



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

January 2018



Gansey, our beautiful island 20.1.18



Spots and Stripes Day RNLI fundraising 26.1.18

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely break and fun at Christmas and New Year! We have had a good start to the second term, although we have had a significant number of staff absences. I would like to thank the staff team for working together over these 3 weeks and to all of the Parents for your support and understanding.

We are looking forward to our learning this term and there are lots of exciting things planned. Please see the term dates below. Our Parents' Meetings will be happening after the half term break - Teachers will be sending home letters to arrange individual appointments.

Ms Owens, Headteacher

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.
- ❖ I learn from my mistakes.
- ❖ I am prepared to take risks.
- ❖ I can explain reasons for my decisions.

Staffing

We would like to welcome a new member of our lunchtime staff, Mrs Wang, who has joined us this term. We would also like to welcome our new crossing patrol person, Mrs Bowes, who has been hard at work learning her new job.

Relationships

This year, we have had a particular focus on being polite and how we greet adults at RPS. The children have been saying, 'Good morning' and 'How are you?' or 'Have you had a good afternoon?' for example. They have been practising saying the adult's name and know that this shows respect. They have done a fantastic job and our new Crossing Patrol person, Mrs Bowes, has mentioned that she has felt very welcome. I was so proud to hear her say such positive things about our children and how they have been so polite and welcoming. I would also like to pass on other positive comments from our recent visitors who have been impressed with our children. We value working together with parents.

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 a comprehensive list of issues, information and visits etc. We will only send a Newsletter when we have enough information to include and we were waiting for our planned visits and our fundraising day before we sent this one home. This means the Newsletter could be sent anytime during each month and cuts down on unnecessary letters, although we will send supplementary letters if required. Thank you again to so many of you for the positive feedback regarding the Newsletters! There have been many opportunities to attend events at school, including performances, assemblies and parents' meetings. 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

The cost of school dinners is £53.75 until half term or £116.10 until the Easter holidays. Dinner money is payable to the Isle of Man Government and must be paid for in advance. There are several families who have not yet paid dinner money this term, it is important that this is brought to school immediately.

Events/Visitors

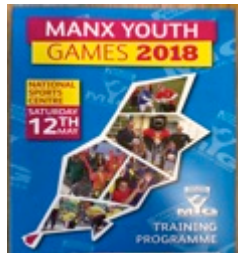
Space

Following on from our 'Space' topic, we have been lucky enough to welcome to school, Art Dula, CEO of the company who owns the spacecraft that is on loan at Castle Rushen High School. He brought with him a genuine space suit from America, used by the female astronaut, Dr Peggy Whitson, who was the Commander of the International Space Station. This also created an opportunity to talk about role models.



Manx Youth Games

A representative from Manx Sport and Recreation visited us in Assembly (Y2-6) and showed us a video of last year's event. Some of the children spotted themselves in the video! He told the children all about the Manx Youth Games, which are going to take place on Saturday 12th May at the National Sports Centre. The children will be bringing home a booklet today outlining the sports available which includes the Registration Forms. Please encourage your child to take part in this event.



School Trips

We have several school trips planned this term. We will let you know the details closer to the times.

Community Partnerships

RNLI Lifeboat Day

On Friday 26th January we held a 'Spots & Stripes' day to fundraise for the RNLI. As an island community, we would like to support the RNLI, which is completely funded by public donations. Thank you for your generous donations. In our whole school assembly, Mr Fleming (Education Officer for the RNLI) talked to the children and showed them some of the special kit the volunteers wear when they are called to a possible rescue. We checked the time it took Mr Fleming to put on his kit and we were pleased to record that he is still able to meet the expected time of one minute!

Playtime/PE Kit

- Please send a pair of trainers/outdoor shoes that children can change into during playtimes. School shoes must be worn for the rest of the school day inside the school building.
- Children should always have a PE kit in school that they can take home each Friday for washing if required. This allows for flexibility in the class timetables.

Car Parking, Drop Off and Pick Up

As promised, the school has carried out a consultation with the Department of Education Sport and Culture, the IOM Health and Safety Officer, the IOM Road Safety Officer and the local Police. Any concerns you have shared have been part of this consultation. The result of the meeting is that it is considered that there is sufficient parking at Rushen Primary School for the drop off and pick up, in the morning and at the end of the school day. RPS has a favourable situation compared to many Island schools. There is parking in the lower car park and we thank the parents/carers who reverse carefully into those spaces to drop off/park and take their children into the playground. There is also parking along the road near the lower car park. The Police have asked for Parents to park legally along this stretch. There is parking along the road after the new estate, up to the church, in front of the main entrance to the school on Church Road. We encourage parents to arrive in plenty of time, park along there and walk with their child to school, crossing at the zebra crossing which is now staffed. Police have asked that parents park legally on this stretch with consideration of both Southlands and the new estate. The Police are also keen that Parents refrain from crossing between parked cars, as there is potential for a serious accident to occur. It was decided that the staff car park and entrance at the front of

the main entrance should continue to be only for parking staff vehicles and for DESC transport/visitors and not to be used as a drop off point. We have spoken to drivers of cars entering this space, asking them to refrain from using this as a drop off point. The DOI will be contacted regarding a review of the lines painted on the roads surrounding the school. The children are asked not to enter the building through the main entrance but to enter school from the playground or, in the case of EYFS, through the classroom doors.

Social Media

We hope that your child's time at Rushen Primary School is happy and productive. We are always happy to discuss matters with parents and carers to ensure every child achieves his or her full potential. If, at any time, you have any concerns about your child at school, then please do not hesitate to contact the Class Teacher, in the first instance.

We would ask that parents and carers please support the school in our constant drive to raise standards, by discussing any concerns or issues with us, rather than on social media sites, which could be potentially damaging for the school and its pupils.

Please be aware that the use of social media is monitored.

Term Dates

3/4 M Assembly	Thursday 1 February 9.00am	Parents/Guardians are very welcome to attend
1/2 D Assembly	Thursday 8 February 9.00am	Parents/Guardians are very welcome to attend
Half Term	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February inclusive	
2O Beach Buddies Litter Pick	Thursday 22 February	
3/4 M Beach Buddies Litter Pick	Friday 23 February	
3H Assembly	Wednesday 28 February 9.00am	
School closes for the Easter Holiday	Thursday 29 March 3.30pm	

***School closes at 3.30pm on Friday 9 February for the half term holiday.
School re-opens on Monday 19 February 2018.***