



# Rushen Primary School Newsletter



September 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome back to the new school year 2018-19!

Welcome to our returning families and to all of our new families. We have a large number of new children joining us this year and school numbers have increased to almost 300. Lots of people are moving into the catchment and are choosing Rushen Primary School as the school continues its good work. The children have made a wonderful start and are looking very smart in their uniforms.

### Class Names

To fit in with our focus on 'Everything Manx', we have decided to call the classes after Manx rivers (Early Years Foundation Stage - EYFS and KS1) and Manx glens (KS2). Here is a reminder of the class names and teachers.

Class	Teacher/s
Dhoo	Mrs Shaw and Mrs Griffiths
Neb	Mrs Daniel
Foxdale	Miss Wilson
Sulby	Mrs McMeiken
Greeba	Mrs Hermann
Groudle	Miss Garrett/Miss Smiley
Colby	Miss Irving
Silverdale	Mrs Ollier
Barrule	Mrs Higgins
Bradda	Mrs Bousfield

## Readiness...

This is the first of our 6Rs and something we ask you to focus on with your child, talking about how they can be ready for school and for learning. Please encourage independence and involve your child in their own preparations.

- ✓ **Children need to be in school every day.** They should arrive on time for the school day at 8:45am (8.51am will be marked as late in the Register) and be collected promptly at 3:30pm (Dhoo Class at 3.25pm). Children who arrive early **must** be supervised by parents/carers. Teachers have commitments before and after school so are not available to provide supervision at these times. Children should be made aware of end of school pick up arrangements before they leave for school. If there is an emergency and parents are going to be late, please contact school in advance in order to share alternative arrangements.
- ✓ **Coats** – it is essential that all children bring a suitable coat (named) with a hood, to school every day. The children will be going out in all weathers unless it is extremely wet.
- ✓ **Uniform** – children should wear a maroon sweatshirt/cardigan with the school's logo, white polo shirt, black/grey skirt or trousers, black school shoes (NOT trainers). Each item must be named. No jewellery, except a watch and stud earrings (no hoops etc.), is allowed. Long hair should always be tied up with a simple hair band (no large bows or bands). Children must not wear make-up or nail varnish to school. Please ensure skirts are not too short as the children sit on benches and will be moving about in their uniform during learning activities - this will also be outside
- ✓ **Water Bottle** – children must bring a water bottle and these must **ONLY** contain water.
- ✓ Please ensure that **PE kit** is named and that it stays in school every day to afford flexibility for our timetable. Stud earrings must be removed or covered with tape from home for PE lessons.
- ✓ **School dinners** **MUST** be paid for in advance.
- ✓ Please read all **newsletters and written communications** that are sent home - you may need to encourage your child to tell you when they have letters from school. We are encouraging the children to be independent.
- ✓ Our **Behaviour and School Rules** poster is on the last page. Please talk to your child/ren about it and display a copy at home if you wish.

## Attendance

Improving attendance will be one of our aims this year - children who attend school regularly achieve well. As a school we need to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance. This factors in any days off that the children have for illness or medical appointments. Please keep holidays to a minimum. Last year a sizeable proportion of pupils missed school due to absences for holidays.

Absence in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. It is the Department of Education's policy that parents **request** an authorised absence by writing to the Headteacher, Ms Owens.

Please let the school know about any absences due to illness by 9am on the first day of absence. It is the Department of Education and Children's policy to closely monitor attendance.

## Communicating with school

Please contact the class teacher in the first instance with any questions or concerns. If your child has a medical/dental appointment, a written note should be given to your child's teacher. Please be aware that Mrs Awkal has many administrative tasks and responsibilities and is our only member of office staff.

**It is crucial that you update your contact information when something changes. We MUST be able to contact you in an emergency.**

## 'Meet the Teacher' meetings

We would like to invite you to our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. We hope that all parents/carers will attend to find out about how the children will learn, how the classroom is managed, how you can help at home and whole school expectations. Please note that the parent meetings for Dhoo Classes will be held later in the term.

### Pack of Curriculum and Assessment Information

At the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting, all parents/carers will be provided with a pack of information to take home. This will include details of the topics they will be studying this term, the 'Learning at Rushen' letter, National Curriculum Assessment information and information about the 6Rs and Learning Muscles.

'Meet the Teacher' Meetings		
	6:00pm start	6:30pm start
Monday 17th September	Colby Miss Irving	Bradda Mrs Bousfield
Tuesday 18th September	Foxdale Miss Wilson	Sulby Mrs McMeiken
Wednesday 19th September	Neb Mrs Daniel	Barrule Mrs Higgins
Thursday 20th September	Silverdale Mrs Ollier	Groudle Miss Garrett

## Curriculum

**Manx – all children in Key Stage 2 will be learning Manx this year.**

## Reminders

### Parking/dropping off

Parking for parents is provided in the rear school car park off Shore Road. Parking is **not permitted** in the school car parks on Church Road - these are for staff use ONLY – or in Southlands car park. The only exception to this is for children arriving for Greeba unit or disabled children or visitors. The Police have asked that the Zebra Crossing is used to cross the road, particularly if you park anywhere along Church Road. There have been some near misses because people are crossing between parked cars. Please help to teach our children about road safety.

In Years 1 - 6, the children should enter the school from the playground entrances. Please drop them at the lower car park or walk around the building into the playground. Dhoo Class pupils, Neb Class and Greeba Class (Ace Base) will enter through their classroom doors.

### School Dinners

We encourage all children to have a school dinner. We have a wonderful kitchen staff who cook fresh and healthy options. Pupils may choose daily from a healthy hot meal menu and a salad bar. We believe that this is good value for money when compared to buying ingredients for a packed lunch. **Please ensure school dinners are paid for in advance.** Should your child decide to swap from school dinners to packed lunches or vice versa, please give the class teacher one week's notice in advance (in a written note), so that we can alert the kitchen and arrange for meal charges to be stopped for your child. School dinners this term cost £85.50 until half term, £164.25 until the end of term or £11.25 per 5 day week. Cheques should be made payable to the IOM Government. **If you have not yet paid for school dinners, please do so immediately.**

## Medical

**Inhalers (named) must be left in school every day. Children will take these with them if they go out of school for any reason.**

**Asthma forms will be sent home this week with all pupils who have an inhaler in school. It is vital that this information is kept up to date and we would be grateful if you could complete and return the form to school immediately. If your child has an inhaler in school and does not give you a form, please speak to Mrs Awkal. Please ensure that any updates are communicated to school immediately. A “Dietary Requirement” form will also be sent home for completion for those pupils who have special diets.**

## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - School Photograph Day

Please ensure your child is smartly dressed in full school uniform. All pupils will be photographed individually and with their school age siblings during the day. If you wish your pre-schoolers and secondary school children to be photographed with their Rushen Primary School siblings, please take your children directly to the Sports Hall at 8.30am. Any families with Secondary School pupils will be photographed first, so that they can get to school as early as possible.

## Clubs

The following clubs will start soon, with more to come. Children will be informed in assembly of new after school clubs that are starting and asked to collect a letter to bring home. Please sign and return the permission slip attached to the information letters. Children will be informed about lunchtime clubs but there will be no letters/permission slips required for these.

Badminton Club	Year 5, 6	Mondays 12.05 – 12.30pm
Netball	Years 4, 5, 6	Mondays 3.30 – 4.30pm
Craft Club	Years 3, 4, 5, 6	Monday 3:30pm – 4.30pm
Gardening	Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesday lunchtimes
Girls Football	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesdays 3.30 – 4.30pm
Choir	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Wednesday lunchtimes
Tag Rugby	Years 2 and 3	Friday after school (MSR Coach)
Wildlife Club	TBC	

Props Club (in preparation for Christmas performances)

Running Club in preparation for the Bradda Hill Championships on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

## THE SCHOOL YEAR:

### Autumn Term 2018

Half Term: Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2018

Ends: Friday 21 December 2018

### Spring Term 2019

Starts: Monday 7 January 2019

Half Term: Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February 2019

Ends: Friday 5 April 2019

### Summer Term 2019

Starts: Tuesday 23 April 2019

Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2019

Half Term (TT): Monday 27 May to Friday 7 June 2019

Tynwald Day: Friday 5 July 2019

Ends: Friday 19 July 2019