



Rushen Primary School

Learning and Growing



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Dear Parents/Carers

16th June, 2020

I am confident that you will be as pleased as we are about the Chief Minister's announcement regarding schools, in his briefing yesterday afternoon. I spoke to the Minister for Education last week and told him that I would prefer to bring the children back as soon as possible. This was echoed by all Headteachers yesterday, before the Chief Minister's briefing. Our teachers and staff are looking forward to welcoming the children back.

Yesterday, I emailed you to make sure you knew that I was waiting for confirmation regarding the arrangements. I think we all know that Mondays and Thursdays have been the days when the Ministers have announced any changes and there was no point telling you that Y2 and Y6 would return, when we all knew that a decision was imminent. Thank you for your patience as always.

We would like to say goodbye to Arbory School who have been sharing our building in the Rushen Primary School Hub, for those children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The Rushen Primary School teachers and staff have thoroughly enjoyed hosting them and working closely with them and we hope to build on our relationship and join our schools together for future activities and events. I would like to thank their teachers and staff as well as Mr Ayres (Headteacher) and, of course, the pupils. The children who attended the Hubs have enjoyed meeting new friends. We will miss you!

I would like to confirm that Rushen Primary School are delighted that we are able to invite ALL of our children back to school from Monday 22nd June. We look forward to welcoming the children and continuing our support for families as usual. We expect all children to return to school on Monday at 8.45am (children should enter the building in the usual way).

Please be confident that the teachers will look after your children and focus on moving their learning forward from wherever they are. This is something teachers are used to doing.

Later this week, we plan to email and post on our website a 'social story' which will remind the children of what usually happens in school and about the behaviour expectations. Some children may struggle initially with the return to school and Class Teachers will work closely with pupils and families to support this process. We look forward to working with you to ensure a smooth return for all.

Over the last few days I have been meeting with staff and a number of agencies regarding arrangements moving forward. I have attended a meeting with the Minister for Education and Dr Henrietta Ewart, the Director of Public Health, and was able to confirm answers to questions regarding health and safety in

school. Dr Ewart reassured us that due to the length of days with no new cases and the removal of the social distancing requirement, schools could go back to normal. This means that school will run in the usual way. This should help with the children returning, as it will look exactly like it did before.

Good practice regarding respiratory and hand hygiene will be expected as we move forward. We will continue to wash our hands regularly, 'catch it, bin it, kill it', by sneezing and coughing into a tissue and putting it in the bin and sneezing into the crook of your elbow, for example. I have also met with the cleaning and estates team to confirm that we will be undertaking a cleaning regime throughout the day where touch points are cleaned frequently which includes door handles, toilets and sinks etc.

If your child has any symptoms that could be considered COVID-19, E.g. cough/temperature, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME. As the Chief Minister said, assume the worst and call the 111 helpline. We must all be vigilant and prepared to play our part to ensure that any future cases on our Island, can be isolated and that contact tracing can be undertaken swiftly. If any child or member of staff exhibits symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19, the Track and Trace team will be informed and will contact individuals as appropriate.

If your child develops symptoms in school, then we will contact you. You MUST collect your child as soon as possible. Children who develop symptoms will be isolated until they are collected.

Please ensure your contact details are up to date as well as ensuring your emergency contacts have been checked and remind the people involved.

Whilst we would expect full attendance from Monday, the Government have made it clear that it is your decision, if your child attends. We will, as promised, continue to share the Home Learning on our website in advance each week. Please let us know if your child will be absent in the usual way, by leaving a voicemail message, for safeguarding purposes.

Arrangements – ALL USUAL ARRANGEMENTS APPLY

What we do around here...

As always, if there are any issues, please let the Class Teacher know via a signed note, sent in the morning. We would be grateful if messages could be passed to the Class Teacher, as the volume of administrative work is significant at the moment and Mrs Awkal will be fully engaged. We cannot guarantee that forgotten items can be passed to pupils during the day.

- ✓ **Children should wear uniform. Please bring inhalers, PE kit, water bottles, waterproof coats etc.**
- ✓ **There is no need for any PPE (E.g. face coverings, etc).**
- ✓ **Please bring any reading/library books that you have back to school on Monday morning. We allocated almost all of our books so that pupils would have access during lockdown, so we now have very few in school.**
- ✓ **Please do not submit any Home Learning to school as we will be fully engaged with learning in school.**

We are currently planning our usual events such as Sports Day and transition arrangements, both for new starters and for all children moving to their next class. We are continuing to work with our colleagues at CRHS to arrange transition activities for our Y6 pupils. We also hope to arrange some additional fun activities before the end of the school year (time and weather permitting) and we will let you know about these in due course.

In addition to the usual arrangements for contacting the Class Teacher (at the end of every day at the classroom door (except Wednesdays)), Thursday morning appointments and specially arranged appointments, there will be the usual invitation to meet with the Class Teacher at the end of the school year - details to follow. The teachers have begun to draft end of year reports and we will be sending these home, as usual.

Lunches

At the moment, the Government have arranged that school lunches will be packed lunches made by our school kitchen staff. Families in receipt of free school meals will continue to be provided with a free packed lunch and all other pupils can either opt for a school packed lunch for the rest of the term, or bring in their own from home (nut free and healthy choices). If you would like to purchase a school made packed lunch, please follow the usual procedure and pay through ParentPay. **Please check your Parent Pay account is up to date – any credits/debts from March will have been carried forward.**

DESC has requested that families who are entitled to apply for free school meals for the next school year complete their application form as soon as possible before the end of this term. The links are as follows:

<https://www.gov.im/media/34660/free-school-travel-joint-form-15520.pdf>

<https://www.gov.im/categories/education-training-and-careers/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-free-school-travel-application-form/>

Kind regards

Ms Owens