



Rushen Primary School Newsletter

February 2020



Dreaming of warm, sunny days...

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you had a good half term break and if you were travelling, that you were one of the lucky ones who got away...and back!

We have quite a lot of exciting, fun and interesting events planned over the coming weeks and months and some of them are outlined below. We are having two events in one week and some seem to fall close to each other on the calendar. The dates for these events are for all schools across the British Isles. If you are able to make a donation for both, that would be appreciated. Some families have several children and we understand that this could then seem a lot. Please donate whatever you feel is fair. I will talk to the children about this as well.

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.*

Parents' Meetings

Parents' Meetings will take place on Wednesday 18th March and Thursday 19th March. One meeting will take place between 3.45pm and 7.30pm and the other, until 5pm. This will allow teachers and parents flexibility when arranging appointments. This should also 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 morning 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. Please ensure that the teacher knows if you will be arranging an appointment for any sibling so that they can liaise. We look forward to seeing you there! Parents are also welcome to contact the class teacher any time to discuss any issues. We will send home appointment slips soon.

School Improvement Update

Following on from my newsletter last year and the year before, 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.

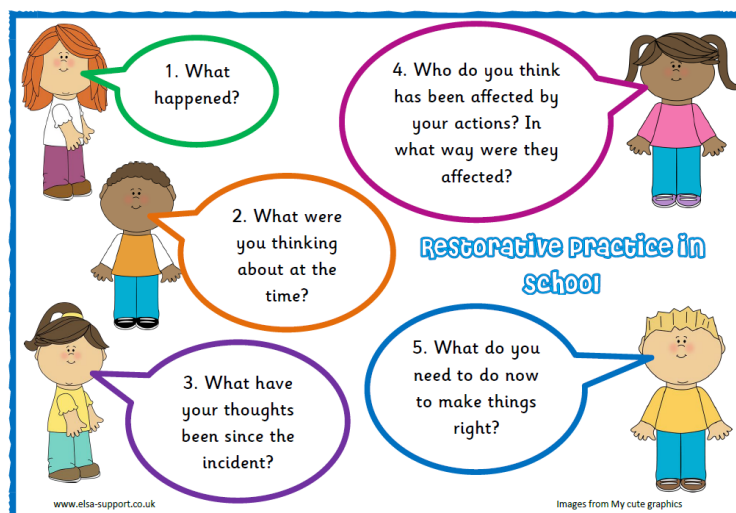
Our vision at Rushen Primary School is focused on building positive relationships, having high expectations of behaviour and learning, and of achieving high standards and good progress for every child. We also focus on 'Everyone a Learner' and 'Everyone a Leader'. The staff are committed to the process and have continued to work hard to achieve improvement. Our vision and values are clearly displayed in the entrance hall and you are invited to have a look at the display when you are in school or during Parents' Meetings, for example. The School Council who have designed the display, have included photographs from classes across the school, to show how the children demonstrate the vision and values in their learning and play.



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 continued to focus 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. 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, which are effectively 'bribes', as a method of ensuring that children meet the expectations, which the vast majority already do.

Why not try out the 'restorative practice' approach at home when talking through an issue...share your experiences and let your child's teacher know how it went or come and ask advice.



Uniform

- ✓ **Please ensure that the children are wearing their black school shoes as many children are wearing trainers. There should be no white markings on footwear.**
- ✓ Earrings should only be plain studs and not hoops or other designs.
- ✓ Headbands should be plain and simple and not brightly coloured or embellished.

Andreas Class Assembly

Well done to Andreas Class for their assembly. The Kung Fu Punctuation was definitely a highlight!



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 2020. 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 5th March, but we will be celebrating it on the 6th March (we have a class assembly on the 5th). 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 (if you can)!

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

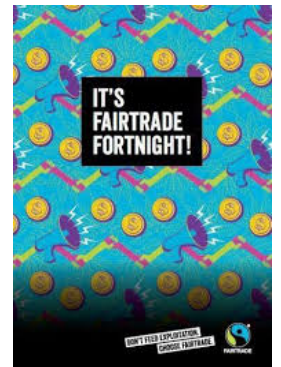
On the day, the classes will take part in a range of activities, such as paired reading, writing a story, making a book, making a bookmark, etc. We have also planned other events including a '**Parade of Characters**'. Children who do not wish to dress up, should wear their usual school uniform but still bring a book. A book voucher will be given to every pupil and may be spent in our local book shops. **No donation necessary as we are celebrating reading and books on this day.**

Fairtrade Fortnight 24th February - 8th March

The school will be participating in activities related to Fairtrade once again this year.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight>

This year, as part of our 'everyone a leader' approach, we asked for pupils to volunteer to lead our Fairtrade project. A keen group of children have come together and are already collaborating and working well as a team.



Fairtrade Workshop, Tynwald Building, Douglas



The Rushen Fairtrade group have decided to raise money and awareness for Fairtrade. Four pupils went to the Tynwald building in Douglas for a Fairtrade workshop. We did chocolate tasting, a debate, understanding who benefits from Fairtrade and P4C (Philosophy for Children). We came back to school with lots of ideas and picked a few to raise money and awareness. One of our ideas is a black, green and blue non-uniform day. Everyone is invited to wear black, green and/or blue for a donation of a pound. If your child would prefer not to take part then they can come in uniform as usual.

FAIRTRADE AWARENESS DAY – Monday 9th March

£1 Black, green, blue theme

Sport Relief 2020 Thursday 12th March



Pupils are invited to come to school dressed in sports kit ready for indoor and outdoor activities (a tracksuit to go over shorts and T-shirt would be a good idea) and all children must bring a coat. Red noses are encouraged...

£1+ donation to Sport Relief please. During the day the children will be skipping and walking/jogging the sport relief mile.

https://www.sportrelief.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7fzYz6vv5wIVmeF3Ch1lqgu6EAAYASAAEgKFSPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Steel Pan Workshop - 26th March



We are looking forward to welcoming a group of musicians who will perform for the whole school and provide follow up workshops for the children where they can find out about the history of steel pans and how the pans are made and played. The children will also be able to experience playing the pans and performing.

Manx Youth Games

Please don't forget to sign up for this event and encourage your child to take part. Training sessions are running where children can learn a new sport or play their favourite sport. It will all culminate in a full day of sport in May at the National Sports Centre.

<https://msr.gov.im/sports-development-unit/manx-youth-games/>

Community Links

Southlands

Two of our classes, Malew (5.2.20) and Marown (13.2.20) have visited Southlands this month and spent time with the residents. Everybody enjoyed the experience and we are proud of our connections with our local community.

Beach Buddies

Beach Buddies events are planned during this and next term. We will let you know when these are confirmed. Unfortunately, due to the weather, we have had to postpone some of our visits, but these will be rearranged for a later date.

Dinner Money

The cost of school dinners is £69.00 from February half term until the Easter holidays.

We still have a number of families who owe dinner money, please would you add credit to your child's school meals account immediately. Dinners should be paid for in advance (please see the information below re. setting low balance alerts), preferably using our online payment system 'ParentPay'. If you have not yet activated your ParentPay account and need a copy of your username and activation code, please speak to Mrs Awkal in the School Office.

If you would like any further information regarding ParentPay, the following is a link to support for parents:

[Parent Support - ParentPay](#)

Alerts - contained within the FAQ's is a section on how to set up Alerts. Parents can easily set up low balance alerts. These can be received either by a [free email](#) or you can choose to receive alerts by text. If you elect for text alerts then you will need to purchase text credits from ParentPay.

Term Dates

Ballaugh Class Assembly	Thursday 5 th March, 2020	Parents/Carers welcome.
World Book Day	Friday 6 th March, 2020	Dress as a book character.
Fairtrade Awareness Day	Monday 9 th March, 2020	Dress in black/green/blue. £1
Sport Relief Day	Thursday 12 th March, 2020	Dress in sports kit. £1+
Lonan Class Assembly	Thursday 19 th March, 2020	Parents/Carers welcome.
Marown Class Assembly	Thursday 2 nd April, 2020	Parents/Carers welcome.
School closes for the Easter Holiday	Friday 3 rd April, 2020 15.30	
School opens for the summer term	Monday 20 th April, 2020 08.45	