



Rushen Primary School

Learning and Growing



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These photographs were taken this week, last year, May 2019...our beautiful island...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and that you are staying safe at home. Thank you on behalf of our local community to those people, in particular, who are key and critical workers.

I hope you would also like to join me in thanking the staff of Rushen Primary School who have shown their commitment and resilience by working through the Easter holiday and volunteering to come into school during the holiday and particularly on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Staff have been working during the week and at weekends whenever they have been asked. This includes the teachers, support staff, kitchen staff, cleaners, Administrator and caretakers. At the Rushen Hub we have been joined by the staff and pupils of Arbory School where we have been working together. This collaboration has been very successful and we hope to build on this partnership and friendship after the current crisis passes.

I have also been working closely with the Department for Education, Sport and Culture, the Isle of Man Government and the Minister for Education.

As I know you are aware, we will continue to add to the 'Home Learning' tab on the website each week. Following the Easter Break, we added weeks one and two and week three will be added soon. We are trying to upload the home learning plans either on the Friday before or the weekend before (technology permitting), so that you will be able to plan your week ahead. The teachers have put a lot of time and effort into these plans and they are clearly focussed on learning objectives suitable for each year group. If your child requires challenge or support please look at the year group above or below.

We have also included other resources to support reading, phonics, spellings, handwriting (which is a new guide that has just been added). You will find the 6Rs and Learning Muscles there as well. We have included some website links but we are aware that there is so much that has been produced online that we cannot list everything. Don't forget to look at the BBC lessons that have been produced, and all of the

content delivered by some famous people! Also, note the Home Learning Protocol on the website to explain what we plan to do. This was written in collaboration with other Island schools as there was a shared purpose.

Please do not worry about anything related to your child in school. Some families are finding it easier than others to undertake home learning. Some parents and carers are trying to work from home as well as attempt home learning which is, in some cases, an impossible task! Stay positive! Some children are not able to complete home learning, whatever you try! On other days, they might enjoy learning and can't get enough. This is the challenge that teachers and schools are faced with during school time and we have empathy for you!

A lot of families are dipping in and out of the activities and combining this with online content and TV programmes. Whatever you do will be fine. It is our job to pick up from wherever the children are when we return to school. You are not expected to do the job of a teacher. This is what we are trained to do and our teachers are trained professionals. Learning in school is not about completing a list of activities. We are engaged in the complex business of learning, knowing all of the children well and planning children's next steps in order that they make good progress and achieve highly.

Coming soon on the website will be our 'Early Years Foundation Stage' folder which will focus on providing support for transition for the families of our new Reception starters.

To support Year 6 transition, our Y6 teachers and senior leaders have already been working closely with Castle Rushen High School this academic year from September 2019. The teachers have recently been meeting with their colleagues and discussing each of our Y6 pupils and their needs in preparation for when they move to secondary school. As usual, these multiple meetings take up a significant amount of time as we discuss at length. Thank you to our Y6 teachers and our colleagues at CRHS for their work so far. Transition activities, newsletters and other exciting activities are being planned by the teachers at CRHS and will be announced as and when.

As well as planning the home learning and staffing the HUB school, our teachers have continued to work on school improvement priorities ready for when the children return. They have been reading the latest educational research as well as looking at good practice on a range of themes.

The staff of Rushen Primary School have been thinking about the children in our school and in their classes. Please read my 'Letter from the Headteacher' with/to your child. In it, I explain how the teachers have been thinking about the children in their classes and that they wanted to write them a letter. We have been working on the new additions to the website since last week and they are now ready to upload.

Finally, I would like to tell you that the messages of support and positive feedback we have received from families has been very much appreciated by all of the staff at Rushen Primary School during these challenging and sometimes emotional times. Don't worry, I always pass on your messages and thanks to the staff.

It is a privilege to work at such a good school with committed and caring staff, school Governors and fabulous children and families. It is at times like this that I really appreciate everybody's commitment, positivity and resilience. Thank you for your generosity. I hope that you are all well, staying safe and looking after each other. We are looking forward to welcoming you back as soon as it is safe.

Kind regards

Ms Owens
Headteacher