

Rushen Primary School Newsletter January 2024

This newsletter serves as a method for ensuring clear communication as well as a record and history of our school.



January 10th 2024, RPS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic start to the spring term at Rushen Primary School. The children are happy and focused on being learners. Classes have started new themes, and the children are motivated to find out about new things, to learn and improve their skills, knowledge and understanding. Children spend time applying what they have learned and solve problems. I have had several meetings with groups of Year 5/6 pupils at their request, asking to run clubs for pupils, at lunchtime. They spoke confidently and were enthusiastic and keen to explain about their plans. They worked collaboratively to organise their ideas and listened to advice as they adapt their plans. ‘Everyone a leader’, in action! We are so proud of all members of our RPS team.



This month I have organized the Newsletter into our four, ‘vision in action’ focuses:

EVERYONE A LEARNER

EVERYONE A LEADER

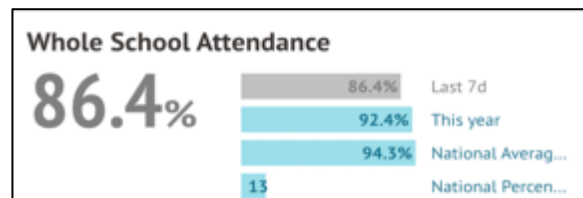
RELATIONSHIPS

COMMUNITY

Attendance

It is very important that pupils are in school every day, so that they can focus on their learning. We have recently had a lot of absence, some of that due to illness (understandable with the recent bugs) and some due to families taking holidays in term time. Other absence is known as “persistent absence”. Parents can check their child’s attendance through Arbor. If you need any support with attendance, please contact your child’s class teacher.

As you can see from the table the school average is 92.4% this year since September and each child should aim for 97%.



It has been lovely to talk to so many parents, carers and families since we returned to school and to hear how well their children are doing. Please remember, we are always here to help and to work in partnership. When things do go wrong, we also work together to support each other and resolve situations. We are looking forward to the rest of the academic year as we have new themes and topics, visitors, theme weeks, sponsored events, mental health and well-being activities and lots of exciting opportunities.

Your support is much appreciated as always, take care, Ms Owens, Headteacher

Coming up...

Date	Event
5 th – 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Thursday 8th February	'Dress in Green Day' - £1 in support of Isle Listen
26 th Feb – 1 st March	Money Week
6 th March	Ben-my-Chree Assembly and Stay & Learn Session 9am
7 th March	World Book Day -dress up as your favourite character from a book and bring the book if you can
4 th – 8 th March	RNLI Week
13 th March	Peveril Class Assembly and Stay & Learn Session 9am
21 st March	Spring Fair and Bake Off
27 th March	Manannan Class Assembly and Stay & Learn Session 9am

'Mental Health and Well-Being Week'



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

5th – 11th February 2024

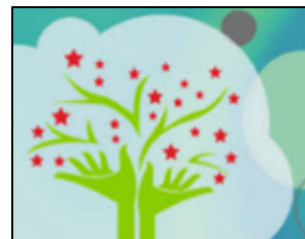
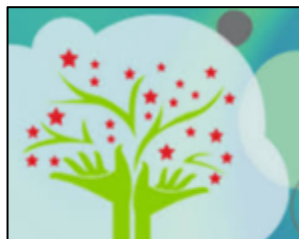
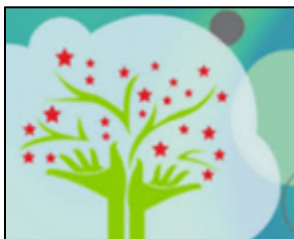
During the week the children's learning will have a focus on the importance of mental health, with the theme of 'My Voice Matters'.

Assembly with Isle Listen

'Dress all in Green' Day

Thursday 8th February

Donations of £1 in support of Isle Listen



Everyone a Learner

6Rs

This half term's 6R focus is 'Resilience':

- ★ I keep going until I find the answer to a question.
- ★ I like to hear what people say about the things I have done.
 - ★ I find other people's advice helpful and useful.
- ★ If I cannot work out how to do something one way, I'll try a different idea.
 - ★ I am prepared to take risks.
 - ★ I learn from my mistakes.

Class Assembly Hutchinson Class



Brilliant Britain

Hutchinson Class took us back in time to find out about the past. They told us about some things that haven't changed like washing hands and keeping clean, while some things were very different. They told us about schools with large numbers of pupils in a class where children sat in rows and in silence, whereas we encourage collaboration and motivate pupils with interesting learning opportunities.

The class spoke in loud voices so everyone in the hall could hear and included a few jokes! The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning and the audience was very impressed. The children were confident, and we could tell they really enjoyed their learning.



Teachers - Everyone a Learner, a learning community

The Teachers have a meeting each week where they focus on learning about learning and teaching. We are focused on helping every single pupil achieve their potential, make good progress and attain highly.



Learning in Tynwald Class

Hot seating - In Literacy we did some hot seating when exploring characters in 'The Fantastic Mr Fox'. The children had a chance to be in role as the interviewer and a character from the story.

Jake: I enjoyed the hot seating. I liked being Mr Fox.

Tristan: I liked answering hard questions in the role of Mr Fox.

Thomas: I feel like I know the character of Mr Fox better after hot seating.

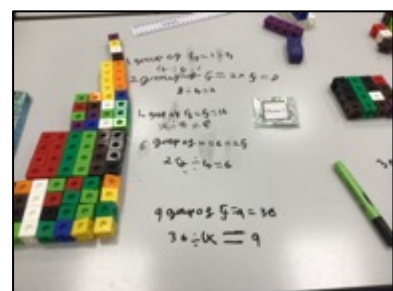
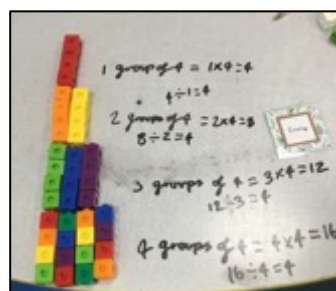
Rose: I liked being the interviewer. I asked Mr Fox some tough questions!



PE In PE we have been balancing. We have learnt how to balance on 4, 3, 2 and 1 points. We have also learnt how to balance whilst in pairs, balancing against a partner and supporting our partner's weight.



Maths We have been learning our times tables in maths. We have been looking at factor pairs and the inverse of multiplication.



School Library



'I walked past the Library earlier this half term and I came across Maitland Class in the Library. I was so impressed with their focus on reading and on enjoying books.' Ms Owens



Everyone a Leader



Two of our pupils, Holly and Elise, recently took part in a swimming gala in Leeds. They are so committed to their swimming that they practise several times a week and were chosen to represent the Island. We are very proud of them. Well done!

We also have several other pupils who attend swimming clubs and are very proficient at swimming. All of these pupils demonstrate resilience and are good role models for other pupils. They show how, through commitment and focus, they can achieve great things.

Some of these pupils also demonstrate their leadership skills by supporting other pupils in improving their swimming each week during school swimming lessons.

Toast Day

Our School Council took a lead with our toast day at the end of January. They did an excellent job, collaborating to organise the making, the buttering and the delivering of toast to the pupils. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the toast!

We made £70 to put towards School Fund.



We would like to thank our wonderful 'Friends of Rushen' parents who came to support our School Councillors.

Relationships

Anti-Bullying Week

We began and ended our anti-bullying week with an assembly. Each class undertook learning about bullying. This year's theme was 'Make a Noise About Bullying'. Click the link to read all about the theme and watch the video:



<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/school-resources/primary-school-pack>



Rushen Primary School Anti-Bullying Leaflets

Learning and Growing

We work together to help build confidence, develop social skills, create a sense of worth as an individual and as part of a community.

At our school children see themselves as part of a community, that they are responsible for their own choices and actions.

We value each other and always speak the truth.

Our aim is for all children to develop empathy and to manage how to react to their feelings.

Supporting children to form and maintain positive relationships through a restorative approach is...

'What we do around here'.

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Rushen Primary School

A child friendly Anti-Bullying Leaflet

What is Bullying

Bullying is when someone hurts someone else by using behaviour which is meant to hurt, frighten or upset another person. This behaviour is repeated frequently.

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- Physical:** Punching, pushing, kicking, spitting, hitting, pushing
- Verbal:** Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, abuse and threats
- Emotional:** Hurting people's feelings, leaving you out, demanding things by threat or force
- Cyber:** saying or sharing unkind things by text, email and online

Bullying

Bullying is something that happens several times on purpose.

At Rushen Primary School we always take bullying seriously.

Several Times On Purpose

What will school do?

We will all work together to **STOP** bullying. We want our school to make everyone feel safe and happy. Bullying can make people feel frightened and unhappy.

To deal with bullying in our school, we will help everyone:

- To get on well together
- To respect and understand each other
- To believe that everyone has the

BULLYING IS NEVER OK!

What can you do?

In our school we do not accept any sort of bullying. If you think you are being bullied you should tell a **teacher or adult in school, a parent/carer or trusted friend.**

START TELLING OTHER PEOPLE

Do...

- Use eye contact and tell them to stop.
- Ignore them.
- Walk away.
- Act as though you don't care what they say or do.
- Remember it is NOT your fault and you are NOT alone.

Don't...

- Do what they say.
- Look upset or cry.
- Get angry.
- Hit them.

What if you see someone else being bullied?

Don't...

- Walk away and ignore the bullying.
- Stay silent.

Do...

- Tell someone who can help.
- Tell the bully to STOP if it is safe to do so.

Anti-bullying week at Rushen Primary School

The children enjoyed 'making a noise about bullying' during our anti-bullying week this term. We celebrated what makes us unique, looked at what bullying is, practised being kind and giving compliments and learnt when banter can become bullying. We look forward to continuing to use what we learnt throughout the rest of the school year. Here are some photos and quotes from our learning this week.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



Ben my Chree

We looked at Elmer the elephant. We learnt that it's ok that everyone is different and likes different things. We use our words to help us understand what we are thinking and that it's great to have a group of friends, so there are different friends to do different things with.

Viking Class

Viking

In Viking Class we had discussions about what a good friend looks like and how we can be kind friends to everyone in our school. We spoke about how we could help someone if they looked sad or worried. We also spoke about that everyone is different, and this makes our school a special place to be.



Key Stage 1



Manannan

We extended our learning about being unique and different by identifying odds/evens, finding our matching pair and wrote about what bullying means to us and how we might help someone who is being bullied.

Bullying is being unkind and doing it over and over again.

Bullying is when you hurt someone repeatedly.

I would tell the bully to stop and ask if the person being bullied was ok.

I would tell the teacher.

Orry

Orry Class collaborated with Fenella Class to make posters to stop bullying.

Bullying is doing mean things to someone every day.

Bullying is saying mean things all the time.

Bullying is hurting people's feelings all the time.

Bullying is kicking, hitting and judging someone on how they look.

Be kind to a bully, as they may then stop being a bully.



Lower Key Stage 2



Fenella

Fenella Class collaborated with Orry Class to make posters to stop bullying.

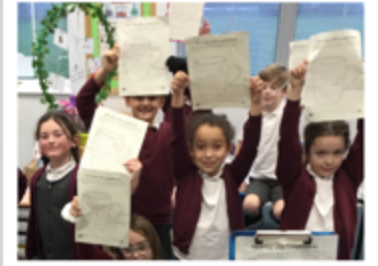
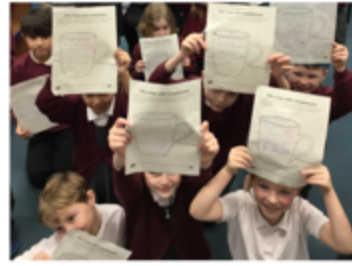
I have learnt that bullying can have a big effect on people.

Tell an adult when something happens online, that makes you upset.

Tynwald

Tynwald Class gave each other compliments and discussed how happy this made them feel. They challenged themselves to compliment people at home and in school.

I liked reading the nice things people said about me.



Peveril

Be a buddy, not a bully!

Make a noise about bullying means to tell someone you are being bullied so they can help stop it.

Tell an adult if you know someone is being bullied, or you are being bullied.

Upper Key Stage Two

PC Greg and PC Loader came in to school to deliver a session on banter vs bullying.

We learnt a lot from this session, and we were surprised by how quickly banter can turn in to bullying.



Maitland

After learning about banter vs bullying, Maitland Class decided to give each other compliments. We wrote our names on a piece of paper and really enjoyed reading what our classmates had written about us.

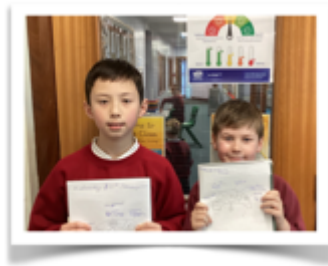


Hutchinson

Hutchinson Class learnt about the different types of bullying. We were given different scenarios to read and had to offer advice on what to do.

I learnt about emotional bullying. Things like hiding people's things or ignoring them, and the impact this can have on someone.

Verbal bullying can hurt other people's feelings and may lead them to want to change things about themselves.



Community

Year 5 visit to Government House



On the 30th January we visited the Lieutenant Governor's house (who is the King's representative on the Isle of Man) on behalf of the school which was a privilege. The staff welcomed us warmly into the Great Hallway where the Governor met us and introduced them all, before taking us round the downstairs rooms.

When we went into his office, he said that his pile of books was his horizontal library. Although in the past he said he had a long commute to work, now it was a

10 second walk downstairs and sometimes he even got dressed first.

As we walked round, we noticed that most rooms had chandeliers hanging from the ceiling.



One of the most

interesting rooms was the Billiards / Library Room where there was a large snooker table and numerous old books on bookcases, which were very expensive and kept tidy.



The Dining Room had a table which had seats set for 16 people, each place had three forks, two spoons, two knives and 4 glasses. In the middle of the table were two silver birds which we believe to be ravens or pheasants, alongside these were two expensive looking candelabra. Around it on the walls were paintings of past kings and queens, with King George III being the largest one covering nearly the entire

wall.

In the cloakroom there were many different hats hanging on deer antlers up on the wall, as well as a rail for coats and two bathrooms. Evan saw some coins which were the brand-new coins with the King's head on. Oscar wondered why there was a large bell in the hallway, it was the bell from the HMS Manxman which had been in the Battle of Trafalgar. Chayton remembered that a tree had been planted in the garden that was the King's tree for him to add to when he visits. We didn't get to see his bedroom which really confused us, we know this was because this was his own private space. Louis remembered that the floor in the Reception Room was sprung for dancing on.

Everybody had juice in posh glasses, but we were surprised when they brought out homemade chocolate chip cookies too. They tasted delicious as they were still slightly warm.

We went into the Lieutenant Governor's Garden where he had a rose garden, which had been named after Queen Elizabeth's II Aunt. In the garden there were metal pheasants, some were quite rusty because they had been outside for a long time, we don't know why they left them outside.

We had a wonderful time, and we hope to go again to an event in the future, such as a garden party or when the wildflower meadow is in full bloom.

Written by Evan, Isaac, Chayton, Fraser, Elana, Maisie, Louis, Oscar from Maitland Class.



Manx Youth Games 2024

SPORTING CLUB MANX YOUTH GAMES



Our MSR Coach, Mr Delaney, led an assembly telling the children all about the Manx Youth Games. His message was, 'take part and try something new'. Click the link below to watch the video.

<https://msr.gov.im/sdu/sporting-club-manx-youth-games/>

This year the Sporting Club Manx Youth Games will be held on

Saturday 11th May 2024

The Sporting Club Manx Youth Games is the biggest multi-sport event for children on the Isle of Man which attracts over 1000 participants in 13 different sports. It is open to children in school Years 2 - 10. The programme offers young people the opportunity to try new sports or activities from January until the games and encourages participants to continue with sport throughout the year.

If you have any questions or would like any more information, please contact Gareth Lloyd on gareth.lloyd@gov.im.



Community Partnerships

Our Specialist Provision Centre staff work in partnership with the Occupational Therapists.



Care Home Competition

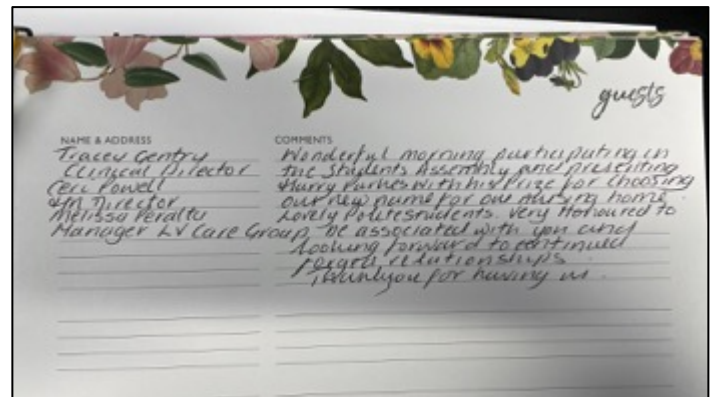
A local care home contacted school and asked us to take part in a competition to name their new care home. Following a lot of careful thought, pupils submitted their suggestions, and one was chosen. 'Bradda View Nursing Home' was suggested by Harry (Y6). The care home representatives came and did an assembly and gave Harry a prize and the school received a £100 voucher for WH Smiths. We would like to thank them for this generous donation, and we look forward to working in partnership with them in the future.

Well done Harry!





The visitors wrote a lovely message in our visitor's book about how much they enjoyed their visit and how impressed they are with our school.



Year 6 Transition

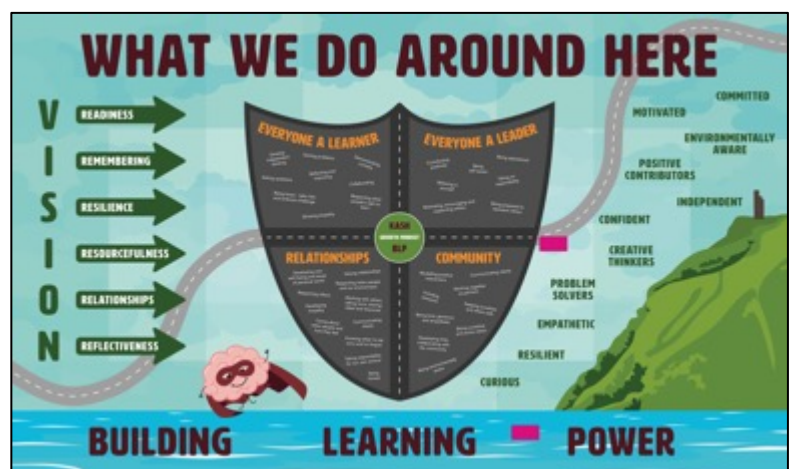
Year 6 recently went to a meeting at Castle Rushen High School with their parents and carers to begin the transition programme. We have already started talking to our Year 6s about their move to high school. If they have any questions or worries it is important that they share those with their teacher, so that we can answer them and support them. Our Year 6s will be ready for their move. At Rushen Primary School our focus on learning and learning to learn (Learning Muscles) prepares children for the move. We encourage independent learning and developing responsibility through our 'everyone a leader' focus. Our restorative approach, high expectations and how we value positive relationships, encourages children to make good choices and to relish responsibility. The children will have lots of skills in their toolkit as they move forward with their learning.

New Starters/EYFS Transition

Our teachers work closely with local nurseries, building links and will be making visits to meet our new starters. We are also holding an open morning where the families of new starters are invited to visit our school, undertake a tour, and meet the team, the date to be confirmed.

What we do around here...

'What we do around here... at Rushen Primary School' is how we work towards our vision and is based on what we, (pupils, staff, Governors and the whole school community) believe is important to us. We focus on 'learners' and 'leaders', relationships and community. It is about what we aspire to and the sort of people and learners we want to be, and it explains what we do to demonstrate this on a day-to-day basis.





We have included photographs which show the children demonstrating 'What we do around here...'. The children have given quotes to show how we are learners and how we use our learning to learn skills – Learning Muscles.

Parents' Meetings

Please continue to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, if you wish. We aim to meet parents about once a term and more if necessary. Please send an email to book an appointment or speak to your child's teacher.

We hope this approach to meeting the teacher is helpful. Parents can make an appointment to either see the teacher in person or to make a telephone appointment. Each appointment lasts about 15 minutes and will give you plenty of time to discuss your child's progress, learning and behaviour. We feel this is a much more personal approach and allows more time for you.

Newsletters and school-home communication

Just a reminder that we have communicated with parents in a variety of ways this academic year. Newsletters are sent home each month with comprehensive information, record of events, etc. Thank you again for the continued positive feedback regarding the Newsletters, which are a lovely record of what the children have learned and experienced. Parents are also provided with a class curriculum overview for the term, which some enjoy sharing with their children. Don't forget that Thursday mornings are available for parent appointments to see the class teacher. If you need to speak to the class teacher (who is the first contact) and are unable to meet after school, please telephone and leave a message and teachers will get back to you.

Dinner Money

Dinner money must be paid for in advance. Please would you check your Parent Pay account regularly to ensure it is in credit.

***School will close for half term at 3.30pm on Friday 16th February 2024.
School will re-open at 8.45am on Monday 26th February 2024.***