



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



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

February 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a good half term break and managed to spend some family time together.

I would like to thank the parents and carers of our new September starters 2024. We have had a very well attended transition meeting where we introduced our school, talked about some things that could be done at home to prepare your child for school, a chance to view our Early Years Foundation Stage video and a tour of the school which the attendees thoroughly enjoyed. I was so proud to show them our school, staff and pupils.

This month I have organised the Newsletter into our four, 'vision in action' focuses:

EVERYONE A LEARNER

EVERYONE A LEADER

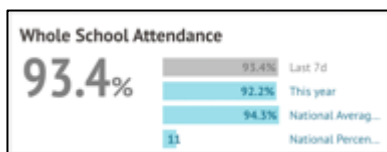
RELATIONSHIPS

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 92.2% this year since September and each child should aim for 97%.



Have a look at the graphic on the right which says that if a pupil takes a two-week holiday in term time, then the maximum attendance can only possibly be 94.7%.

Take care and thank you all for everything you do to support our wonderful school.

Ms Owens, Headteacher

Good Attendance means...
Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

Remember
Education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?
A two week holiday in term-time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 94.7%

190 School days in each academic year 0 days absence	184 Days of education 7 days absence	171 Days of education 19 days absence	161 Days of education 29 days absence	152 Days of education 38 days absence	142 Days of education 48 days absence
100% attendance	97% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance
WELL DONE	I'M CONCERNED	SERIOUSLY WORRIED			
A good attendance gives you the best chance for success	A poor attendance gives you less chance of success	Very poor attendance has a serious impact and reduces life chances			

Did you know?
When pupils attend school they:

- Can achieve their full potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

Rushen Primary School
Headteacher: Ms Owens

Coming up...

Date	Event
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
15 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day – Dress in red
21 st March	Spring Fair and Bake Off
27 th March	Manannan Class Assembly and Stay & Learn Session 9am



World Book Day 2024

Thursday 7th March

at Rushen Primary School!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

The children of Rushen Primary School will be celebrating World Book Day 2024 this year with a number of events:

- ★ Dress up as your favourite character from a book and bring the book, if you can
- ★ Assembly with parade
- ★ Reading Buddies – classes will meet up to read together
- ★ Book related activities in class

Comic Relief 2024 Friday 15th March

Pupils are invited to 'Dress in Red' and wear a red nose for a donation to Comic Relief.

[Comic Relief Donations via Parent Pay](#)



Parents' Meetings

Please contact the school via the class teacher or an email to request an appointment to see your child's class teacher to discuss their learning and progress. Rather than have a formal Parent's Evening where each family only gets a few minutes to speak to the teacher, we hope that being able to book your own termly meeting so that it can fit around your commitments and give you quality time to talk to the teacher, is more helpful and productive. The teacher may also contact you to arrange a meeting. Working closely together is crucial to support your child and the staff at Rushen Primary School are fully committed to this. Parents are also welcome to contact the class teacher at any time to discuss any issues.

School Improvement Update

Following on from my newsletter last year and the year before regarding school improvement, the staff have been continuing to reflect and review routines, practices and policies. School improvement happens in a continuous cycle where we identify growth priorities, plan actions, implement and review to consider impact.

Our vision in action at Rushen Primary School is focused on building positive relationships, having high expectations of behaviour and learning, and of achieving high standards and good progress for every child. The staff are committed to the process and have worked hard to achieve improvement.

All staff have the opportunity to contribute to school leadership - '*everyone a leader*' and staff are encouraged and supported in this, making good use of individual interests, specialisms, knowledge and experience. We also encourage the children to take leadership roles through, for example, School Council, Prefects, Buddies, volunteering to lead clubs (in the summer term), representing the school in a range of events, leadership opportunities and responsibilities in class and suggesting ideas for improvement in a range of areas including learning.

Our teachers continue to build positive relationships with the parents of the children in their class and other classes and use various methods of communication. Please support them in this role by arranging meetings when you have questions or concerns about your own child, or a quick and less formal 'chat' at the end of the school day. Our Middle Leadership Team and Senior Leaders are always on hand to support our teachers and other staff.

We continue to focus on good behaviour for learning and the development of personal and social skills. A change in the way we manage behaviour has had a significant impact in our school, supporting the children with their learning and progress. We have focused on building positive relationships and have been using an approach based on restorative practice where the concept of 'conferencing' is the focus. When an issue arises, we talk it through and when children are calm and ready, we undertake conferences. This allows each person to talk about how they felt, how they feel now, the impact of their actions on others and what they will do to make things right. Sometimes the children need help to reflect on what has happened and then they can 'think and fix'. This moves away from the concept of punishment. We are always focusing on learning.

We continue to focus on developing a 'growth mindset culture'. We do this through our work on the 6Rs and Learning Muscles that the children use, to support them with their learning and how to be a good learner in their day-to-day learning. You could help at home by asking questions about the learning, such as "What did you learn today?" rather than "What did you do today?". This shift in emphasis is crucial in encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning and next steps which can be applied to any learning.



We are also currently working on adapting our curriculum to meet the needs of all learners further developing our special and additional educational needs provision, our assessment and pupil progress arrangements, the integration into mainstream for pupils in our Viking Class (Ace Base), distributed leadership for staff and pupils and as always, constantly improving teaching for learning. We are currently using an adaptive teaching approach across our curriculum.

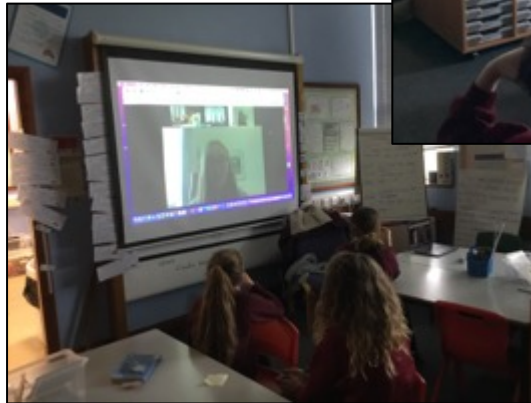
Everyone a Learner...

Kissack Class: Public Speaking competition Y5/6

Year 5/6 took part in a zoom call with Emily who did an example of a persuasive speech. She then answered some of our questions and gave us some top tips for our competition.

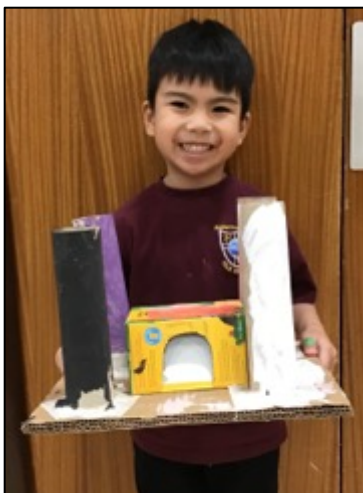
Top tips:

- Breathe
- Act confident and calm, even if you don't feel it
- Make eye contact but don't be too intense
- Pretend the audience isn't there
- Include shocking statistics
- Have fun
- Say to yourself 'I'm not scared'
- It's ok to be scared
- Try not to panic



Ben-My-Chree Class: Making Models

Ben-my-Chree class followed steps to complete a goal of making a model from boxes. First, they shared ideas and collected the resources that they needed. Then they constructed the main part of their model, learning how to make tabs to connect sides together. After that they painted their model, practising mixing new colours and shades. Finally, they reflected on their model and then added any extra detail. Such as flags, grass, and lights.



Class Assembly Maitland Class



Maitland Class all worked closely together to produce an excellent assembly. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance and learned some things too! The class talked about how they use the Learning Muscles to help achieve the 6R learning dispositions. They performed a memorable 'Fraction Rap' (see the photo above), shared poetry with us as well as their story writing and grammar and spelling. I can see that they have been working very hard. We can see how much progress the children are making and how confident they have become. We are all so proud of you! Well done...



Maitland Class – Stay and Learn



Internet Safety Day

Across the school, the children undertook some learning about how to be safe on the Internet.

Some examples of what they learned:

- Year 5/6 completed a lesson about artificial intelligence. We looked at what AI is and identified some scenarios where AI is positive and negative. We will be following up with identifying some photos which have been AI generated.
- Year 1 created some posters based on how to stay safe online.



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

- ✓ *I know how to get help when I need it.*
- ✓ *I can ask different questions.*
- ✓ *I can choose what I need to complete a task.*
- ✓ *I have lots of my own ideas.*
- ✓ *I try to solve problems independently before asking for help.*
- ✓ *I am willing to learn and try new things.*

Everyone a Leader

Wear your uniform to school day... By Camilla

Why the Guiding community wore their guiding unit uniform on February 22nd 2024

- Rainbows, Guides, Scouts, Beavers, Rangers, Cubs, Rover Scouts, Young Leaders, Leaders
- All of these groups wore their uniforms on February 22nd to recognise World Thinking Day. In each of the groups the promise is about thinking about others and about themselves as a kind individual. In order to join any of the groups you must be a certain age. Each group has a different uniform to tell them, apart. When they meet, each unit undertakes lots of different exciting activities and they go on trips that you don't usually get to do in everyday life.





Relationships

On Tuesday 27th February Year 3 and 4 children attended the Star Event in Port Erin.

We had a selection of activities throughout the day with the themes: special choices, special beliefs, special people, and special days.

These are some of the things the children said about it.

"I enjoyed the pirate game, where we had to make the right choices to win the large treasure chest of money to build new sails." Declan

"I enjoyed the stories of Abraham, Mary and Joseph" Teagan

"I enjoyed the game of Bop It at the start of the day" Eric

"I enjoyed the video at the start of the day, as it was very interesting to see what other people think about the stars". Leah

"I enjoyed making all the star craft" Freddie

"I enjoyed the constellation we made at the end with everyone's star." Theo

"I liked the Jigsaw game where we had to swap places when we had something the same in common." Jamys



Community

Ben-my-Chree class visited Southlands Day Care Centre and spent time talking and enjoying activities together.



Counting Down to the 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.

