



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

May 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

May has been another busy month at Rushen Primary School, with many events, opportunities for the children and visitors to our school.

Thank you to all of those parents, family members and people associated with Rushen Primary School who have complemented us on our Newsletter. Looking back over the year so far, the Newsletters are a good record to show the busy life of our school and the many wide and varied opportunities that our children have taken part in.

I have also enjoyed meeting many more families over the last month as we have welcomed our new starters for September with a comprehensive transition programme, ensuring children are ready to join our school in September.

Thank you as always for your continued support for our school.

Ms Owens
Headteacher

Transition

New intake

Our Early Years staff have welcomed our new starters for September with a varied programme of transition. Following visits by our Early Years teachers and support staff to all local pre-school settings, we have been inviting new starters into school to get used to the classroom and outdoor environments and to meet the adults who will be teaching them. These sessions have been a success and the children and their parents and carers have thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

Year 6 – Castle Rushen High School

A number of transition activities have continued this month with both schools working together to ensure that our Year 6 pupils are ready for Year 7!

Our colleagues from Castle Rushen High School have visited our Year 6 class to meet the children and to deliver lessons in English and Mathematics. Our Year 6s have also visited the CRHS Science laboratories where they took part in a Forensic Science investigation. They particularly enjoyed the Chemistry Lab,

where they were very impressed with the Bunsen Burners!

We were pleased to welcome our ex pupils, currently in Year 7, who shared their experiences with our Year 6s about their first year in Secondary school, as well as offering personal advice on how to settle in and make the most of this exciting new adventure!

Sports, competitions and events

Day of Sport – Cricket and Skipping

We were lucky enough to be able to offer our children coaching sessions in both cricket and skipping this month and so we decided to make it a 'Day of Sport'. We welcomed the cricket coach again, who worked with all of our classes from Reception to Year 6. The weather was perfect for the cricket sessions out on the front field and was reminiscent of a traditional game of cricket at the Oval!



Skipping has long been a tradition at RPS and this year was no exception. The children were really looking forward to meeting the skipping coach again, Harold Galley, who remembered many of the children's names! He was very impressed at the level of competence and skill the children displayed and told us that some of the skipping was the best he had seen in any school across the British Isles. The children felt very proud, as did we!



Our children in action...

The Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival - 'The Guild'

Each year, the Isle of Man holds an annual competitive festival over nine days, which takes place at the Villa Marina. Up to 4000 participants of all ages come together to perform and enjoy the Arts, providing entertainment both to the Island's population and its visitors. This festival is 126 years old this year.

A large number of our children took part. Mrs Daniel, Mrs Ollier, Mrs Hermann and Mrs Newson worked with the children to prepare them for competition. All of the children did extremely well and some won awards for their category. Year 6 did very well with their song and dance number and a special mention to the lead singer who did a super job. During the Assembly where we celebrated their achievements, I remembered that as a pupil at Rushen Primary School, I too had taken part! Some children also took part out of school.



School Trips

Venture Centre

Our Year 5's went on their trip to the Venture Centre. This experience really engages the children and gives them an opportunity to challenge themselves with new experiences such as abseiling, shooting, orienteering, raft building and wide games to name but a few. It also gives them the opportunity to develop other skills such as collaboration, resilience, building relationships and empathy which link to our 6R learning dispositions and learning muscles. They definitely had to demonstrate a growth mindset to achieve all that they did! For some, it was also the first time they were away from home by themselves and although this is, at first, daunting, the teachers and parents looked after them well. Thank you to those parents who came along and went the extra mile to support all of the children.

Tynwald and the House of Keys – written by children from Year 6



“Yesterday we went to the House of Keys on a class trip to learn about how people run the Island. We were excited, enthusiastic children going to the important, massive government building. Firstly, we went to the member room where we left our coats and were told the rules. Next, we climbed the stairs into the legislative council where we sat in chairs and looked at all of the previous ministers’ paintings/pictures, but there was hardly any room left for any more. Then we went to the executive room where the members spend most of their time having debates. We held our own debate, and thought of lots of reasons why the summer holidays should start immediately! Finally, we moved into the actual House of Keys room and read our scripts and had some debates. Afterwards Mr Speaker told us a ghost story. We really enjoyed it, so we would recommend going here to other schools too!”

Visitors

Peter’s Railway

Chris Vine, author of Peter’s Railway stories and train enthusiast accompanied our children on a visit to Port Erin Railway Station. Following this, the children completed a workshop where they helped to build a track. This was later taken to Douglas Railway Station and became the track for a model train.

Isle of Man Creamery

Sarah from the Isle of Man Creamery visited several classes in school to talk about 'grass fed' products. She brought along some samples of cheese and milk for the children to taste.

PC Sarah Blyth Y6 Crime Investigation - written by two pupils in Year 6



"On a normal Friday morning, Year 6 entered school, feeling like it was just another usual day. Shocked, horrified, disgusted, our classroom had been wrecked! Our teachers had gone rogue, but with the help of P.C Blyth we could stop their dastardly actions.

We analysed their fingerprints, footprints, and the forged handwriting. We interviewed all of the KS2 teachers, but there were a few who oddly stood out. There was a weird, suspicious cardigan left by the guilty, mischievous party.

If we didn't have such great detective skills, if P.C Blyth didn't come, if we didn't discover who it was, then we wouldn't have our chairs back. Our final discovery was the guilty group were Ms Owens and Miss Wardman!!!"

Manx Wildlife Trust

The Manx Wildlife Trust visited Ace Base and Class 4/5N to discuss environmental issues. The children really enjoyed the visit as they are taking part in a number of initiatives to focus on the local environment. The school has recently signed up to the Isle of Man Biosphere Pledge as part of the Island's status as a UNESCO Biosphere.



Community Partnerships

Southlands - We continue our close friendship with Southlands and some of our children have visited again this month.

Beach Buddies – Class 1/2D went to the beach to continue with our efforts to improve the local environment.

Theatre Production – Alice in Wonderland

M & M Theatrical Productions returned this year to perform 'Alice in Wonderland' for the whole school. They followed this with drama workshops for some of the children. This is always a popular experience and the children thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Class Assemblies

This month two classes have presented a class assembly to the whole school and their parents and families. We would like to congratulate the children and thank all of the teachers for their efforts.

R 1/S



R 1/S based their Class Assembly on their cross curricula topic of transport. It was a wonderful assembly, the first for some of the children.

4/5N



Class 4/5N have completed a topic based on the 'Titanic' and this culminated in a class assembly enjoyed by every member of the audience.

Personal Items

Our school middle leadership team have been reviewing some of the current practices and are looking at areas for improvement. The team have carried out surveys with the children and staff, observations and audits. This has included consideration regarding the items that children bring in from home and the issues around this. It has always been the situation at RPS that children should not bring personal items, such as toys and games, into school. Recently, the number of personal items has considerably increased, which in turn has increased the issues and concerns around them such as lost, broken and stolen property, distractions from learning, children falling out and of course, the potential for bullying.

We have therefore taken the decision to no longer allow any personal items to be brought into school after the TT holidays. The class teacher may specifically request items, which will relate to the children's learning, the curriculum or part of the class behaviour rewards. This includes 'Share and Learn' which KS1 and Early Years children participate in. Learning resources such as pens, pencils and other stationery are provided by the school. Personal pencil cases, colouring books and pens should be left at home. There are a range of games and other resources available at school for the children to share and enjoy and playtimes and lunchtimes, not to mention the large climbing frames, quiet areas, covered areas, a variety of goals and nets etc. We are very fortunate at our school that the children have such a large outdoor area in which to play. Our playtime equipment is always being reviewed and re-stocked. School has made a large investment again recently and will now provide equipment for games such as football, netball, basketball

and skipping. Children's own equipment for such games must be left at home (e.g. footballs and other balls, shin pads, goal keeper gloves, skipping ropes, etc.). Any kind of 'fidget', 'squishy', putty, slime or soft toys and swap cards (e.g. football, Pokemon, etc.) must not be brought into school after the holidays.

Mobile telephones should only be brought into school in exceptional circumstances and must be handed to the class teacher on arrival where it will be stored safely until the end of the day when they must be collected.

Dinner Money

For those paying half termly, school dinners for the next half term will cost £62.35. [Dinner money is payable on the first day of term](#), either in cash or by cheque made payable to Isle of Man Government.

Free School Meal Forms have been sent home to all children currently receiving free meals. If you believe your child will be entitled to receive free meals from September 2018, please complete a form and send it to the Department of Education, Sport and Culture or complete an application online at <https://www.gov.im/categories/education-training-and-careers/school-meals/free-school-meals-application-form>. Children will not be eligible to receive free meals in September unless an application has been submitted and processed before the start of the new term.

AceBase Playground All children using this area must be supervised by an adult. Unfortunately some of the equipment has been damaged by older children using this area inappropriately after school.

Wes Magee, Author and Poet

Wes Magee visited school this term and we have a few of his books for sale, each signed by the author. The books cost £5 and there is a book suitable for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2. If you wish to purchase a book, please send the money to school with your child in a labeled envelope. The books are available on a first come, first served basis.

Vegetable Garden

If any parents/friends/family have any spare time available to weed our school vegetable garden we would be grateful for any assistance. This would not be an organised activity at a fixed time, but if you have a spare hour or so during the week or at a weekend that would really help. If you are interested, please speak to Mrs Daniel.

Term Dates

Monday 28 May	Bank Holiday – School closed
Fri 1 – 8 June	School closed for half term
Monday 18 June	Year 6 Crucial Crew
Tuesday 19 June	12D & 20 Castle Rushen visit
Thursday 21 June	3H Beach Buddies Litter Pick (afternoon)
Thursday 28 June	Year 5 Rushen Abbey visit
Thursday 28 June	RG Class Assembly (parents/carers are invited to attend) 9.00am
Thursday 5 July	Tynwald Day – School closed
Mon 9 – Wed 11 July	Year 6 UK trip
Thursday 12 July	RG Beach Buddies Litter Pick (afternoon)
Date to be confirmed	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly