



Rushen Primary School

Newsletter

October 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are now fully engaged with their learning. This year we aim to ensure that the 6Rs and Learning Muscles are applied to learning and are as important as the objective of each lesson; this is called 'split screen thinking'. The 6R dispositions are central to learning and the Learning Muscles are the skills that help children to achieve a particular disposition. These are life-long skills.

I would like to thank parents for the kind messages and positive feedback regarding the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings and the information packs that were picked up on the night, regarding learning and the curriculum. I hope that holding the meetings at separate times allowed you to attend all of the meetings for your family. Many parents have also made use of the appointments each Thursday to meet the teacher and discuss their child's progress.

We are looking forward to the events we have planned for the rest of the term which are outlined below. Representatives from the 'Friends of Rushen' and a number of other parents met with me to discuss a number of exciting events to take place throughout the year. We have begun to outline what these will be and look forward to inviting many of you to help support the school during these events. Details of these events will be shared in due course.

I would like to ask you to support your child's learning by sharing books at home and working on their 'Learning Logs'. Teachers are looking forward to seeing the work that you have done at home with your child/ren.

Ms Owens
Headteacher

Remembrance Day – WW1 Centenary

Poppies will be available to purchase in school and we hope you are able to support the poppy appeal again this year. The poppies and a donation box will be placed in the reception area outside the School Office when we receive them. We will also be preparing a school wreath to present at the Remembrance Day Service at Rushen Parish Church.

We are planning an event to commemorate the centenary of World War I, which involves Port Erin beach. Information regarding this will follow soon and we hope you will support our efforts.

Adopting Port Erin Beach

Earlier this half term our Year 5/6 pupils walked to Port Erin beach in order to represent the school and to adopt Port Erin beach in collaboration with Port Erin Commissioners and Mr Bill Dale of the Beach Buddies. The school has a long tradition of carrying out beach cleans and was in fact the first school on the Island to collaborate with Beach Buddies. Adopting the beach will allow us to use the beach much more to support our learning and to build more links with organisations and businesses in the local community. We plan to visit the beach in order to undertake learning in a range of subjects including art, literacy, science and maths, to name but a few.



Hop Tu Naa



Last year's Hop Tu Naa celebration was a success as all pupils and staff took part. The highlight was definitely the fantastic carved 'moots' that you worked on at home with your children. As you know, at Rushen Primary School we like to celebrate *'everything Manx'*. Hop Tu Naa is a very old custom that tells us a lot about Manx traditions and is an opportunity to have some fun!

We will celebrate 'Hop Tu Naa' at school this year on the last day of this half term, Friday 26th October.

Expectations for the day

- ★ Children should come to school dressed in something appropriate for 'Hop Tu Naa' - this could be as a witch, wizard, or other traditional Manx costume. Children must not come dressed in football kit or superhero costumes, for example.
- ★ If the children do not wish to come to school dressed up as the suggestions above, they must wear school uniform.
- ★ We will not charge anything or raise money through this event, this time.
- ★ Please bring in a carved turnip/swede, which the family can produce together. We will place them on tables in the Main Hall and classes will have the opportunity to view them during the day.
- ★ Celebration assembly will happen as usual and children will be able to see each other's costumes.
- ★ In class, children will be learning about the day and customs, comparing celebrations from the past and present and the different types of celebrations around the world etc. Hogmanay, Halloween and Trick or Treat etc.



Children In Need

On Friday 16th November we will be fundraising for BBC Children in Need. Pupils may come to school dressed in 'spots and/or stripes' for a donation of £1.00 (we ask families with a number of children to donate an affordable amount).

Manx, Sport and Recreation (MSR)/after school clubs

Every Friday, this term, we have a coach from the MSR team in school. He is currently taking four of our classes for PE.

Tag Rugby Club was offered to Year 2/3 pupils this half term, led by a coach from Manx Sport and Recreation. The children thoroughly enjoyed the club and have honed their rugby skills! Hockey Club for Years 3/4 will start after half term – your child should have brought a letter home with details if they are eligible.

Please collect children from the front door/main school entrance following an after school club. If children use their school PE kit for a club, they will get changed into their uniform and return the PE kit to the classroom.

Pupil Information, Consent Forms and GDPR

We have recently sent home Consent Forms, App consent forms and GDPR information. Please ensure you complete and sign ALL of the forms as requested. Some families have returned the forms with one signed and the other not signed. This is taking Mrs Awkal a very long time to process and we are having to return the unsigned sheets to you.

School Meals

For those who pay half termly, school meals will cost £78.75 from half term until the Christmas holiday. This amount should be paid on the first Monday after half term, 5th November. There are a few families who remain in arrears with dinner money – please would you send any outstanding payments to school immediately. A new school dinner menu is attached for your information.

We currently have several pupils in school who are severely allergic to nuts. All our school dinners are nut free, however, we would ask that you do not include nuts or nut based products in packed lunches for any pupil. For those who are severely allergic, anaphylaxis may be triggered by being in close proximity to nuts/nut products. Thank you for your support.

School Photographs

Our school photograph morning went very well. Thank you for your understanding in letting the secondary school pupils have their photos taken first – this meant they could still be on time for school. The children were all very well behaved while waiting for their photographs to be taken and our photographer, Mr Morrison, commented on this. The siblings collected each other and checked each other's uniform and hair etc. They were lovely together! I would like to thank Mr Morrison again because he worked hard to prepare the photographs quickly. The first batch of photograph orders has now been sent home, there will be further deliveries to follow.

School Photo Re-sits for those who were absent on the day, or would like a re-sit for any reason, are available at Morrison Photos Studio, Tynwald Street, Douglas, on the following dates. No appointment is necessary. Saturday 20th October, Saturday 27th October, Monday 29th October, Saturday 10th November, Saturday 17th November. 9.00am – 13.00pm on all dates.

Fell Runners...

Congratulations to all of the 'fell runners' who took part in the annual fell running event held on Bradda Head. We again had many positive comments from a number of people about our pupil's behaviour.

I would also like to thank Miss Miller who supported the runners on the day, and Miss Miller and Mrs Higgins who led the practice sessions for the children in the run(!) up to the event. Without their support our children could not have participated.



Royal Manx Agricultural Society, Summer Agricultural Show

Some of our children took part in a competition with other schools on the Island. Rushen Primary School pupils won second prize, which was £75 for the school, for their design 'Book on Manx Farming'. Well done and thank you to all the children who took part and to Mrs McMeiken for organising the entry.



School Trips

Y6 We are planning an off Island Year 6 trip this academic year and letters with the details have been sent home so that we can gauge interest.

Y5 A trip to the Venture Centre, Maughold, has been planned for Year 5, letters have been sent home.

Laxey Wheel – Sulby, Neb and Foxdale classes

Our three KS1 classes enjoyed their trip to the Laxey Wheel. One of the highlights was the opportunity to go into the mine. The children were also fascinated by the model of the mine that they saw in the Visitor's Centre.



Visit from Rowan Henthorn, Marine Scientist



The children were enthralled during our visit from Marine Scientist, Rowan. She is an Ambassador for the UNESCO Biosphere, a mentor for 'a life less plastic' and an Ambassador for the Manx Youth organisation.

Rowan spoke to us about plastics and how they are harming the environment and endangering animals around the world. She told the children about when she sailed across the north Pacific Ocean to research the devastating impact of single use plastic. The children demonstrated their excellent knowledge of the issues associated with plastics and thoroughly enjoyed the session. We have asked Rowan to return to help us with our eco projects and hope to undertake some science work at our beach.

Communication

So far this term there have been many opportunities to receive information, which has been communicated in a variety of ways:

Newsletter - one will be available each month.
Learning at Rushen letter and information pack.
Reading at Home booklet
Letter-join website information.
'Meet the teacher' meetings.

Thursday morning meetings – please contact your Class Teacher for an appointment if you wish to discuss your child's progress or well-being. The Class Teacher may contact you to arrange a meeting.

Class Assemblies Parents/guardians are invited to attend their children's class assemblies, all of which will start at 9.00am in the Sports Hall.

8 th November 2018	Barrule	16 th May, 2019	Foxdale
7 th February, 2019	Sulby	23 rd May, 2019	Dhoo
7 th March, 2019	Bradda	13 th June, 2019	Groudle
14 th March, 2019	Neb	27 th June, 2019	Silverdale
4 th April, 2019	Colby		

(these dates may be subject to change - we will send a note home should a change of date be necessary.)

Autumn Half Term

Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November, 2018 inclusive.