



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

February 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you have had a good break. The weather was kind until the mist rolled in and delayed flights back to the Island. Fortunately, all was back to normal by Monday so everybody could be back in time for school.

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.*

Uniform

- ✓ Please ensure that the children are wearing their black school shoes as many children are wearing trainers.
- ✓ Earrings should only be plain studs and not hoops or other designs.
- ✓ Headbands should be plain and simple and not brightly coloured or embellished.
- ✓ Please label every piece of clothing with your child's name and check the uniform at home belongs to your child. There are quite a few lost items.

Parents' Meetings

This term's Parents' Meetings will take place on Wednesday 13th 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 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!

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



We need your help...

Rushen Primary School has significantly increased in size over the last year and a half and this year we have almost 300 pupils. As a result, the administration arrangements have increased. Mrs Aukal will not always be based in the office, so please send a note to the class teacher if your child needs to attend a medical appointment. Requests for authorised absences should be addressed to the Headteacher and sent in a labelled envelope to the class teacher with your child.

Dinner Money

Please help us to manage the dinner money arrangements. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Mrs Aukal to manage the dinner money on a one to one basis. You can help by:

- ✓ Paying, by cash or cheque, in advance (as instructed by the IOM Government).
- ✓ Keeping an ongoing total so that you are aware of what you owe.
- ✓ All monies must be put in a labelled envelope and sent to class with your child, to be handed to their teacher. In an emergency, please place in the black post box to the left of the office window.

Answer Machine Messages

In order to manage the large number of telephone calls, please leave a message on the answer machine. I want to assure you that if the telephone goes to answer machine, these are listened to and considered as necessary. To help us understand the messages please remember the following:

- ✓ Speak clearly-sometimes messages are very muffled and difficult to hear.
- ✓ Tell us your child's full name and class.
- ✓ Tell us why they are off school.
- ✓ Keep the message brief and to the point.

Readiness

- ✓ Please encourage your child's independence by asking them to prepare their school equipment the night before with you.
- ✓ If your child forgets their kit/equipment etc., it may not be possible to pass it on during the day.

Absence, notes, money.

- ✓ Please ensure that all written communication to the school such as notes regarding absence, messages, requests and trip money, is placed in a sealed envelope and labelled with the child's full name, class, and the title of the contents.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, THANK YOU!

School Improvement Update

Following on from my newsletter last year regarding school improvement, the staff have been continuing to reflect and review routines, practices and policies. School improvement happens in a continuous cycle where we identify areas for improvement, plan actions, implement and review to consider impact.

Our vision at Rushen Primary School is focused on building positive relationships, having high expectations of behaviour and learning, and of achieving high standards and good progress for every child. The staff are committed to the process and have worked hard to achieve improvement.

So far this academic year we have met with our School Link Adviser from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture to share our work on Teaching for Learning and we are currently looking at Leadership and Management in preparation for her next visit. As a result of the hard work of all staff, we are proud that the school has continued to be recognised as being on track and effective in its efforts to raise standards.

All staff 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. We also encourage the children to take leadership roles through, for example, School Council, Buddies, volunteering to lead clubs, representing the school in a range of events, leadership opportunities and responsibilities in class and suggesting ideas for improvement in a range of areas including learning.

Our teachers continue to build positive relationships with the parents of the children in their class and other classes 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.

We continue to focus on improving behaviour for learning and the development of personal and social skills. A change in the way we manage behaviour has had a significant impact in our school, supporting the children with their learning and progress. We have focused on building positive relationships and have been using an approach based on restorative practice where the concept of 'conferencing' is the main focus. When an issue arises we talk it through and when children are calm and ready, we undertake conferences. This allows each person to talk about how they felt, how they feel now, the impact of their actions on others and what they will do to make things right. Sometimes the children need help to reflect on what has happened and they have the opportunity to 'think and fix'. This moves away from the concept of punishment. We are focusing on learning at all times. When children are focused on their own learning and next steps, this reduces the need for rewards as a method of securing appropriate behaviour and instead rewards learning.

We continue to focus on developing a 'growth mindset culture'. We do this through our work on the 6Rs and Learning Muscles that the children use to support them with their 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?". This shift in emphasis is crucial in encouraging children to take responsibility for their own learning and next steps which can be applied to any learning.



Dinner Money

The cost of school dinners is £67.50 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

EYFS

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 2019. Our Early Years staff have been involved with getting to know the children by visiting them at their pre-school setting. We will be welcoming different groups of pre-school children and staff to stay and play with our Reception pupils. These visits will take place 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 7th 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!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

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 Competition**'. 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. We would love to have lots and lots of entries this year, as some of the entries were very creative last year, (especially the entries from Mrs McMeiken!). The winners will therefore be chosen by Mrs McMeiken and will receive a prize. She is not allowed to choose herself!

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

Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February - 10th 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** fortnight and will be decorating a door in their classroom along with learning about Fairtrade.

Comic Relief 2019 Friday 15th March

Pupils are invited to 'Dress in Red' and wear a red nose for a £1 donation to Comic Relief.



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. Some of our children have been telling me about crown green bowls! It will all culminate in a full day of sport on Saturday 18th May at the National Sports Centre.

School Trips

Neb, Foxdale and Sulby enjoyed a day trip to Peel, looking around the House of Manannan and completing a 'Toys from the Past' workshop. The children got to see how toys have changed from being made from traditional wood and fabric to tin and then plastic. They enjoyed some time exploring and playing with different types of toys from across the ages.

Sulby

"My best part was lunch, my second best was playing with the different toys." "The toys were made out of different materials. I liked the spinning tops which are metal." "I liked the 'Jack in the box' because it made me jump."



Neb - House of Manannan

'I learnt they were old toys even though they looked quite new.'

'I learnt that there were toys that I didn't know about, like the Jacob's Ladder - I liked that one.'

'In the old days if people were poor then they made their own toys. They made them from different fabrics.'

'I found it interesting that some toys were made out of tin.'

'In the old days they made toys out of wood. My favourite toys were the TT bikes.'

We have several other 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.

Term Dates

School closes for the Easter Holiday

Friday 5th April 2019 15.30

School opens for the summer term

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 08.45

Bradda Class Assembly

Thursday 7th March 09.00

Parents/Carers welcome.

Neb Assembly

Thursday 14th March 09.00

Parents/Carers welcome.

Colby Class Assembly

Thursday 4th April 09.00

Parents/Carers welcome.