



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

February 2018



Class 1/2D 8.2.18 'The Gruffalo'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you have had a good half term break. It was lovely to see some families at the airport and in the departure lounge and to hear from some of the children about their holidays. It is always a pleasure meeting our pupils and parents in the local community.

We have lots of events planned for this half term and we thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support. This, along with the commitment of the teachers, is what has made the events held so far this year a definite success. Thank you.

Ms Owens
Headteacher

6Rs

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.

School Improvement

All good schools constantly strive to be the best they can be and staff work hard to achieve this. When a new Headteacher arrives it is a valuable time for reflection, when routines, practices and policies are reviewed; a time to view day-to-day practice through new eyes and consider where the school is on its journey; a time to recognise what the school does well and to clearly identify areas for improvement.

The journey of a good school is guided by the philosophy and vision of the Headteacher and ensures each school is individual. At Rushen Primary School this is focused on building positive relationships, having high expectations of the behaviour and learning of the whole school community and of achieving high standards and good progress for every child. This kind of work is on-going and usually 'behind the scenes' but it is vital to school improvement. The staff are committed to the process and work hard to achieve. Whilst it is the Headteacher's discretion and responsibility for how a school operates, it is rare that a Headteacher would make a decision without the understanding and support of the staff, the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC) and/or other agencies when necessary and so teamwork and consultations always factor in the process.

So far this year we have met with our school link advisor from the DESC to share our work on Safety, Leadership and Management, and we are currently looking at Teaching for Learning in preparation for her next visit. These visits provide an opportunity for the school to seek and heed advice and utilise support from the DESC. As a result of the hard work of all staff, we are proud that the school is recognised as being on track and effective in its efforts to raise standards.

Staff are encouraged to attend courses and training days that are of interest to the school's development as well as to continue their own professional development, making sure the children experience the best education that we can provide. In addition, we believe that all staff should 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.

Part of what makes a good school is the use of defined roles and responsibilities and we are currently developing the skills and confidence needed in order to be most effective. Our class teachers aim to build positive relationships with the parents of the children in their class 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.

Further areas for development at our school include improving behaviour for learning and developing personal and social skills; a focus on raising standards and further development of teaching for learning, including developing a 'growth mindset culture'. We do this through our work on the 6Rs and Learning Muscles that the children use to support them in learning how to be a good learner and 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?".

Parents' Meetings

This term's Parents' Meetings will take place on Wednesday 7th March. The meetings will take place between 3.45pm and 7.30pm. This should allow some parents to meet the teacher after school and some to have an appointment after work. The appointments include an opportunity to look at some of the children's work as well as a short meeting with the teacher, which will include a discussion about your child's academic progress, behaviour and attitude towards their learning. Many parents have been making use of the slightly longer Thursday appointments and may well not require a further formal meeting at this time. As usual, if you require more time, arrangements can be made with the class teachers following the Parents' Meeting. Children are not required to attend. Families with children in several year groups will be accommodated, so

that your appointments allow time to meet each teacher. Every child will be allocated an appointment. We look forward to seeing you there! Today, your child should have brought home a letter regarding these meetings, please return the reply slip to school as soon as possible.

Parents are welcome to contact the class teacher anytime to discuss any issues.

Staffing

We would like to welcome a new member of teaching staff, Mrs Smith, who will be teaching 3H until the end of the year. Mrs Hermann will be the Unit Manager for Ace Base, on a secondment basis.

Dinner Money

The cost of school dinners is £62.35 (or £10.75 weekly) until the Easter holidays. **Dinner money is payable to the Isle of Man Government and must be paid for in advance.** It is the responsibility of the Isle of Man Government to audit the payments, so that the correct number of meals is provided. The school does not have the authority to provide any meals that are not paid for in advance. Any existing outstanding payments will now be passed to the Isle of Man Government for collection. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office for advice and further contact details regarding payments.

Events/Visitors

Our Early Years staff have been working with our pre-school feeder schools since the start of this school year, in order to learn about the children who will be attending Rushen Primary School in September 2018. Our Early Years staff have been involved with getting to know the children by visiting them at their pre-school setting. This term, we will be welcoming different groups of pre-school children and staff to stay and play with our Reception pupils. These visits will continue during the summer term, when parents will also be invited. Each year this has had a positive impact on the transition process and children, parents and staff have found this an invaluable experience.

World Book Day

This year, World Book Day is on 1st March. I know that this event has been well supported over the years by parents at Rushen Primary School and we look forward to seeing the children in their costumes. Please choose a character from a children's book to dress up as and bring the book to school!

On the day, the classes will take part in a range of activities, such as paired reading, writing a story, making a book, making a bookmark, etc. We have also planned other events including:

- ✓ Parade of characters
- ✓ 'Book swap'. Children can bring a book from home, which they will be able to swap with a book donated by another child.
- ✓ 'Photo Album'. You may like to take part in this fun event! We are inviting you to contribute to a whole school display. The challenge is to take a photograph of reading in the strangest place. Please bring the photograph to school with the child's name and class on the reverse.

Children who do not wish to take part should wear their usual school uniform. A book voucher will be given to each pupil which may be spent in our local book shops.

Fairtrade Fortnight 26th February - 11th March

The school will be participating in activities related to Fairtrade once again this year. The children will take part in the **Fairtrade Isle of Man** Campaign: "We want to see as many Fairtrade doors as possible on the Island - in schools, shops, cafes, churches, offices, public buildings, etc.," and so the children will be decorating a door in their classroom along with learning about Fairtrade.

Sports Relief Friday 23 March

Pupils are invited to 'Dress in Red' for a £1 donation to Sports Relief. We will be organising activities in support of this charitable event.

Manx Youth Games

Please don't forget to sign up for this event and encourage your child to take part. There will be a fun series of training sessions where children can learn a new sport or play their favourite sport and will culminate in a full day of sport on Saturday 12th May at the National Sports Centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed the video that was shown in Assembly, which clearly demonstrated what a fantastic event this is.



School Trips

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

Community Partnerships

- ✓ This half term, many classes will be visiting Port Erin beach and carrying out beach cleans.
- ✓ Some classes will also visit Southlands to participate in various activities with residents.

Playtime/PE Kit

- Please provide a pair of trainers/outdoor shoes/wellington boots that children can change into during playtime. 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.

Term Dates

20 Beach Buddies Litter Pick	Thursday 22 February
3/4 M Beach Buddies Litter Pick	Friday 23 February
School closes for the Easter Holiday	Thursday 29 March 3.30pm
School opens for the summer term	Monday 16 April 8.45am

3H Class Assembly

Friday 28 February – **postponed** – we will let you know the new date as soon as possible.