



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fantastic first half term where children settled into their classes, spent time building relationships and getting used to routines and expectations. We have focused on building consistency over the last few years and this aids and supports transitions from year to year. Our new teachers (Miss Ablett, Miss Andrew and Miss Smith) have enjoyed settling into our school.

We need your help!

We have vacancies for relief school cleaners (who can work on a temporary basis when required) and lunchtime assistants. Please see the link below together with the job description and person specification for lunchtime assistants. The jobs will be advertised soon on Jobtrain:

<https://www.jobtrain.co.uk/iomgovjobs/vacancies.aspx>



Please can I ask parents to remind their child/ren to be careful online. We have spent a lot of time in school this term so far, solving issues from outside school regarding falling out on social media. Just a reminder that there is a recommended age when children should be using apps like 'whats app' and 'snapchat' etc., which can range from 13 years to 16 years. The reason for this is that older children are more emotionally ready to deal with any issues that may arise. You may wish to consider this and to access the safer school's app for support and advice.

In order to follow up from the parent meetings that took place in September, with information that you can access easily and at any time, please go to our school website and the tab, 'Learning at Rushen'. Along with a brief introduction about 'what we do around here', you will also find:

- Class curriculum overviews for the autumn term
- Our 6Rs and Jigsaw (PSHE - Personal, Social, Health & Emotional) overview
- RPS Learning Muscles
- Information about academic assessment and moderation process
- How to Help at Home information sheet for English (from EYFS through to Level 5)

- [How to Help at Home information sheet for Mathematics \(from R through to Year 6\)](#)

This link will take you to the 'Learning at Rushen' section of our school website:

<https://rushen.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/66/Learning%20at%20Rushen>

Take care,
Ms Owens,
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Don't forget: Friday 3rd November 2023 -Toast Day and Hop Tu Naa

Please bring 50p for toast and dress up in a traditional Manx costume as we celebrate Hop Tu Naa...you could be Jinny the witch, a broomstick, the Moodey Doo, a cat, a mouse – be as creative as you can. We are proud to celebrate 'everything Manx' and Hop Tu Naa, an old unbroken tradition going back many, many years...Bring your carved moot to display...

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - poppies/wristbands/pencils etc. will be on sale at school from **Monday 6th November**. Year 6 will visit all classes to sell poppies/stationery/wrist bands etc. There are no set prices, but if your child would like to purchase an item in support of the Poppy Appeal, please could they bring a donation to school next week. There are limited supplies of each item. Thank you for your support.

Wednesday 8th November

- **IOMFA Girls Fun Football Festival at the Bowl**

Monday 13th November

- **World Kindness Day**

Children in Need – Friday 17th November - this year's official theme is **SPOTACULAR** and children should come to school wearing bright multi-coloured clothes (with spots, if possible) and any 'Children in Need' themed accessories/clothes, for a donation to this charity.



Christmas Performances - Dates and Times

12/12/23 KS1 Christmas performance 14.00
13/12/23 KS1 Christmas performance 10.00
13/12/23 Year 5/6 Christmas performance 14.00
14/12/23 Year 5/6 Christmas performance 09.30
14/12/23 Year 3/4 Christmas performance 14.00
15/12/23 Year 3/4 Christmas performance 09.30

We are looking forward to you joining us for the Christmas performances. We will not be issuing tickets - there will be sufficient seating available for two family members per child to attend each performance. If you are bringing babies or toddlers, please would you take them out of the hall if they are disturbing the performance. Thank you for your support.

Everyone a learner...

The children have been enjoying their learning across a number of curriculum areas to focus on their skills, knowledge and understanding. Lessons include an approach called 'split screen thinking', where the children are learning 'something' while at the same time identifying 'how' they will learn using the Learning Muscles in order to achieve the 6Rs which are the learning dispositions. All of our learning encourages independence, resilience and the attitude of a growth mindset. Children take some responsibility for their own learning and become learners who will be able to use the skills they are developing, throughout their lives.

Everyone a leader...

We have been encouraging the children to develop their leadership skills and responsibility in lessons as well as outside the classroom. In the classroom, classes have monitors, some have managers of resources and all children have responsibilities. Other responsibilities include being the class photographer or a buddy. Some of the children have volunteered or applied for extra responsibilities such as to be a librarian or as a member of school council and all Y6 pupils get a chance to be a prefect.

School Photographs

Our school photograph morning went very well. Thank you for your understanding in letting the secondary school pupils have their photos taken first (this meant they could still be on time for school), as well as allowing families with children with additional needs to go first. The children were all very well behaved while waiting for their photographs to be taken and our photographer, Mr Morrison, again commented on this, this year. The siblings collected each other and checked each other's uniform and hair etc. They were lovely together! I would like to thank Mr Morrison again because he worked hard to prepare the photographs quickly.

As you can imagine, it is sometimes challenging to get the children to smile properly and to pose when needed. If you require a re-sit for those who were absent on the day, or you would like a re-sit for any reason, there are two more opportunities available at Morrison Photos Studio, Tynwald Street, Douglas, on **Saturday 4th November and Saturday 11th November. 9.30 – 13.30.** No appointment is necessary.

Curriculum linked visits

The Y5/6 visit to 'Victorian Schooldays at the Old Grammar School' in Castletown was enjoyed by all and much was learned!



I was so proud to receive the following email from Jo at Manx Heritage and I wanted to share it with you all:

Good morning Suzanne,

I just wanted to let you know how wonderful the children of Rushen School were who came to visit us at the Old Grammar School in Castletown during the last 2 weeks.

All 3 classes were amazing. The children were polite and respectful from the moment they arrived. They dressed up in our costumes without fuss, and immersed themselves in playing the part of Victorian school children ready to learn their 3Rs! Their behaviour was impeccable.

They were a delight to teach, and a real credit to your school. The teachers and adults were fabulous too!

Kind regards,

Jo

Jo Dalglish

Learning Support Officer

Education Services

The children said:

"The people were very kind and friendly and taught us about the Victorians"

"The activities were life-like and let us feel like we were really in Victorian times"

"It was fun to learn about what Victorian children did in school"

"I enjoyed the PE the most because there were lots of challenging things we did, catching, throwing and spinning!"

"I enjoyed doing cross stitch which we had to do independently, without a teacher helping you"

Rebecca and Fletcher Y5 and Y6

STEMfest

Y6 visited STEMfest Isle of Man, which was based at the Villa Marina. When the children arrived, they were given lanyards and a bag of 'goodies' with a water bottle and pencils in.

Hundreds of children attended the event which was based in the main room at the Villa Marina and in other smaller rooms. Each room represented a letter from STEM – Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. The children visited different stalls which had activities based on STEM. One of the challenges included trying to build the highest tower out of wooden blocks – it wasn't easy! Another challenge was where the children dressed up in builder outfits and they had to build a bridge. It was fun and we really enjoyed the day and we learned a lot too!

Olive and George Y6





Y6 Cycling Proficiency Training

Y6 have enjoyed learning how to ride their bicycle safely on the playground and on the road. This is so important, especially as the nights get dark early at this time of the year. Hopefully they will remember to wear reflective gear to ensure they are seen while riding their bikes.





Visitors

Manannan and Orry Class Visitor

On Tuesday 26th September, we were very grateful to Mrs Gill from St John's Ambulance, who visited Manannan and Orry classes to talk to the children about First Aid, which linked well to our science topic on 'humans and how bones grow'. We thoroughly enjoyed using our listening, noticing and imitating muscles when learning how to apply a bandage, support a broken arm in a sling and a leg with blankets and a splint. Many perceptive comments were made and technical questions asked, demonstrating new skills and knowledge acquired by the children. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Gill for her time and expertise in inspiring the pupils to be future paramedics, nurses and doctors!





Communication

So far this term there have been many opportunities to receive information about our school, what is happening and what is planned, which has been communicated in a variety of ways, for example via email, through our website and in person. These have included:

- Newsletters
- Learning at Rushen information
- Reading at Home information
- Letter-join website information
- 'Meet the teacher' meetings

Thursday morning meetings – please contact your Class Teacher for an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's progress or well-being. The Class Teacher may contact you to arrange a meeting. Please also see your teacher after school on days where teachers do not need to attend staff meetings.

Manx, Sport and Recreation (MSR)/After School Clubs

Every Wednesday and Thursday this year, we have a coach from the MSR team in school. Mr Delaney is currently taking our classes for PE on both days.

An after school Hockey Club was offered to our Year 3/4 pupils prior to half term, led by our MSR coach. The children thoroughly enjoyed the club. This half term Mr Delaney is running a Badminton Club for Year 4/5/6 pupils and a Year 2 Football Club will start next week (details have been emailed to Year 2 families today).

Please collect children from the front door/main school entrance at 4.25pm following an after-school club.

Pupil Information

Please ensure that emergency numbers, consents etc. are up to date on the Arbor Parent Portal and that you amend these when necessary so that we are able to contact you.

School Meals

For those who pay half termly, school meals will cost £96.00 from half term until the Christmas holiday, or £12.00 per week. Please would you credit your child's ParentPay account with any outstanding dinner money immediately. Meals should be paid for in advance via ParentPay.

We currently have several pupils in school who are severely allergic to nuts. All our school dinners are nut free, however, we would ask that you do not include nuts or nut-based products in packed lunches for any pupil, this includes Nutella, for example. For those who are severely allergic, anaphylaxis may be triggered by being in close proximity to nuts/nut products. Thank you for your support.