benefits, you could claim free school meals for your child:

- Child Tax credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Pension Credit (guaranteed credit)

You may qualify for Free School Meals for your child if:

- You are an asylum seeker
- Your combined income is £16,190 or less a year (this includes any benefits you are receiving)
- You live outside Barking and Dagenham but meet the previous criteria and your child is attending a school in the borough
- Your only or main income is one of the benefits listed over the page

Unless your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2, you will not qualify for free school meals for your child if:

- Your combined income is more than £16,190 a year (this includes any benefits you are receiving)
- You live in Barking and Dagenham but your child attends a school outside the borough (you would need to claim from the local authority the school is in)
- You receive Working Tax Credit

Please follow the link below to complete the form

<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/financial-support-for-pupils-and-students/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>



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Year 6 Runners

Several of our year 6 pupils and their parents competed in the St Francis Hospice Santathlon before Christmas. The children completed the 5km race in good time and raised lots of money for this fantastic cause. Well done!

School League Tables and Published Data

I am very pleased to report that we achieved record results in the end of primary school SATS tests (2015). Rush Green Primary School compares very favourably against local and national results and has been ranked 7th of 53 schools in Barking and Dagenham (average points score). This is something that all stakeholders should be proud of and is something that we aspire to repeating and improving upon. Congratulations is extended to all children and staff for their hard work. Well done!

http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/group.pl?qtype=LA&superview=pri&view=aat&set=3&tab=2&no=301&sort=ks2_15.taps&ord=desc

Mid Ofsted Review

Last term, we were audited by a team of consultant Ofsted Inspectors who rated the school as GOOD with elements of OUTSTANDING. Clearly we are moving in the right direction!

Building Works and Playground Development

As you can see, the building works to the front of the school are moving along very quickly and next week the roof will go on. The works are on schedule and we expect the works to be completed before the Easter break. Thank you for your patience.

This week the playground development begins and the first instalment of new play equipment will be fitted from Wednesday onwards. Both playgrounds will have equipment fitted and we expect the works to take at least 2 to 3 weeks. Part of each playground will be cordoned off but the children will still be able to use them. Please do encourage your child to respect the fencing arrangements and not play in areas where it may be unsafe to do so.

Mobile Phone App

237 out of 360 families downloaded a new communication application which has been trialled in the infants. The app allows quick notification and instant download of messages, letters and calendar dates, which allows you to add dates etc straight to your personal phone diaries. Due to the success of this application, we will be rolling it out to the whole school over this half term.



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Term Dates & Inset dates for next academic year - 2016/17

Thursday 1st September 2016	Start of School Year
October 24th – October 28th 2016	Half Term
Tuesday 20th December 2016	Last day of Autumn Term
Wednesday 4th January 2017	First day of Spring Term
February 13th - February 17th 2017	Half Term
Friday 7th April 2017	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 24th April 2017	First day of Summer Term
Monday 1st May 2017	May Day holiday
May 29th – June 2nd 2017	Half Term
Thursday 20th July 2017	Last day of the School Year

INSET DATES:

1st and 2nd September 2016

Children return to school on Monday 5th September 2016

Remainder of Inset dates for that year to follow

Diary Dates (more to follow during the term):

Tuesday 19th January	Bedtime stories for Nursery/YR 5-5.30pm
Friday 12th February	Last day of Half term – non-uniform day (£1)
Monday 15th Feb to Friday 19th Feb	School Closed for Half Term
Monday 22nd Feb	Return to school
Thursday 24th March	Last day of term
Friday 25th March – Friday 8th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 11th April	Return to school

Thank you all for your support.

Best wishes,

Simon Abeledo

(Head Teacher)



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