



Rushen Primary School Newsletter



September 2019



Memories of the Summer....

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year 2019-20!

Welcome to our returning families and to all of our new families. We again have a large number of new children joining us this year and school numbers are almost 300. The children have made a wonderful start and are looking very smart in their uniforms, although there seems to be a lot of trainers. Black shoes are part of our school uniform and if you have any issues please write a note to the teacher.

We have decided to include 'Prefects' as we create opportunities in our drive towards 'Everyone a Leader'. We welcomed our first group of Y6 role models last Friday. Please see below for more details.

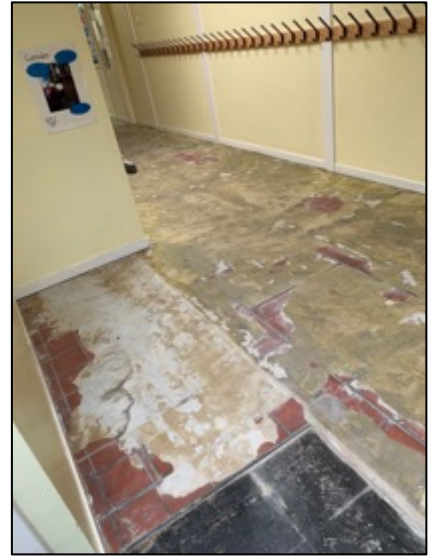
This year, we are looking to reduce our paper use as part of our eco-friendly commitment and as a result will be sending important documents via email. Please ensure that the office has your correct primary email address.

During the Summer holidays we had a significant amount of work done in the school building. I am pleased that the upgrades will benefit the children and improve the learning environment. Many visitors have commented positively on the work done:

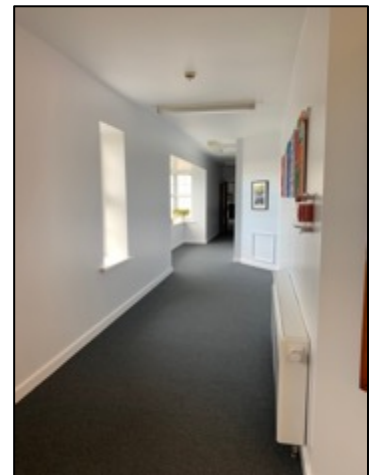
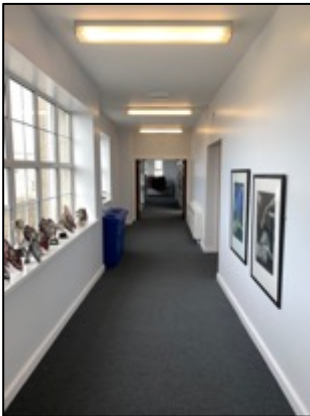
- Main corridor carpets from KS2 to EYFS
- Painting from KS2 to EYFS
- Offices
- 5 classroom carpets KS2
- New boys' toilets KS2
- Wall to create a separate Ace Base space
- New IT upgrades
- New lighting in the Sports Hall
- Reception Furniture (phase 1)
- Shelters painted and maintained (one part outstanding)
- Emergency lighting upgrades

- New fire doors leading outside classes
- Class furniture and resources upgraded

BEFORE



AFTER



PARKING

Please remember that the small car park near Ace Base (Santon Class), is for staff and Ace Base parents only. It has become very unsafe for children and adults walking through the car park as parents are parking in the middle of the space and then trying to drive out while lots of children are arriving. This is also making it dangerous for the pupils attending Ace Base to access the unit and is proving difficult for the staff to find a parking space. Please park along Church Road and cross at the zebra crossing (this is staffed). We want to work together to educate our children about Road Safety. Many parents seem to be crossing between parked cars. I have been asked to mention these issues in the Newsletter.

SAFETY - Climbing Equipment (outdoor)

There was an incident after school last week, when a child fell from the high climbing frame and was hurt. Please ensure that you are present if your child is playing after school on the outdoor equipment and encourage them to stay safe. Accidents can still happen, however. I have also noticed many children coming early to school and staying after school, unsupervised and playing on the outdoor equipment as well as running near and across roads. Please accompany them and speak to them about safety. We have talked about this in Assemblies.

Rushen Runners – Annual Bradda Fell Run

Junior Fell Running Championship Saturday 28th September – pupils have been running at lunchtimes to train for this event and anybody in Years 2 – 6 can take part. Please find attached an entry form which should be completed and taken to the run on the day if your child would like to take part and you have not already completed and returned a form to school. Miss Miller will be there as the contact for Rushen Primary School pupils, but parents must provide transport and stay and supervise their children during the event. Please follow the directions of the marshals to the designated parking area – Bradda Glen Café car park is not available for parking this year. Last year we had a large number of children participating and they did very well! Good luck Rushen Runners!

Class Names

To fit in with our focus on 'Everything Manx', we have decided to name the classes across the school after Manx Parishes. Here is a reminder of the class names and teachers:

Class Name	Year Group	Teacher
Jurby	Reception	Miss Quayle
Bride	R/1	Mrs Griffiths
Ballaugh	1	Miss Wilson
Marown	1/2	Mrs Shaw
Andreas	2	Mrs McMeiken
Lonan	3/4	Miss Irving
Maughold	3/4	Miss Sumner
Patrick	4/5	Mrs Ollier
Braddan	5/6	Mrs Higgins
Malew	5/6	Miss Smiley
Santon	Ace Base	Mrs Hermann

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 (Reception children 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 in the morning. If there is an emergency and parents are going to be late, please contact school in advance in order to share alternative childcare 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 or tight as the children sit on the carpet and benches and will be moving about in their uniform during learning activities indoors and 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 and watches should not be worn on the days when PE and swimming are timetabled.
- ✓ **School dinners MUST** be paid for in advance through ParentPay.
- ✓ 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.

Attendance

Improving attendance will yet again 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 avoid holidays during term time. 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 in advance to the Headteacher, Ms Owens.

Please let the school know, either by email or by leaving a message on the school answering machine, 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, when you pick your child up at the end of the day. If your child has a medical/dental appointment, a written note should be given to your child’s teacher who will make a note on our system. Please be aware that Mrs Awkal has many administrative tasks and responsibilities and is our only member of office staff. If you need to speak to someone in the office please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Please note that Mrs Awkal may not always be based in the Office.

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

‘Meet the Teacher’ meetings are underway this week. We hope that all parents/carers 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 Reception Classes will be held later in the term. Thank you to those parents who have attended.

Curriculum and Assessment Information

At the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting, the Class Teachers will share with you the expectations for that class. A pack of information has been emailed to parents/carers along with the Curriculum Overview Sheet for this term. This includes details of the themes they will be studying this term, the 'Learning at Rushen' letter, Assessment information, Reading, and information about the 6Rs and Learning Muscles.

'Meet the Teacher' Meetings		
	5:30pm start	6:00pm start
Monday 16th September	Andreas Mrs McMeiken	Bride Mrs Griffiths
Tuesday 17th September	Malew Miss Smiley Santon-Mrs Hermann	Ballaugh Miss Wilson
Wednesday 18th September	Braddan Mrs Higgins	Maughold Miss Sumner
Thursday 19th September	Marown Mrs Shaw	Lonan Miss Irving
Monday 23rd September	Patrick Mrs Ollier	

Prefects

As part of our focus on 'Everyone a Leader', we have decided to introduce 'Prefects' for Year 6 pupils. All children were asked if they wanted to apply in the Summer Term. We received some fantastic letters of application. We then chose just less than half of Year 6 to be Prefects first time round, some boys and some girls. The second group will be taking over after half term. We are hoping that every child in Year 6 meets the criteria and if they do, they will be able to be a Prefect at some point.

Rushen Primary School - Prefects



Person Specification

A Prefect is a pupil who:

- ✓ is a positive role model for all members of the school community
- ✓ demonstrates a high standard of behaviour, conduct and dress (smart uniform)
- ✓ supports and demonstrates 'what we do around here' on a daily basis
- ✓ has a high standard of attendance and punctuality
- ✓ can communicate well with others and build positive, meaningful relationships, exercising common sense and sensitivity when dealing with other children
- ✓ has an excellent attitude to learning, positive and enthusiastic, encouraging and motivating fellow pupils
- ✓ plays an active part in the life of the school
- ✓ has the ability to take initiative and follow instructions
- ✓ is co-operative, helpful, well-mannered, trustworthy, kind and responsible
- ✓ is respectful towards teachers, peers, and the school environment
- ✓ treats other pupils fairly, without showing favour to friends or relatives
- ✓ is an excellent ambassador for the school, representing the school at events

Job Description:

- ✓ contribute to the school newsletter

- ✓ encourage other children to demonstrate 'what we do around here', e.g. walking in the corridors calmly and quietly, show respect to others, use restorative practice (talk through our problems to find solutions) etc.
- ✓ work with classes during wet break times or lunch times to engage other children in activities
- ✓ show visitors around the school
- ✓ assist at school fairs and events
- ✓ support in the dining hall and when lining up for lunch
- ✓ support children to line up quietly outside
- ✓ undertake (be punctual for) duties, keep to plans and rotas and attend all Prefect meetings
- ✓ be able to speak confidently to children, parents, staff and visitors
- ✓ to act as a friend and Buddy for those who need support

Reports to:

Key Stage Leaders: Mrs Higgins and Mrs Shaw

Training:

A short training course must be undertaken and a certificate received.

Curriculum

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

Reminders

Drop off

Please leave EYFS and KS1 children at the outside door of their classroom and KS2 pupils in the main playground where they should enter at the KS2 door at 8.45am. Please ensure your child is prompt as 8.51am is the time for them to be marked as late (this appears on their end of year Report).

Health

Head lice

We have already had reports of head lice in school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat immediately if necessary.

48 hour rule

If your child has experienced vomiting and/or diarrhoea they **MUST NOT** attend school for 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped.

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 via ParentPay.** 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 £87.40 until half term or £167.90 until the end of term or £11.50 per 5 day week. **If you have not yet paid for school dinners, please do so immediately - please do not allow your meal account to fall into arrears.** If you require a copy of your username/authorization code to register for ParentPay, please let Mrs Awkal (School Office) know.

Medical

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

Asthma forms were sent home last 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 you have not already done so. 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 has also been sent home for completion for those pupils who require special diets.

Wednesday 25th 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.

Netball Club	Years 4, 5,6,	Monday 3.30- 4.30pm
Choir	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesday lunchtime
Craft Club	Years 3, 4, 5, 6	TBC (lunchtime)
Girls Football	Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm
Tag Rugby	Years 2 & 3	Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30pm
Basketball Club	Years 4, 5, 6	Thursday lunchtime
ICT Club	Years 3, 4, 5, 6	Friday lunchtime
Music Skills	Years 4, 5, 6	Friday lunchtime
Art Club	Years 3, 4, 5	Wednesday lunchtime

THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Autumn Term 2019

Half Term: Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2019

Ends: Friday 20 December 2019

Spring Term 2020

Starts: Monday 6 January 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020

Ends: Friday 3 April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Starts: Monday 20 April 2020

Bank Holiday: Friday 8 May 2020

Bank Holiday: Monday 25 May 2020

Half Term (TT): Friday 29 May 2020 to Friday 12 June 2020

Tynwald Day: Friday 6 July 2020

Ends: Friday 24 July 2020