



Rushen Primary School

Learning and Growing



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope all families are safe and doing well at home.

We have continued to add our 'Home Learning' offer to our website. If you wish to do these activities with your child, please do so. Again, just to reassure you that whatever you do will be fine. When we return to school we will pick up from where the children are and move their learning forward. In our experience, children are resilient and adaptable.

The Home Learning, learning objectives in English, maths and science are taken from the plans for this term and are covering some of what we were planning to cover in school. I feel it is important for you to know that these activities are carefully planned and over the previous weeks, teachers have ensured progression. As I have said before, it is not possible to replicate school provision at home.

I am sure that you have been taking advantage of the online and television offers to supplement and vary the Home Learning provision. The Minister for Education referred to this during his Monday briefing, earlier this week. These include BBC Bitesize:

KS1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z3g4d2p>

KS2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn>

Also referred to was the Oak National Academy. This is a virtual school set up to provide video lessons for pupils, that have quality video and audio. Find out more about the Oak Academy here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/about>

The online resource hub can be accessed here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

I also wanted to write to you with plenty of notice, as I am sure you have been listening to the IOM Government's daily briefings. To clarify, all school sites will be open from the 15th June. This is to allow the children who have been attending the Hubs to go back to their own schools on the 17th June and for school staff to prepare for an eventual increase in numbers and ensure that thorough cleaning takes place. No other children will be returning to school in that week, at the moment. I say, at the moment, because as we move forward, things are changing rapidly and we are ready to respond.

As soon as the Government announce the starting date for the expansion of provision, we will be able to invite more pupils into school. After the TT break, when we have more clarity around dates etc, I will write to the parents of those pupils who are to be invited in, to ask if they would like to request a place. We will send a form to you to complete and return. Writing to you before we have the actual dates and the most up to date information regarding physical distancing, would not give you or us the information we need to plan the return. You may decide that you prefer to keep your child at home next half term and as the Minister stated, it will be entirely up to you and without any consequences. To reassure you, we will be following the same programme of study in school that is posted on our website in our Home Learning section, so no child will miss out.

The Chief Minister's update yesterday referred to the discussions that COMIN have been having. It is clear that as we move forward the Council of Ministers are discussing the advice regarding distancing, especially in schools. The advice we received directly from the Director of Public Health, Dr Henrietta Ewart, last week committed to the 2m rule and we, in turn, followed this directive to set up the school, ready for pupil expansion. At 2m, the number of people who would be safe in enclosed spaces for extended periods of time, was around 7 or 8, including the teacher and depending on the size and shape of our classrooms (all of which are different). Yesterday, I was interested to hear that the Chief Minister suggested they would review the 2m rule, for schools, and were looking at jurisdictions and WHO revised guidelines of **possibly 1m**. This directly affects the numbers in rooms. Until the distancing is confirmed, we cannot measure and calculate the numbers that we can safely accommodate in each room.

We will be in touch with you regarding this, with the most up to date information after the TT break and to ask the relevant families their intentions.

Over the last two weeks the senior leaders in school (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Phase Leaders), have been working on producing detailed Risk Assessments, systems and routines such as staggered arrivals, departures, lunches and breaks, staffing and how classes and pupils will be organised.

We have produced 'social stories' which you and your child can read together, so that you and your child will know what to expect when your child comes back to school. This will ensure everybody will know their responsibilities, what to expect and how it will work. We have also been rearranging furniture in classrooms to ensure that the current, relevant distancing rules are adhered to. Cleaning regimes will be implemented,

which will ensure that surfaces and door handles etc., will be cleaned frequently throughout the day and extra cleaning capacity has been secured.

As schools are usually places where mass gatherings happen on a daily basis and that when pupils return, they spend most of their time in one room with an adult, we need to make sure that everybody is safe. We have followed Government guidelines and directives from Public Health, Isle of Man.

It is obviously a good thing that the number of new cases in the community over the last few days have remained at zero, however, the Minister reminded us, that we must not be complacent. As a community, we have all played our part in 'flattening the curve' and attempting to keep the COVID-19 virus under control. As we look to expand school provision, we must ensure that the arrangements we make keep pupils and staff safe so that schools are as safe a place as possible.

Teachers have been working on planning for the half term after TT break. When we expand the number of children, the teachers will be using the 'Home Learning' plans in school, as it would not be possible to plan for both the comprehensive Home Learning as well as a full-time teaching commitment in school at the same time.

I hope that this letter ensures you feel confident that everything is being considered and that we will continue to do our best to support you and your family.

All Island schools will be closed during the TT break from 1st to 12th June. During this time, it will not be possible to reply to emails or to voicemail messages.

Once we return to school, I will write to you with the updated arrangements.

I hope you all have a lovely TT break and here's hoping that the weather is better than last year. It certainly looks promising!

Stay safe,

Ms Owens

Headteacher